

The island on which the lighthouse is situated has all but washed away, leaving the lighthouse precariously perched on a tiny sandbar that sits underwater at high tide. I want to thank Chairman Taylor and the Appropriations Committee for providing the first federal funding for this project in the recently passed Interior Appropriations Bill.

Save the Light has been coordinating monumental preservation efforts dedicated exclusively to the foundation repair of the Morris Island Lighthouse. The organization began as a grass roots effort by concerned citizens and has taken charge of the preservation of this historic site when public agencies would not. Save the Light has generated significant public support in raising funds for the project, worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and established a long-term maintenance program for the lighthouse.

The level of public support generated for its preservation underscores the importance of the Morris Island Lighthouse to the community, and I applaud Save the Light for all of their hard work and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
DENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton Housing Authority to commend them for receiving three National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Awards in Tampa, Florida this year.

The Denton Housing Authority has been active in the North Texas community for years, working hard to provide quality public and affordable housing. This year at the 2003 NAHRO awards ceremony, the Denton Housing Authority was recognized for their achievements in Program Innovation for Resident and Client Services. NAHRO President Curt Creager said, "These agencies are accomplishing remarkable levels of service for their communities and their residents. They are setting up programs and establishing standards that can be duplicated by other housing authorities around the country."

The Denton Housing Authority was recognized for three of their programs. The ARTS program brings together the DHA, University of North Texas, Center for Public Service, and Greater Denton Arts Council to provide an arts program and promote social skills for disadvantaged youth in low-income neighborhoods. The New Direction of Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) program partners with the Denton Police Department to encourage community outreach services to create and sustain safer neighborhoods. Also, the Phoenix After-School Program teams with the University of North Texas and DHA to encourage social and academic success for socially challenged youth 4–11 years old living in the Phoenix Development. These are the kind of great programs that will create a better society in the future by giving our youth a strong foundation and forming a safer environment for our neighborhoods.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Denton Housing

Authority for their innovation and hard work in providing community outreach services to the City of Denton and surrounding communities.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES
MARVIN REED

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Mayor Marvin Reed, who has served the Borough of Princeton as mayor for 13 years.

A resident of the borough for 45 years, he began his career of public service in 1985 as a member of the Borough Council. Since that time the people of Princeton have chosen him as their leader for three consecutive terms.

Under his direction the town has made a deliberate and concentrated effort to make affordable housing available to all within the community. He has secured five affordable housing developments and has laid the groundwork for at least 68 units of low-income senior housing.

He has worked with the local police department to establish a strong community presence and to work hand in hand with residents. Throughout his years as mayor the borough has seen an increasingly strong community grow, one that works together to support senior programs, youth activities and growth within the community.

Through his efforts the borough has seen the renovation of Borough Hall, the reconstruction of Monument Park and the Suzanne Paterson Senior Center. His commitments to creating open space and historic preservation have made Princeton Borough a stronger community.

As an inspiration to his community and the State of New Jersey, Mayor Reed has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

HONORING WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco on his upcoming retirement after 40 years of dedication and spirited service to the community.

As we honor Mayor Brown, I want to thank him for being an exemplary role model, leader, and friend. I take great pride in joining his family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Mayor Brown's personal story is an inspirational one. He was born into poverty on March 20, 1934, in Mineola, Texas, a small, racially-segregated Texas town, where he earned his first dollar as a shoeshine boy. Throughout his high school years, he worked as a janitor, a crop harvester and a messenger. On graduating, he moved to San Francisco, bringing with him a little more than a cardboard suitcase and hope in his heart.

He worked his way through and graduated from San Francisco State University and from the Hastings College of the Law. He was admitted to the State Bar of California and built a thriving law practice in what was then a predominantly white legal world.

Brown was elected to the California Assembly in 1964 and was re-elected 16 times, serving a total of 31 years in the Assembly. In 1980, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly, a position of power second only to that of the governor. The state's only African American Speaker, he held the position for an unprecedented 15 years.

Mayor Brown's personal experiences in the realm of racial discrimination have made him a tireless advocate for affirmative action. During his years as a state assemblyman, dozens of his bills became laws, including the passage of the most comprehensive educational reform and financing bill in 20 years. He also passed bills that requested the United States Congress to grant citizenship to Filipino veterans of WWII and eliminated criminal penalties for private sexual acts between consenting adults, a bill that was introduced before the Assembly five times before its ultimate passage.

While in the Assembly, several organizations awarded Brown for his tireless work on behalf of minority groups; he received the California Association of the Physically Handicapped Special Service Award, the ACLU Human Rights Award from the Gay Rights Chapter, the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the Japanese American Bar Association Award, and was honored by the California Advisory Commission on Special Education.

As mayor, he has continued his career-long commitment to civil rights and higher education, notably by designating the address of the refurbished City Hall as Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place after the recently-deceased San Francisco NAACP Chapter president and community activist. During the renaming ceremony and in front of a crowd of 7,000 people gathered at the 13th annual Martin Luther King Holiday rally, Mayor Brown restated his dedication for the betterment of education, his continued fight for civil rights, and his dedication to representing all of the minority groups that make up San Francisco.

Mayor Brown continues to make good on this promise. He championed and signed legislation requiring all companies doing business with the city to grant equal benefits to their workers' domestic partners. As mayor, he presided over seven domestic partner commitment ceremonies, the latest taking place in City Hall. His administration is also working toward guaranteeing universal health care for its 130,000 residents currently without medical coverage. Thanks to commitment from the City and the private sector, the University of California at San Francisco will break ground on its first new campus in over twenty years.

During his seven years at the helm of one of America's most diverse cities, Mayor Brown has shown continued leadership, creating continued vitality and economic energy in San Francisco. Respected in the ethnically diverse neighborhoods as well as in the burgeoning business community, a San Francisco Chronicle reporter said of Brown, "He's been magical in his ability to unite the city. There's been this unbelievable camaraderie between camps that have been at war for years."

As the city's first African American mayor, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. continues to represent the past, present and future of civil rights and the cultural and intellectual diversity that symbolizes San Francisco's history of acceptance.

Mayor Brown has been a mentor and a friend since the early 1970's. He has been consistent in championing the rights and the plight of those shut out of the American dream, and he has never forgotten his humble roots in Mineola, Texas.

I had the privilege to serve with Mayor Brown while in the California Legislature. As speaker of the Assembly, Mayor Brown led our state through many challenging years. He was my "shadow Governor" and made sure that communities of color, women and the poor had a seat at the table.

As a skilled legislator, Speaker Brown guided me with my very aggressive and successful legislative agenda, which I continue to embrace with pride and humility.

Mayor Brown leads with his head and his heart. His intellect, his wisdom and his spirit is something to behold.

As one whose life and work has been enriched by this giant of a man, I say thank you, and Godspeed. Enjoy this next glorious chapter of your life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on Roll Call Number 654 on H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes."

RECOGNIZING WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize December 1, 2003, as World AIDS Day. On this day, many around the globe will celebrate the progress made in the battle against AIDS while raising awareness to the challenges that remain.

Worldwide, an estimated 42 million people are living with the disease; 11.8 million are young people aged 15 to 24. Furthermore, more than half of those newly infected with HIV are between 15 and 24 years old—six thousand new infections each day, or 4 every minute.

In Latin America, in 2001, approximately 130,000 adults and children were infected with HIV and 80,000 died of AIDS. Unfortunately, young people and women are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

As we recognize World AIDS Day and celebrate the successes achieved, let us remember that our young people are at the center of this global crisis. They are our greatest hope in fighting this deadly disease and we should

do all we can to deliver effective treatments and prevent new infections.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following roll call votes:

Roll Call 650 (H.R. 1), Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act—On Motion to Instruct Conferees;

Roll Call 651 (H.R. 2660), Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004—On Motion to Instruct Conferees;

Roll Call 652 (H.J. Res. 63), Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003;

Roll Call 653 (H. Con. Res. 209) Commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia;

Roll Call 654 (H.R. 1828), the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003; and

Roll Call 655 (H.R. 253), National Flood Insurance Reauthorization.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 82nd annual celebration of American Education Week, a time for us to acknowledge and praise the important role of education for our social and economic future. In the United States, the public school system provides the backbone of our youth's education, a system that deserves our active support and continued respect.

In 1919 the American Legion and the National Education Association joined together in concern over illiteracy rates among World War I draftees. The two groups agreed to support a national effort to increase awareness of the importance of education. The first American Education Week was observed from December 4–10, 1921. In many parts of our state, literacy remains a great challenge, and the need for a strong public education system is more important than ever.

Each year American Education Week focuses on a different issue; this year's theme is "Great Public Schools for Every Child—America's Promise." The week's co-sponsors include the United States Department of Education, National PTA, and various national educator associations.

Every child deserves the opportunity to attend a quality public school where he or she can learn and excel in a safe, stable environment. Students should receive an education that teaches not only practical skills and specific knowledge, but that also passes down our nation's core values. Public schools nurture American traditions such as tolerance, free-

dom, and equality that create productive citizens.

Public schools in Texas continue to show great progress in many areas. According to statistics compiled by the NEA, Texas ranks in the top ten states for 4th graders scoring well in math tests. More and more Texas schools are offering advanced placement courses, and Texas now ranks first in the nation for the proportion of students taking advanced math courses. Texas stands among the top four states nationally for the percentage of public primary schools offering foreign language immersion. Excellence in math and language are not only important personal education skills, but they are critical to our future economic growth.

At the same time, challenges remain. The Administration and the Congress have failed to make the financial investments needed to expand the areas of progress and provide the quality education needed by all of America's children. Elementary schools in Texas are overcrowded and many are desperately in need of major repairs. Quality teachers, our most valuable educational resources, are becoming more and more difficult to recruit and retain.

Despite the promise to leave no child behind, the current federal leadership has adopted policies that break the commitments to reform and accountability in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rural and inner city schools will suffer the most, as will children with special needs and challenges. The President's budget and congressional appropriations are underfunding the No Child Left Behind Act by as much as \$8 billion. Similarly, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) remains woefully underfunded, leaving states and school districts with the burden of complying with the important federal goal of providing a public education to all students.

This lack of funding contributes directly to the problems facing Texas schools and schools across the Nation: larger classes, schools closing earlier, cutting out after school and summer programs, and laying off teachers and staff. What is the response to this starvation diet by the Administration and congressional leaders? Private school vouchers . . . Blame the public schools for meeting standards without providing resources to comply . . . Failure to make the commitment to provide all students, of all backgrounds and needs, with the education they deserve and we as a society need.

The best investment in America's future is an investment in our children's education. We should take this week to give special attention to promoting quality in our nation's public schools; however, our vigilance should not end this week, but continue until every child has the chance to realize his or her educational potential.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY CORNMAN, ROBERT SHARMAN, AND PAUL POLAK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to three