

has made substantial improvements in the quality of patient care and services. He also has been a close friend and adviser to me for many years on health care issues, and I have great confidence in his judgement and insight.

Dr. Rapoport took over stewardship of the Medical System in 1984. Since then, he has transformed the University of Maryland Hospital from a public institution with annual operating losses in the millions to a successful private corporation with a record of strong financial performance and renowned clinical programs. The Medical System now includes University Hospital, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, Maryland's Hospital for Children, Kernan Hospital, University Speciality Hospital, Maryland General Health Systems and the North Arundel Health System.

Dr. Rapoport is a Baltimore native who attended my alma mater Baltimore City College and University of Maryland School of Medicine. He conducted research on infectious diseases and served as associate dean of the medical school before taking over as head of University Hospital in 1982. In 1984, Dr. Rapoport was appointed President and CEO of the newly created UM Medical System.

Before retiring, Dr. Rapoport oversaw planning and construction of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building, a \$150 million facility to house operating rooms of the future and a new adult and pediatric emergency department. On Nov. 15, 2003, at a special gala, it will be announced that the atrium in the new Weinberg Building will be named in honor of Dr. Rapoport and his wife, Rosalie.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Dr. Morton I. Rapoport for his dedication, leadership and vision in helping the University of Maryland Medical System become one of the most respected institutions in this country and in the world.

HONORS THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Gateway Small Business Center in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United States Small Business Administration. The SBA has played an integral role in developing and nurturing the spirit of entrepreneurs and thus, strengthening the foundation of communities across the country.

We have been especially fortunate in my home state of Connecticut where, with nearly seventy percent of jobs found in small businesses, the SBA has forged strong bonds of partnership and—more importantly—friendship with countless organizations and communities. I would like to extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to Marie Record, Connecticut District Office Director, not only for her dedication and commitment, but also for all the assistance that she has provided to myself and my staff over the years. She has and continues to be an invaluable resource for us all.

I have often said that small business is the backbone of our nation's economy and the heart of our communities. From the General Mercantile to today's Mom & Pop storefronts, small businesses have been an important vehicle for delivering the American Dream. In addition, they are often what defines the character of a neighborhood, a town, or even a city. In my childhood neighborhood of Wooster Square, my grandmother, along with my mother and aunts, ran a small pastry shop, Canestri's. Many of our neighbors were also involved in the family businesses which lined the neighborhood streets—Sally's and Pepe's Pizza, Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, Lucibello's Pastry Shop, Iovanne's Funeral Home, and Lupoli's Funeral Home are just some of those which continue to thrive today.

Small business comprises seventy-five percent of net new jobs added to the economy annually. To date, nearly twenty three million small businesses are operating across the United States. Representing over ninety-nine percent of all employers and employing over fifty percent of our nation's private workforce, small businesses are not only an invaluable piece of our heritage, but are vital to the growth and prosperity of any community. We, as a nation, recognized that with the establishment of the SBA. Throughout their history, the SBA has delivered nearly twenty million loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses. Over the past ten years they have helped over four hundred thousand small businesses receive loans totaling over ninety-four billion dollars. Last year alone, the SBA backed more than twelve billion dollars in loans. It has been through their assistance that so many have been able to make their dreams come true.

Today, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the SBA, I am proud to join with the Gateway Small Business Center and all of those who have benefitted from the SBA in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of their good work. Our communities would not be the same without the unparalleled contributions of the United States Small Business Administration and its dedicated staff.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JUANITA MINCEY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Reverend Juanita Mincey, an admirable human being and one of Florida's most involved and effective civic activists. On Saturday, October 4, 2003, Reverend Juanita Mincey will be joined by family, friends and colleagues at a reception in Miami, Florida, to honor her for her dedication to her community and to Christ Crusaders, Inc., an organization she founded which is committed to providing guidance and assistance to people in need.

Twenty-one years ago, Reverend Mincey had a vision to "reach the lost at any cost and to service the total man: mind, body and spirit." She founded Christ Crusaders, Inc. with just two employees, and over the past two decades, Christ Crusaders has grown to 66 employees. Under Reverend Mincey's leader-

ship, these men and women dedicate many hours of service to the communities of Opa-Locka, Carol City, Liberty City and North Miami, Florida.

Christ Crusaders Inc. offers a wide range of programs and services that benefit children, the elderly, and all that fall in between. Reverend Mincey has worked relentlessly to create community programs that not only provide transportation and respite care for the elderly, but also offer healthcare services that many in the community cannot afford. The advancement of mobile health clinics, HIV/AIDS screenings and testing, counseling services for substance abusers and outreach programs for pregnant women are only a few of many programs initiated by Reverend Mincey.

Additionally, with the intent to promote, foster and develop the welfare of underprivileged children and their working parents, Reverend Mincey opened three daycare centers, which serve children from pre-K through 12th grade. She also opened the Christian University, which offers bachelors through doctoral degrees to individuals who would not otherwise have the opportunity or funds to attend a state or private university to receive an education. She continues to promote the importance of education and personal development by providing young adults with scholarships, and the opportunity to attend vocational schools and art and music schools.

Under Reverend Mincey's leadership, many lives have been enhanced and many families have been helped by her dedication to providing the quality services that many people could not possibly reach. Our entire community is grateful to her for all her generous and unselfish accomplishments.

Miami-Dade County and the city of Opa-Locka have already honored Reverend Mincey with the declaration of "Juanita Mincey Day." She has also been honored on several occasions for her hard work and angelic spirit with resolutions from the Florida House of Representatives and the State of Florida.

Today, I rise on the House floor of the United States Congress to once again honor and thank Reverend Mincey for her leadership and for the countless hours of selflessness she has devoted to take care of the people of our community. Thank you for all you do.

HONORING JASON CROOK'S INTERNATIONAL KEY CLUB SPEECH CONTEST WIN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jason Crook for winning the international Key Club speech contest in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jason is a recent graduate of Blackman High School in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

On July 4, Jason demonstrated his prowess at the podium when he traveled to Indianapolis to represent his region in the contest. Jason spoke about the impact the club's values have had on his life. He triumphed over representatives from all 50 states and 20 countries.

Jason strives to achieve excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. His fellow

classmates recognized his achievements and drive when they voted him Most Likely to Succeed. He graduated as valedictorian of his class, a testament to his hard work and perseverance. In addition to earning these accolades, Jason has actively involved himself in the community while participating in Key Club and Eagle Scout community service projects.

Jason's compassion is evidenced in the wealth of time he has devoted to helping those who are in need. This spring, Jason made Easter baskets for children in Vanderbilt University's pediatric ward. While many of his peers were relaxing during the summer of 2002, Jason was delivering food to the sick and elderly through his involvement with the Meals on Wheels program.

I am proud to share my hometown with Jason. I am even prouder that he is now attending my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. He is a truly talented young man and a fine example of the promise and potential of America's youth.

HONORING MISSOURI CORN PRODUCERS AND THE PEOPLE OF MID-MISSOURI ENERGY, INC.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate Missouri corn producers and the people of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc., who have tirelessly worked to form a farmer-owned ethanol production facility in Malta Bend, Missouri. Folks from this cooperative will break ground on their new plant on October 4, 2003.

Farmers in Missouri and throughout the nation are working in fields right now to harvest their corn for the year. Many of these producers have experienced tough economic times over the past several years and prolonged drought in the Midwest is making things difficult again this year. In order to make their yields more valuable, corn growers have sought to enhance the value added nature of their commodity. Ethanol, which is a renewable fuel that comes from corn, is an important value added product for farmers and its production means a great deal to those of us who live in middle America.

Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc., was created to maximize the return on investment to its investors by adding value to Show-Me State corn production, to create economic development in central Missouri, and to foster a positive environment among its employees. The men and women who make up this cooperative are hard working Missourians who have committed their time and money to the success of the new ethanol production plant. I especially applaud the efforts of Mid-Missouri Energy Chairman Ryland Utlaut of Alma, Missouri, for his dedicated efforts.

As farmers break ground on this new ethanol production facility, I know that Members of Congress will join me in honoring the outstanding work of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc.

TRANSPORTATION/TREASURY AP-
PROPRIATIONS BILL FY04—CUBA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman ISTOOK and Ranking Member OLIVER for their fine work on this bill. I am proud to be a member of this Subcommittee, under their leadership. I rise today in opposition to the Flake amendment to lift the ban on travel to Cuba. There are many reasons to support the ban on travel to Cuba.

Number one, we must remember that Cuba is considered a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S. government, as are Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Sudan, and until recently, Iraq under Saddam Hussein's regime. Number two, thousands of Americans traveling to Cuba will not change the Castro regime. Today, Canadians and Europeans travel to Cuba on a regular basis, and the lives of average Cubans have not improved. The average Cuban has not had contact with foreigners and has not benefited from the tourism revenue because the money flows directly to Castro. Instead of enlightening the Castro regime to respect human rights and support democracy, we have seen no improvement as a result of increased travel to Cuba.

Number three, on March 18, 2003, Castro's regime instituted a massive crackdown on independent journalists and democracy activists. Seventy-five activists were arrested, subjected to summary trials and prosecutions, and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years. Amnesty International has termed it "the most severe crackdown on the dissident movement since the years following the Cuban revolution." Castro's regime also executed three men in April who had hijacked a ferry in Havana in an attempt to reach the United States. The men were executed by firing squads after summary trials that were held behind closed doors; four other ferry hijackers received life sentences while another received 30 years in prison.

Number four, the Castro government continues to provide sanctuary for American fugitives from justice. For example, take the case of Joanne Chesimard, a convicted cop killer who took the life of a New Jersey State Trooper. On May 2, 1973, New Jersey State troopers Werner Foerster and James Harper pulled over Joanne Chesimard and two of her companions in a routine traffic stop. A shoot-out transpired, and Trooper Foerster, who had served on the force for less than three years, was shot and killed. Trooper Harper was wounded. A jury in the United States found that Trooper Foerster had been shot in the back of his head, execution style, at point-blank range. The jury convicted Joanne Chesimard of murder and sentenced her to life in prison. But, Chesimard escaped from prison in 1979, lived underground in America for a few years, and soon found sanctuary in Castro's Cuba. Chesimard continues to live in Cuba, free from justice. Castro has refused to turn Chesimard over to the United States.

In addition to Joanne Chesimard, there are 73 other fugitives from U.S. law living under Castro's protection in Cuba, including a member of the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America should not allow Fidel Castro, a state sponsor

of terrorism, egregious abuser of human rights, and protector of U.S. cop killers, to enjoy the financial benefits of American tourism. He must return Joanne Chesimard and the other fugitives from American justice, cease support for terrorism, end the gross human rights violations within his country, and embrace democracy before we can welcome Castro among the nations of the world.

The Flake amendment will not create the changes we all hope for in Cuba. The amendment will only make Castro and his family richer, and send a horrible message to dictators across the world. Oppose the Flake amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whose birthday was August 27. Pope John Paul II will be beatifying her on October 19 in Rome.

As I reflect on her life of love and sacrifice, I am struck by the number of people's lives she was able to touch. Her work in Calcutta's slums illustrated her commitment to pulling people out of poverty by empowering them with self esteem and the hope that change is always possible.

For 50 years, Mother Teresa brought dignity to the poor and unwanted. After finding a woman dying in front of a Calcutta hospital, she sat with the woman until she died. Soon after, she began a campaign for a shelter for people to die with dignity. Her life's mission was caring for the human castoffs the world wanted to forget.

Her love brought hope to countless who were struggling on the brink of existence. In 1982, at the height of the siege in Beirut, she rescued 37 children trapped in a front line hospital by brokering a temporary cease-fire between the Israeli army and Palestinian guerrillas.

She recognized that, despite economic development efforts, there were people out there whose lives remained mired in the sorry circumstances of their birth. She opened schools, orphanages and homes for the needy, and turned her attention to the victims of AIDS as that disease increased in prevalence.

Her notoriety speaks to the impact of her love and service. Her integrity and humility drew large crowds and invited great affection.

As we remember the incredible work of an extraordinary woman, I hope that we are all challenged to live out the prayer that is inscribed on the wall of her Children's Home in Calcutta:

MOTHER TERESA'S PRAYER

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

. . . Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

. . . Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

. . . Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;