

County Rotary, Jersey Shore Council Boy Scouts of America, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean County, Barnegat Historical Society, and both Barnegat Fire Company Number One and the New Jersey State Fireman's Association is a demonstration of his commitment to the people of Ocean County.

I have always valued his friendship and support through the years. I hope Dean and his wife, Christine, will accept my congratulations and best wishes for a retirement filled with health, happiness, and dreams come true.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have mixed emotions as I consider the fiscal year 2004 defense authorization conference report.

I would like to thank my chairman, Mr. HUNTER, and Ranking Member SKELTON for working with me on several items that will benefit the people in my district, Travis Air Force Base, and our military airlift capabilities overall.

Indeed, the language in the bill expediting the transfer of land from the Navy to the Housing Authority of the City of Dixon will improve the living and work conditions of migrant workers who contribute to the local economy.

The language preventing the Secretary of the Air Force from retiring C-5A aircraft until one has been modernized and tested is a crucial measure that not only sustains a critical investment in upgrading one of the United States' most reliable transport planes, but it also ensures that Travis Air Force Base will continue to be an important provider of strategic lift in the near future.

The bill also contains a number of important provisions for our men and women in uniform such as an increase in base pay; a reduction in housing expenses; an increase in family separation allowance; and an increase in the rate of special pay for our brave troops who serve in hostile situations and imminent danger.

Despite these important positive elements, the bill contains several reckless provisions that undermine the security of the United States and needlessly jeopardize civilian employees and the environment.

This bill puts the United States back in the business of making nuclear weapons, adds unnecessary regulations that hamstring the DOD's nonproliferation programs, takes away the protections of civilian personnel, and gratuitously endangers the environment.

By lifting the ban on research and development of low yield nuclear weapons, Congress is abetting the administration's efforts to build a new generation of nuclear weapons; is inviting an arms race with rogue states, terrorists and allies; and is making a nuclear conflict more likely in the long run by undoing decades of American leadership in controlling the spread of the most deadly weapons known to man.

The Defense Bill, rather than increasing the budget for the DOD's valuable cooperative

threat reduction programs that dismantle and destroy weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union, adds unnecessary funding restrictions that in the end will only hurt the security of the American people.

The broad environmental exemptions provided for in the bill will undermine efforts to protect our environment by, among other things, making it harder to wall-off parts of military facilities as protected areas for wildlife.

Proponents use spin to claim this is necessary for military readiness, but it's hard to see how a blanket environmental exemption for everything on military installations from golf courses to swimming pools are pressing matters of national defense.

Moreover, the Pentagon can already get waivers from the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act when national security is at stake. But in the three decades since these laws have been in effect, not a single waiver has been sought.

The bill also abolishes DOD's long-standing labor relations system and replaces it with one in which civilian employees have only minimal consultation with unions and Congress.

The bill allows DOD to remove basic due process rights that employees currently enjoy by waiving their right to a written response, their right to be represented by an attorney, and their right to a written decision explaining the action.

I am deeply disturbed that the Republican Party has hijacked an important bill for our troops and attached to it a radical slash-and-burn ideology that is sure to undermine civilian morale at the Pentagon, needlessly endanger the environment and most alarmingly, endanger the American people with an irresponsible nuclear agenda.

I am voting for this bill because I do not believe, especially in a time of war, we should punish our active troops by withholding funds and measures that would benefit them because of some of the administration's imprudent and over-reaching provisions in the bill.

HONORING SPC. JAMES "JIMMY"
ANDERSON CHANCE, III

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening before the House to pay tribute to Specialist James "Jimmy" Chance of Kokomo, Mississippi. Specialist Chance was a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard serving in C Company of the 890th Battalion attached to the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq.

Tragically, Specialist Chance was killed on Thursday, November 6, 2003, when his vehicle struck a landmine near the Syrian border. He was the first of our own Mississippi National Guardsmen to lose his life while bravely serving in the Iraq War.

Specialist Chance is a true American hero who has paid the ultimate price to protect our country from terrorists and defend the liberties of the citizens of the United States of America. Furthermore, he has unselfishly given his life to win freedom for the people of Iraq who suffered under the unbearable rule of an evil dictator. These are people he did not know, but

yet, he has helped give millions of Iraqi men, women, and children, the chance to live lives of freedom and independence like we know at home in the United States.

Even though I know his family is enduring great suffering as a result of their loss, I hope they will find peace in knowing that Specialist Chance bravely served his country and his countrymen and defended the values and principles that Americans hold so dear. Specialist Chance was a defender of peace and a lion of liberty.

Specialist James Anderson Chance, III, represents the best of Mississippi and our Nation. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in honoring his courageous service, and ask that you pray that his family will find peace during this trying time.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF MOSUL

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as the leader of the first all women's United States Congressional Delegation to Iraq, it is my pleasure on behalf of Representatives JENNIFER DUNN, SUE KELLY, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, MARSHA BLACKBURN, KATHERINE HARRIS, DARLENE HOOLEY and CAROLYN MCCARTHY, to commend the excellent work being done at the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul. Today, with great honor and privilege, I would like to recognize the major milestones the organization has achieved.

The Women's Social and Cultural Society, comprised of more than 200 members, represents a variety of ethnic, religious and professional affiliations. These women are truly creating a new ideal within their country as they promote social, political and educational equality for all Iraqis. For too long, Iraqi women have suffered without equal or even adequate access to education, justice within the legal system, employment opportunities, and representation within the government. The members of the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul must be applauded for their commitment to end decades of oppression against women by fighting to give them a voice and a respected role of leadership within their communities. The challenge is immense, but their determination is steadfast and unwavering.

We commend and praise the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul today and urge our colleagues to wish them continued success as they pave the way for future generations of Iraqi citizens.

IN HONOR OF HILARY KITASEI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Riverdale is a fortunate community in that not only do the people who live here care for it, but newcomers after they arrive also do their best to make it even better.

Hilary Kitasei came to our community a few short years ago and in that relatively brief time has made a lasting impression on her new neighborhood and on how the community looks. She first took on a rather desolate piece of wasteland at Fieldston Road at the Henry Hudson Parkway overpass and using her considerable abilities transformed it into a woodland glade that is a highlight of the neighborhood.

It was planted by the students from almost all of the local schools as well as neighbors and is now a part of the New York City Parks Department Greenstreets Program.

Setting her eyes on a larger project she is spearheading the development of the Hudson Scenic Byway Program to create New York State's first urban scenic byway.

Riverdale, and by extension all of New York City, is lucky to have such people as Hilary Kitasei. I join all of our community in thanking her for the wonderful things she has done.

CONGRATULATING DR. GLORIA BROMELL-TINUBU ON HER APPOINTMENT AS THE 5TH PRESIDENT OF BETHUNE COOKMAN COLLEGE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu on becoming the 5th president of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida.

An educator and a community leader, Dr. Bromell-Tinubu is an economics professor at Spelman College in Atlanta, and was a former member of the Georgia State Board of Education. She is currently the chief executive officer of the Atlanta Cooperative Development Board, a nonprofit agency that serves as a catalyst in developing cooperative-owned business enterprises. Within 9 months as CEO, she obtained a \$1 million grant to assist the economically disadvantaged move toward self-sufficiency, and continues research that explores the use of cooperatives as a means of establishing economic security in asset-poor communities.

Dr. Bromell-Tinubu is a former member of the Atlanta City Council who has considerable community development experience, as shown by legislation she authored creating the Atlanta Neighborhood Deputies Program, a city-wide citizen driven code enforcement effort. She has served on numerous community development boards, including the Metropolitan Neighborhood Development Corporation (MNDC), which she founded.

In taking the helm of Bethune-Cookman College, Dr. Bromell-Tinubu becomes the fifth president of this private coeducational liberal arts college with a diverse student population of more than 2,700. Established in 1904 by Mary McLeod Bethune, the college is ranked among the top historically black colleges in the country. Most recently Bethune-Cookman College was selected as one of 10 colleges in the country to participate in Project Pericles, a program funded by the Eugene Lang Foundation to establish educational programs for social responsibility and participatory citizenship

as an essential part of higher education learning, in the classroom, on the campus, and in the community.

The Bethune Cookman College could not have found a more perfect fit to fulfill their goals and mission. I know that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu today, and we wish her every success in her future.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
LEANNE G. CHARETTE ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered today to extend my sincere congratulations to Leanne G. Charette on the occasion of her retirement marking the end of a thirty-two year career with the Internal Revenue Service.

When the average American thinks about the Internal Revenue Service, often they only contemplate the time, energy, and paperwork it takes to file an annual tax return. While the Internal Revenue Service is charged with the task of collecting revenue, they are also responsible for ensuring the protection of American citizens from fraud and evasion. Every day we hear the stories of corporations and individuals who seek to undermine the government through waste, mismanagement, and fraud. It is through the efforts of Special Agents like Ms. Charette that American taxpayers are saved millions in lost revenue.

Throughout her career, Leanne Charette has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service. As a Special Agent with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, she has been an active member of several complex investigations. As a member of the Health Care Fraud Task Force, she worked with representatives from several federal agencies to identify abuses in the health care field which were used to help develop health care reforms. More recently, Ms. Charette worked on a task force investigating a massive insurance fraud responsible for bilking insurance companies in several states of assets in excess of two hundred million dollars. Her efforts helped to identify several problems with the industry and the results will go a long way in helping to establish solutions to these issues. More importantly, the task force has been able to recover most of the stolen assets which will be distributed to the victims.

Too often, we overlook the tireless efforts of those in public service. Throughout her career, Ms. Charette has exemplified all that a public servant should be. Her commitment and diligence has earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and all of those with whom she has worked. For her many years of dedicated service, I am proud to rise today to extend my heart-felt congratulations to Leanne G. Charette as she joins her husband, Dick, in retirement. My very best wishes to you both for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YJEAN
CHAMBERS OF GARY, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker it is with great remorse that I rise today to pay tribute to one of Gary, Indiana's most dedicated and caring citizens, Dr. YJean Chambers. YJean passed away on Wednesday, November 12th at Methodist Hospital after a longtime illness. Her efforts as a distinguished educator as well as her numerous contributions to her community are worthy of the highest commendation and recognition.

YJean and her family moved to Gary, Indiana from Kentucky when she was a young girl, seeking a better life for themselves. In 1939, she graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School ranking second in her class, and then went on to earn her Bachelor of Education degree from Illinois State University. She also went on to earn her Master of Arts degree from Purdue University, where she received Purdue University's highest award, Doctor of Humane Letters in 1993.

YJean knew how important education was to all members of her community and therefore shared her gift of knowledge and enthusiasm for learning by becoming a teacher in Madison, Illinois. After two years she began teaching speech and drama at her alma mater, Gary Roosevelt High School. In 1971, YJean became a full time professor at Purdue Calumet in Hammond, Indiana where she taught communications and was appointed Assistant Professor of Communications in 1973.

YJean gave selflessly to her community in so many ways, including being a member of several volunteer and service organizations. She served as President of the Steel City Hall of Fame, sat on the Service Academies Nomination Board, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Gary Community Schools, and was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana School Board Association. YJean made history in Northwest Indiana by becoming the first African American woman elected to the Northwest Indiana Crime Commission and the first woman to serve on the Advisory Board of the Bank of Indiana.

Although she dedicated her life to serving her community, YJean never limited the time she gave to her loving family. She is survived by her husband Mr. Herman Chambers, and their son Lanel.

Mr. Speaker, YJean Chambers was a caring and committed woman who gave of herself in so many ways to her community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to Dr. YJean Chambers, she will be remembered honorably and truly missed.

TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA PETERS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to Joshua Peters of Muncie, Indiana. Joshua is an Army