

from Jonesville, Michigan that significantly influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership who were winners of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship.

Judy Hale teaches College Prep English at Jonesville High School in Jonesville. She is credited with instilling in students an enthusiasm for not only these subjects, but also for life. As one of her students, Shea Scott Dow said, "She listens and gives advice to her students, she motivates and she maintains expectations. Because of these high expectations, I feel that I'm ready to go to college and be successful in my studies." The respect and gratitude of her students speaks well of Judy's ability to challenge young minds and encourage them to always put forth their best effort.

Judy Hale's extraordinary work as a teacher has challenged and inspired countless students to move beyond the teenage tendency of superficial study and encourage them to foster deeper thought and connections to the real world. Arguably, no profession is more important because of its daily influence upon the future leaders of our community and our country, and Judy's impact on her students is certainly worthy of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Judy Hale. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students to strive for success.

REGARDING THE 60TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE G.I. BILL

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the men and women who defended and protected our people, our country, and our families. In celebrating the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill, we express our strong sense of gratitude and thanks to the veterans who have served and sacrificed their lives for the freedom and democracy that we still enjoy today.

On June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 also known as the G.I. Bill of Rights. This legislation was for veterans of World War II and it established veterans' hospitals, provided for vocational rehabilitation, made low-interest mortgages available, and granted stipends covering tuition and living expenses for veterans attending college or trade schools.

Subsequent legislation extended these benefits to veterans of the Korean War and the Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 extended benefits to all who served in the Armed Forces even in peacetime. From 1944 to 1949, nearly 9 million veterans received close to \$4 billion from the G.I. bill's unemployment compensation program. Education and training provisions existed until 1956, providing benefits to nearly 10 million veterans.

The Veterans' Administration offered insured loans until 1962, and these totaled more than \$50 billion. In 1985, the Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) became the newest federal program to provide education and training to our nation's veterans. The MGIB was one of the most important bills passed in its time and its influ-

ence is felt today. In 2003, for example, the Department of Veterans Affairs helped provide education or training for 322,754 veterans and active-duty personnel, 88,342 reservists, and 61,874 survivors.

In the past six decades, the GI Bill has continued to change in order to keep up with the needs of today's veterans. As of September 30, 2001, there are about 25.3 million veterans. There are also about 41.4 million family members and survivors of veterans. In addition, there are now more than 300,000 soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and these numbers continue to increase.

The VA has become a potential source of benefits for almost one-fourth of the population of the United States. With the growing number of service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, the possible increase in the number of veterans requires us to consider new ways to increase their assistance and benefits.

While the GI Bill continues to assist with cost of college education, purchasing homes, farms, businesses, and also in finding jobs, the cost of living continues to increase. This is why we need to create legislation to improve health benefits and to make sure that education benefits offered by the GI bill are aligned with the rising costs of tuition. With the rising costs of housing, many veterans, especially those in expensive housing markets, also cannot afford average-priced homes.

Although we have done a lot, there are many more issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, as we acknowledge and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill, I am hopeful that we will also honor our veterans by ensuring that we preserve and accomplish what the GI Bill promised.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VINTON
RANDOLPH ANDERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Vinton Randolph Anderson, one of eight legendary leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who will be retiring this year at the Church's Quadrennial Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Born in Somerset, Bermuda, Bishop Anderson attended private elementary schools in Bermuda, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University. He received a Masters of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary in Ohio, and Masters of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Kansas.

Bishop Anderson was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in 1951 and an Itinerant Elder in 1952. At the 1972 General Conference held in Dallas, Texas, he was elected the 92nd Bishop of the AME Church. He has presided over the 15th, 9th, 3rd, 5th, and 2nd Episcopal Districts during his tenure. Bishop Anderson has also served as Bicentennial Chairman, Ecumenical Officer, and Chairman of the General Conference Commission.

Bishop Anderson's ecumenical involvements span worldwide. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council and is past Vice Chairman of the North American Section encompassing the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

He is also past Chairman of the Committee on Religion and Society for the Global Economic Action Institute. Furthermore, Bishop Anderson has served as Chairman of Worship and Liturgy for the Consultation on Church Union. As Chairman, he provided leadership for the development of the Bicentennial Edition of the AME hymnal and the first Book of Worship. Bishop Anderson is a member of the General Commission of Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concern of the United Methodist Church; the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches; and the Advisory of the United States Office of the World Council of Churches.

Bishop Anderson is married to Vivienne L. Anderson. They have four sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Bishop Vinton Randolph Anderson upon his retirement from the Bishopric. He has provided tremendous leadership for the AME Church and his long history of educational leadership and service will influence the lives of future generations for ages to come. Richard Allen the founder of the AME would be proud of his Episcopal descendant.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004
LEGRAND SMITH OUTSTANDING
TEACHER AWARD WINNER JOHN
W. MOODY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key to our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement partially rests in the hands of our teachers. Today, I would like to recognize a teacher from Jackson, Michigan that significantly influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership who were winners of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship.

John W. Moody teaches Mathematics and Physics at Concord High School in Concord, Michigan. He is credited with instilling in students an enthusiasm for not only these subjects, but also for life. As two of his students said, Matthew Wixson and Michael Horosko, "He takes time to explain something if I don't understand it, and he is always there to give a bit of wisdom. He has helped shape who I am and I will be forever grateful to him for that." And, "Mr. Moody taught me excellent math and science strategies, but even more important he taught me lessons about life. He is an excellent teacher, but even more so, a good friend." The respect and gratitude of his students speaks well of John's ability to challenge young minds and encourage them to always put forth their best effort.

John W. Moody's extraordinary work as a teacher has challenged and inspired countless students to move beyond the teenage tendency of superficial study and encourage them to foster deeper thought and connections to the real world. Arguably, no profession is more important because of its daily influence upon the future leaders of our community and our country, and John's impact on his students is certainly worthy of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to John W. Moody. We thank him for his continuing dedication to teaching and his willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students to strive for success.

STATEMENT ON VETERANS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago Democrats fought to pass the GI bill. The GI bill provided assistance for veterans to pay for a college education, purchase a home, and find a job.

Today, Democrats are still fighting hard to make sure our veterans have the benefits they need. We are fighting to improve the health benefits for veterans, to end the Widow's Tax and the Disabled Veterans Tax.

Last year, I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act of 2003 to help the 450,000 veterans who have claims pending for federal benefits.

But as Democrats continue to fight for our veterans, Republicans continue to underfund the programs that are so important to our veterans. House Republicans have passed a budget that underfunds veterans health care by \$1 billion, meanwhile they have managed to find room for more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Our brave men and women in uniform are serving our country. They are sacrificing for our freedom. It is our duty to make sure that they are taken care of when they return home.

Republicans have broken the promise the GI bill made 60 years ago.

Not one Republican has taken a stand against the Bush budget proposal.

Our soldiers are fighting our enemies abroad. They should not have to fight our government at home too.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP HAMEL HARTFORD BROOKINS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins one of eight legendary leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who will be retiring at this year's Quadrennial Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Bishop Brookins was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Payne Seminary.

Prior to his election to the bishopric, Bishop Brookins pastored First AME Church in Los Angeles, California leading them through the building of a multi-million dollar cathedral. He also served as the first black president of the Wichita Ministerial Alliance. Bishop Brookins worked in the world of politics as manager and advisor helping to elect Thomas Bradley as Mayor of Los Angeles. He also served as

president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Western Region, and as vice president of Operation PUSH. Further, Bishop Brookins founded the Martin Luther King Student Fund, organized the first Interfaith Service at the Hollywood Bowl, and also lead the Primary Convention to elect the first black city councilman and Second Convention to elect the first black school board member.

Elected at the 1972 General Conference held in Dallas, Texas, Bishop Brookins was assigned to the 17th Episcopal District. He was inspired by the people's struggle for freedom, and became an active participant in their cause. As a consequence, Bishop Brookins was barred from Rhodesia in 1975. He participated in the 6th Pan African World Congress in 1974. Bishop Brookins also served and revitalized the 5th Episcopal District by purchasing and building new churches, sending ministers to organize new churches in Southern California, and establishing an Economic Development Fund for the District. Bishop Brookins also served in the 2nd, 12th, and 13th Episcopal Districts, and is a past Ecumenical Officer.

Bishop Brookins is married to Rosalyn Kyle Brookins and they have three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins upon his retirement from the Bishopric. He has provided tremendous leadership for the AME Church and his long history of religious and political service and leadership will influence generations for many years to come.

THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my views on the conflict in the Middle East.

I am deeply saddened by the seemingly endless bloodshed in the Middle East. The conflict has claimed the lives of too many innocent victims, Israeli and Palestinian alike. I have always believed and continue to believe that the United States has a role to play in assisting and supporting a negotiated peace in the region. I do not seek to assign blame but instead to ensure that we do all we can to achieve that end. I have no illusions that this conflict will be easily resolved, or that the United States can impose a solution—all we can do is urge the parties to make peace and support a process that offers some chance of success.

I support a two state solution to the conflict in the Middle East with Israel and Palestine coexisting as democratic states with secure, internationally recognized borders. Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip and certain areas of the West Bank presents an opportunity to get the peace process moving again and to lay the foundation for an eventual Palestinian state. However, I do not believe that withdrawing from these areas, in and of itself, will bring peace. We, and others in the international community, need to work with Palestine to end terrorism and foster and build a strong, stable democracy. Until this goal is

accomplished, I strongly support Israel's right to defend herself against attacks. Israel is currently building a security fence to block out suicide bombers and others wishing to harm Israelis. I have concerns over the placement of the fence in certain areas and it is my hope that this fence will be a temporary structure that can be dismantled when peace is achieved. Lastly, I believe that all final status issues, including final borders and refugee issues, must be negotiated by the parties and supported by all nations committed to peace, so that Israel and Palestine can feel confident that their agreement will endure.

I fear that the issue of peace in the Middle East will be brushed aside during campaign season. We must not merely call for peace, we must make it a priority. To this end, I have sent a letter, which I have attached and will submit for the record, to President Bush asking that he appoint two individuals, a Democrat and a Republican, to help the parties seek peace and set forth a practical agenda for doing so. This dramatic gesture would remove peace-seeking from partisan politics and make plain to the world that Americans are united in their commitment to finding a peaceful solution. I personally am determined to do all that I can to ensure that this issue remains at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy and that progress is made toward finding a peaceful resolution.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
June 7, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
*The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to you because I believe that the United States must, as it has in the past, take action to advance the cause of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I do not seek to assign blame, but to end the bloodshed.

Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan presents an opportunity that ought not to be lost by inaction. I share your conviction, expressed last month, that "all final status issues must still emerge from negotiations between the parties. . . ." I share, too, your belief that the United States has a role to play in fostering such negotiations. The suffering is acute, for both Israelis and Palestinians. Insofar as we can help bring the parties together, we ought to take action now. Our good offices should not be suspended because of the election campaign.

Therefore I respectfully urge that you appoint two Americans, a Republican and a Democrat, to help the parties seek peace. I would not presume to dictate your choice: there are wise and just men and women in both parties. I ask that you select a bipartisan pair and offer their services to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, to meet with them, together or separately, to set forth a practical agenda for seeking peace.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. CAPUANO,
Member of Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MERLE F. PETERSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MARION BERRY and I rise today to honor the