

Mrs. Jones began her career as an economist with the Labor Department in Washington, DC. In 1981, she became an elementary teacher in the Jackson Public School (JPS) District in Jackson, Mississippi, where she has served since. In 1994, she served a 4-year tenure as president of the Jackson Association of Educators.

Mrs. Jones has received numerous awards and recognitions for her commitment and service in the interest of public education and the teaching profession. These acknowledgments include the Silver Apple Award, which she was presented by JPS Board of Directors in 1983. In 1988, she was appointed as a teacher representative to the Paperwork Reduction Task Force by then Governor Ray Mabus. And, most recently was selected as teacher of the year by her colleagues at the elementary school where she currently works.

Mrs. Jones is a valued member of the community and her contributions are greatly appreciated.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION WEEK

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today Representative JOHN PETERSON and I are introducing a bill to establish an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week during the second week of May in honor of the army of health care heroes who, every day, comfort, care for, and assist our loved ones. Modern society takes for granted the need for nursing as an indispensable component of our public health system, but this was not always the case. The very concept of a visiting nurse can be traced to the pioneering work of Florence Nightingale. She reformed British military hospitals in the Crimean War through an expose in the British press, she professionalized nursing and made it an acceptable profession for educated women, devoted the rest of her life to building on her experiences, setting standards and writing books, until the mission of nursing had gained the respect of the world.

When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow read of the work of Florence Nightingale, he penned a poem, *Santa Filomena*, that spoke of the deep appreciation owed by all of us to those dedicated to service in the ultimate caring profession. He wrote:

Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts, in glad surprise,
To higher levels rise.

The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls,
And lifts us unawares
Out of all meaner cares.

The Visiting Nurse Associations of today are founded on the principle that the sick, the disabled, and the elderly benefit most from healthcare when it is offered in their own homes. They are non-profit home health agencies that provide cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of their condition or ability to pay for services. Through these exceptional organizations, 90,000 clini-

cians dedicate their lives to bringing healthcare into the homes of over 4 million Americans every year. In the face of rising costs and drastic changes in our health care system, visiting nurse associations have continued to deliver high quality health services for over 120 years.

It is time for Congress to recognize the vital services that visiting nurses provide their patients. Moreover, visiting nurses also are an indispensable lifeline for families. The comfort and quality care that visiting nurses provide can help family members cope with the difficulties of a loved one's illness.

I am proud to be introducing this important legislation with my colleague Representative PETERSON and urge my colleagues to join us in supporting National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY,
WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2003, and in support of the Democratic substitute amendment.

For twenty years, a complicit agreement regarding welfare existed between conservatives and liberals in this country. Conservatives refused to devote more money to the program, and liberals refused to demand anything of recipients. We lost two generations of Americans to this failed system of dependency.

I am a long-time believer in welfare reform. I worked in the White House and with the Congress to help enact the welfare reform legislation of 1996—and I was proud to be a part of the strong, bipartisan reform that legislation created. I applaud my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle who helped to pass what has been a landmark of successful reform. The 1996 reforms broke from the past with a new approach that grounded the welfare system in the values of work and responsibility. It was a bold and daring experiment that worked.

Instead of simply handing needy families a check, we created new opportunities for families on welfare. By providing access to education and training, we helped welfare recipients to get better and more lucrative jobs. Recognizing recipients' need to care for their young children, we helped them to get child care, and allowed mothers of young children modified work requirements. Realizing that many low-paying jobs do not provide health insurance, we instituted transitional medical assistance for families coming off welfare.

Since enactment of the 1996 reforms, enrollment has plunged more than 50 percent. The percentage of welfare recipients who work has increased five-fold over the past decade, and states now spend more on work support than on cash benefits. Thanks in large part to welfare reform, 8 million people left poverty in the 90s, teen pregnancy dropped by more than 20 percent, and child support collections doubled. We are moving in the right direction because we were true to our common values.

The most important thing we've accomplished with welfare reform has been to connect a generation of children with the culture of work. Most of us grew up watching our parents go to work. We internalized the value of work and now are passing these values onto our own children. Today, millions of children who would otherwise have grown up in a home where work was alien, now are being raised in a home where they are learning the routine of work.

In my state of Illinois, caseloads dropped 74.9 percent between 1996 and 2001, and, despite the recession, continued to fall an additional 23.7 percent in 2002. Many credit our strong success in caseload reduction to the state's innovative use of the flexibility in the original legislation, allowing Illinois to provide appropriate support for families making the transition from welfare to work. The proposed reauthorization will have a particularly disastrous effect on states like Illinois that have taken advantage of family support provisions to make notable progress. By removing the support system that has allowed many to get off and stay off welfare, this legislation is likely to create major setbacks in the progress of reform.

The Democratic substitute amendment builds on the success of the 1996 reforms. It retains the strong work incentives that not only help individuals go back to work, but provide them with greater job security by helping them become better educated, and train for better jobs. It recognizes the importance of giving mothers with young children the flexibility to take care of their children. It eliminates the current exclusion of legal immigrants from the system.

The Republican legislation represents a return to the failed ideologies of the past. It is not realistic to count the number of new hours of work mandated by this bill, and call reform a success. In voting for this legislation, you are voting against education and training to help current welfare recipients get out of dead-end jobs. You are voting for standards that will create hardships for working mothers, and add thousands to waiting lists for child care. You are voting to continue to exclude legal immigrants from participating in a program that would help them to contribute to this country rather than being simply a drain on the system.

In fact, I find the title of this legislation ironic: The Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act in fact stifles personal responsibility, discourages work, and creates hardship for families. Inherent in the concept of personal responsibility is making the choice to work towards self-improvement. By mandating more hours of work while limiting the training and education options are available to workers, this bill removes all incentive for personal responsibility.

Promoting work is not as simple as increasing work hours. There are likely to be countless individuals who, because they do not have the time, health, or child care resources to work forty hours each week, or simply cannot find a job where they are permitted to work forty hours, will choose instead not to work at all. If this legislation aims to promote work, it must do so by making work more realistic for workers and their families, not by imposing mandates that make working more difficult.

Lastly, the legislation creates untold hardship for families. By increasing mandated work

hours, while eliminating the current accommodation for women with young children, the bill will vastly increase the need for child care, without providing resources to the states to pay for it. Beyond this, the fact that the legislation limits opportunities for education and vocational training will keep many individuals in dead-end, low-paying jobs, with limited possibility to create better opportunities for their families.

Creating bipartisan compromise on welfare reform is never easy. It took us three tries to find a bill that worked in 1996. However, in this time of economic hardship for our nation, and our states in particular, it is even more essential that the Congress works in a bipartisan fashion to forge compromise on a welfare reform reauthorization that works. Welfare reform succeeded in 1996 when we stopped making it a political issue, and devoted our selves to passing meaningful legislation.

I have no illusions about what is going to happen today. However, I am disappointed that this Congress has chosen to take an enormous step backwards, prioritizing politics over pragmatism on an issue on which we have allowed good principles to rule in the past. I know that there are good people on both sides of the aisle, with good values, who have seen reforms we created improve the lives of people back home. To those in this Congress with whom I worked in 1996, let us not walk away from that we have accomplished. We have a mutual obligation not to let bad politics undo our good work.

I am confident that there will be no shortage of politics and partisan fights this session—about their tax cut, the deficit, Medicare reform, prescription drugs. To give up on proven success on welfare reform to engage in another unnecessary partisan fight is wrong.

Welfare reform is about demanding responsibility, encouraging work, and making work pay. Over the past six years, we as a nation—and millions of individuals—have benefited from our willingness to move beyond the old politics. This legislation represents a return to the failed politics and policies of the past. It is not compassionate nor is it conservative. It does a disservice to millions of families who have moved from welfare to work, and to the millions still struggling to do so. And it does wrong by our value as Americans.

HONORING RENT-ALL CENTER,
THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Rent-All Center which was named the 2002 Small Business of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Located in the heart of the 11th District of Virginia, the Rent-All Center was opened by Freeman and Lois Jones in 1970. It was created to serve the Mt. Vernon community as a source for home improvement and light contracting equipment. Today, the company has grown from a local tool rental shop into a full service party rental company, servicing the entire metro Washington, DC, area.

The Rent-All Center can best be described as a family-operated business. While currently managed by Douglas Jones and Judith Beyer, the children of Freeman and Lois Jones, on any given day three generations of family members can be found working there.

In addition to its outstanding business ethic, the Rent-All Center has distinguished itself through its commitment to serving the local community through participation in numerous community organizations, such as the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. Rent-All Center also supports youth sports, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Woodlawn Little League.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas Jones, Judith Beyer, and all those associated with the Rent-All Center for their many achievements, and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF
THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES
OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE
SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart, joining with the rest of the Nation in sorrow for the loss of the *Columbia* Shuttle and its seven heroic crew members. This tragedy, felt so deeply by all Americans, holds particular poignancy throughout my district. Both Payload Commander Michael Anderson and Pilot William McCool leave friends and family behind in New York's North Country.

Michael Anderson was born along the Canadian border in Plattsburgh, NY, in 1959, as his father served at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base. Less than 40 years later he would return as an Air Force officer himself, working to the rank of lieutenant colonel before joining the NASA astronaut program in 1995. Today, many men and women in Plattsburgh remember Michael fondly. Ricky Jenkins, a 71-year-old Vietnam War veteran who worked with Michael at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, said in the local newspaper soon after the shuttle's loss "I was so very proud of him for doing what he was doing. He was a role model . . . I will never forget Michael." Hours after President Bush helped the astronauts' families celebrate their loved ones at a national service in Houston several weeks ago, the Plattsburgh community celebrated Michael's life in particular with their own candlelight vigil. A youth choir, Boy Scouts honor guard and presentation by Gov. George Pataki marked the celebration. Plattsburgh Mayor Dan Stewart spoke for the community earlier in the day. I share their sentiments here: "This is our opportunity as the birthplace of a national hero to send our condolences. It's for them to know we are with heavy hearts in Plattsburgh."

Less than 200 miles west of Plattsburgh, at the Army's Fort Drum base in Watertown, Warrant Officer Shawn McCool grieves for his brother, *Columbia* Pilot William McCool. Shawn McCool said his brother was one of his

favorite people in the world, one of his greatest heroes. To the McCool family, and the families of all the astronauts we lost, I pledge that their loved ones' deaths are not in vain. Their enthusiasm and passion to explore the skies beyond us in the interest of mankind will always hold our deepest gratitude. And the space program their husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters died for will live on in their honor.

As we begin to understand the circumstances surrounding *Columbia's* loss that Saturday morning over Texas, we must remember what NASA embodies. It was founded in 1958 to explore a new frontier, discover new heights and wonders in science. It is responsible for cutting-edge aeronautics research in a aerodynamics, wind shear, wind tunnels, flight testing and computer simulations. It has performed invaluable research on ways to dampen the effect of shock waves on transonic aircraft. It has also launched a number of significant scientific probes that have explored the moon, the planets and other areas of our solar system. NASA has been responsible for the Hubble Space Telescope and other revolutionary space science spacecraft that enabled scientists to make a number of significant astronomical discoveries in our universe.

I truly believe the lives the men and women of *Columbia* led, like the lives of those astronauts who went before them, exemplify the commitment that lies behind our nation's space program. In an e-mail transmission hours before the *Columbia* crew attempted to return home, Michael Anderson illustrated their passion with these words: "It's kind of with mixed emotions that we get ready to come home. But we have enough fond memories to last us a lifetime."

As the House Science Committee, led by my colleague and New York neighbor, SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, initiates its investigation, Congress pledges to focus on which policies may have contributed to this tragedy. We owe nothing less to those we now mourn, Michael Anderson, William McCool, Rick Husband, Laurel Clark, Kalphana Chawla, David Brown, and Illan Ramon.

HONORING ROSA AND JACK
KELLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa and Jack Kelley's contributions to the African American Historical and Cultural Museum of California's San Joaquin Valley. On Saturday, February 15, the retirement of Jack Kelley, the memory of his wife Rosa, and the beginning of the Kelley Endowment Fund for the African American Museum was celebrated in Fresno, California.

Jack Kelley has been an active member in the community throughout his life. Mr. Kelley served his country bravely in World War II. Jack continued his brave and honorable service to America as one of the first African American policemen for the Fresno Police Department, and later as the first African American to be promoted to Sergeant within the Department. Showing his range of diversity,