

and National Associations of Counties, and the California and National Leagues of Cities.

Willie Kennedy received her early education in Dallas, Texas and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from San Francisco State University. She is the widow of the late Superior Court Judge Joseph G. Kennedy, mother of one daughter and two foster daughters, grandmother of nine, great grandmother of 20 and great-great grandmother of one.

During her many years as a civic leader, Willie B. Kennedy has earned the respect of all who have worked with her. I commend her for her many years of dedicated public service and wish her the best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS
OF THE U.S.S. DORCHESTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to the four brave Chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* who sacrificed their lives in order to save those of others.

On February 3, 1943, a German U-boat off the coast of Greenland sank the U.S.S. *Dorchester*, carrying approximately nine hundred American servicemen. A torpedo struck the *Dorchester* mid-ship, killing hundreds instantly, and sending those still alive into confusion and terror. As the *Dorchester* began to sink it became clear to many on board that the situation was becoming increasingly dire. Unable to signal for help, or call nearby ships due to security reasons, the U.S.S. *Dorchester* faced disaster on its own.

It was in spite of such confusion that George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, Alexander Goode, and John P. Washington, the four chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* calmly worked to bring order to the catastrophe. Distributing life jackets with composure, the chaplains—one Catholic, one Jewish, and two Protestant—worked together to save the lives of many American servicemen. They did this at the cost of their own lives, giving the final four life jackets to needy American soldiers. Linked arm in arm, praying to the one God to whom they all served, they sank with the *Dorchester*, leaving America eternally in debt to their gratitude.

The inspirational service, and dedication of these four courageous chaplains saved many American lives in the frigid waters of the Atlantic. Their story continues to be one of inspiration to many religious communities throughout America. Furthermore, their willingness to stand together, linked arm in arm, disregarding religious boundaries can be viewed as a true testament to the beauty of religious freedom—a moral value that the United States of America has incessantly fought to protect.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues of the House of Representatives to join with me to honor George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, Alexander Goode, and John P. Washington, the four courageous chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester*.

COMMENDING INDIA ON ITS
CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues today and take this opportunity to commend India on its celebration of Republic Day, which formalized India as a parliamentary democracy.

On January 26th of this year India celebrated its 51st Republic Day. In that time India has grown into the world's largest democracy and has helped illustrate the stabilizing force of democracy.

India is one of America's foremost friends in the South Asian region of the world and has continued to be a consistent and helpful ally to the United States in our on-going war against terrorism. Increasingly, America must attempt to engage the Muslim world through diplomacy, and India, along with other nations, provides an opportunity to do that. Most importantly, we will need to identify our friends and to stand by those countries that reflect our faith in ideals such as democracy, human rights and religious freedom.

Over one billion Indian people of diverse faiths in India currently practice democracy and enjoy religious freedom. They look to courts for justice, respect human rights, and in short, embody American values in this important region of the world. The United States and the Republic of India have a common bond and a strong commitment to shared principles. I sincerely hope that the partnership that has been forged between our great nations will continue to blossom.

Because of these many accomplishments, I wish to join my colleagues to express my strong support that the friendship between our two countries continues, and to commend India on its celebration of Republic Day.

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE
UNION ADDRESS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the 90s' we had ten years of solid economic growth. In the past two years, America has entered an economic downturn. For the first time in a decade the economic indicators—benchmarks showing where we are and where we are going—all point down. Job losses in technology and manufacturing have risen dramatically and corporate bankruptcies were nearly double what they were two years ago. Consumer confidence hit its lowest point in over a decade. Even though, the U.S. stock market saw a significant gain during the 90s'. However, the bottom has virtually fallen out as a result of the events of September 11th. Now every industry is taking a huge hit as profits and employment figures head into a downward trend. Presently, under the Bush's Administration the country is averaging approximately 68,000 workers losing their jobs per month. Resulting in the fastest pace for job elimination in more than 20 years.

The President's speech last night did not mention that his economic plan calls for cutting job training and employment funding by \$534 million while unemployment is increasing. The President's plan calls for reducing \$500 million from title 1, the Federal Government's primary program for targeting aid to the most disadvantaged students. This cut means 447,000 fewer low-income students will be served by this program. Also, the President's proposes to cut \$250 million from teacher quality initiatives. For heating assistance, the President is expecting a \$300 million cut from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program at a time heating prices are rising.

While some talk about tax cuts which will primarily benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers, and do nothing for the bottom 75 percent, let me suggest that any serious economic stimulus package or plan must consider and be focused on the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable among us.

The President should propose a fair fiscal policy that will provide more unemployment benefits and health coverage for low to moderate income workers. These are the people who spend a larger portion of their earned dollars to make ends meet. By expanding unemployment benefits for those who have already exhausted their extended benefits and continue to seek jobs and health coverage to dislocated workers, it would be the quickest way to stimulate the economy.

Only the Democratic plan focuses on working families and small businesses that drives the engine of the American economy. Under its plan every worker will get a tax cut and everyone receives the same \$600 per couple. This fair and equitable tax cut will provide a short-term stimulus for our economy while allowing the budget to recover as the economy strengthens.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
MILLIE TEUSCHER

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Millie Teuscher, who recently stepped down as Lake County Commissioner after 14 historic years. Millie will be greatly missed by everyone in the county. She has the distinction of being the first and only female commissioner in the 162-year history of the body.

Millie is one of my oldest and closest friends in Lake County. I first got to know Millie when she was a councilwoman in Mentor, and later was thrilled when she sought office at the county level. She was part of a historic sweep of county offices by Republicans in the late 1980s, and really changed the face and tone of county government in Lake County. She brought an "every woman" sensibility to her job, and while she played the role of government watchdog with zeal, she was also admirably compassionate about the problems facing county residents and employees. Over her many years of elected office, she probably doled out an equal number of hugs and handshakes. She was not one to exert ego or insist on formalities, and was known to everyone as simply "Millie."

Millie Teuscher will be remembered for working diligently to improve Lake County and make it an economic leader in Northeast Ohio. Our county could never have a better guardian and cheerleader, and she will be sorely missed.

I wish Millie the best in her retirement, and know how much she is looking forward to spending more time with her beloved husband, Bob. On behalf of the 14th Congressional District of Ohio, I thank Millie for her years of friendship and public service, and wish she and Bob all the best in the world.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK
SYSTEM

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to pay closer attention to proposed changes to the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

The two changes being considered would allow the Federal Home Loan Banks to buy, sell, and potentially securitize mortgages nationally, and would allow banks and thrifts to become members of multiple Home Loan banks.

As federal regulators including the Treasury Department have noted, these proposals would seem to expand the Federal Home Loan Banks' charter to a sufficient extent to warrant congressional consideration. A number of issues must be weighed before they are implemented.

For example, if the Federal Home Loan Banks enter the business of securitizing mortgages, it would seem appropriate that they be subject to the same requirements as other housing government sponsored enterprises, including limits on conforming loans, affordable housing goals, and mandatory mortgage insurance.

The GSEs' federal charter ensures that they serve the interests of their shareholders as well as the public by expanding homeownership opportunities—especially in communities where homeownership rates are lower than the national average of 68 percent. The public is also served through fair competition, which can only be maintained if competitors in a given market are forced to play by the same rules.

In addition, unlike Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the banks have not taken the voluntary step of registering their stock with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The wave of corporate accounting scandals last year demonstrated the need for transparency, which is of utmost importance for enterprises serving a public mission.

To ensure that the public is served by fair competition and appropriate oversight, any changes to the Federal Home Loan Banks' charter must be given due congressional consideration.

JESSEE J. MCCRARY, JR. ESQUIRE:
A LIFETIME OF ACCOMPLISH-
MENT AND SERVICE TO OUR
COMMUNITY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honoring one of Florida's most admired public servants and civil rights leaders, the Honorable Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. This Saturday, February 1, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida, a host of friends and admirers will join his family in celebrating the legend that he genuinely symbolizes.

This honoree epitomizes the preeminence of a gentleman and a devout Christian. In 1956, he attended Florida A & M University with a major in political science. He went on to pursue his legal studies at the Florida A & M University as well. He was subsequently honored with unprecedented accomplishments never before achieved by an African-American in the history of our state.

Among his most prominent achievements was his being the first African-American to be appointed Assistant Attorney General for the State of Florida in 1967, the first African-American to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1969, the first African-American to sit on a statutory Court of Appeals in Florida's Industrial Relations Commissions in 1971, the first African-American Secretary of State of Florida in 1978, and the first African-American from Florida to be listed in the Best Lawyers in America in 1988.

Ever since I've known this giant of a leader, Mr. McCrary has always been at the forefront of ensuring equality of opportunity for everyone in our community and throughout Florida. At the same time, his untiring advocacy in adhering to the mandate of equal treatment under the law not only in the halls of academia, but also in every segment of government agency, has become legendary. In fact, countless others from every color, creed or gender have been touched by his genuine commitment to their well-being, especially those who could least fend for themselves.

By his passionate advocacy for due process and the rule of law, he won landmark cases he argued before the Supreme Court. The most memorable cases that now emblazon his legal triumphs are the right to have a jury of less than twelve persons and the prohibition for the state from dismissing jurors on the basis of race alone. The decisions handed down by the Court now form part and parcel of the history of our state's legal precedents.

Aside from his role as our state's legal luminary, Mr. McCrary has been the consummate activist who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own deserve to be helped by the government, be it at the local, state, or federal level. It is no wonder that the numerous accolades with which he has been honored by various organizations saliently represent an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoys from our community.

Imbued with a down-to-earth common sense, he has also been gifted with the rare wisdom of being able to discern the strengths and limitations of those empowered to govern.

This brand of leadership has been tested time and time again during his stint as Chairman of the Florida Correction Review Commission, the Florida Education Standards Commission, the Select Committee to Review Competency Testing in Florida, the Gubernatorial Commission for the Study of Capital Punishment and Judicial Reform, and the Constitution Revision Commission.

The acumen of his intelligence and the depth of his sensitivity were felt at a time when Miami needed to put in perspectives the agony of disenfranchised African-Americans and other minorities yearning to belong and participate in the fruition of the American Dream. When government and community leaders met to douse the still-burning embers of the Miami riots in the early 1980s, Mr. McCrary was the leader whose firm voice of reason and understanding succinctly articulated his credo that one has got to learn and live with one another in the community, or shamefully reap the grapes of wrath from those who have been left out of the ambiance of the rule of law and due process.

He thoroughly understood the accoutrements of power and leadership, and he sagely exercised them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his conscience, focusing them upon the good of the community he has learned to love and care for so deeply. This stewardship motivated by his Faith in God defines the authenticity of his public service as exemplified by what he learned as a child that: ". . . it is better to give than to receive."

His word is his bond to those of us who know him. He has exuded this bond not only in moments of triumphal exuberance toward helping many a wayward youth turn the corners around, but also in his quest to transform Miami-Dade County into a veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse races converging to symbolize the noble idealism that is America.

As my community honors Jesse F. McCrary, Jr., Esquire, I praise the decent man and devout Christian that he is. My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my deep gratitude for all that he has sacrificed on behalf of all Floridians. This is the magnificent legacy with which he will always be honored.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM COPELAND

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the end of the year 2002 brings with it the retirement of a distinguished public servant in Ohio. William Copeland will be retiring as a Lucas County, Ohio, Commissioner, bringing to a close 28 years in service to the people of our region.

Raised in Toledo, Ohio, Bill was a stand-out baseball and basketball player at Woodward High School and gained All-City recognition. After high school, he earned a degree in education from South Carolina State University. Following college, Bill played basketball for New York's Comedy Kings, a semiprofessional team, which won sixty consecutive games during Bill's tenure. This feat earned Bill an invitation to join the Harlem Globetrotters.

During this time, Bill was also working in Toledo and a member of the Laborers Union