

Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1967, he served the people of his district and his state with honor, integrity and distinction for 16 years. A lawmaker's lawmaker, he served as the Chairman of the Claims Committee, the Business and Industry Committee, the Dallas Legislative Delegation. He was untiring.

His sense of timing was always perfect. Chris Victor Semos was born in 1936. This was also the year of the Texas Centennial. This was not by chance or happenstance, for he believed he was destined to celebrate Texas and all things Texas. It was the delight of Chris Victor Semos' heart to have the honor of serving as the Chairman of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission. Because of the energy and the energy he devoted to the promotion and the celebration of Texas' 150th anniversary, his peers bestowed upon him the aptly descriptive sobriquet "The Father of the Texas Sesquicentennial." He was indefatigable.

Chris Victor Semos also made a lasting impact on Dallas. For 12 years the people of Dallas County as the County Commissioner. He was elected to the office in 1983. During his tenure, he poured every ounce of his considerable energy into building roads and bridges around the county. He was unfaltering.

Because of his commitment to his community, Chris Victor Semos was the recipient of countless awards. His honors, his awards and his decorations are too vast to name. Emblematic of the esteem in which he was held by his peers and his community, the Oak Cliff Lion's Club honored Chris Victor Semos with the Humanitarian Award. It was not an honor that he took lightly. As a 50-year member of the Oak Cliff Lion's Club, he promoted the welfare of others and championed reforms that improved the lives of his fellow man and fellow woman. He was unrelenting.

Chris Victor Semos was filled with joy when he was united in holy matrimony with Anastasia, his bride of 37 years. His heart was filled with joy with the birth of each of his three daughters, Mary Katherine, Victoria Evelyn, and Kristina Anastasia. They were his greatest mark of distinction. His love and devotion for his wife and his daughters were unceasing.

Mr. Speaker, after a lifetime of devoting his life to serving others, Chris Victor Semos has gone to his eternal rest. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to former Texas State Representative Chris Semos. Moreover, I join with the city of Dallas and the State of Texas in mourning the loss of an outstanding citizen and friend.

THANK YOU, MARGARET SIMS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Sims. Over 1,252 of our soldiers have a new friend in Ms. Sims, who a year ago began writing to a soldier she did not know from her hometown of Gulf Breeze, FL. At 19 years of age and a rising sophomore at the University of West Florida, Margaret epitomizes patriotism in the United States. Margaret not only corresponds with many of the troops in Iraq on a regular basis

in something she calls "Project Appreciation," but also stands outside the local grocery store during the weekends gathering signatures for "Thank You" banners. She has been known to gather 400 signatures per banner, sending them to troops in places like Tikrit and Kirkuk, as well as making care-packages filled with cans of tuna, crackers, and toiletries for a lucky few that have become her regular recipients. She has been honored in the Pensacola News Journal and throughout the First District of Florida, but it is time that she is recognized for her efforts by Congress.

Patriotism is not only shown by our soldiers in the field but by our people at home. Her love for our country and her support of the troops is the true essence of patriotism. She shows our men and women in the field how valued and supported they are, giving them hope and faith from back home. By sending letters and care packages, and by taking the time to gather signatures on a banner from people throughout her community, Ms. Sims is making a true difference in America, a model patriot for all of us to admire.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I would like to thank Margaret Sims for her patriotism and support of our troops. What we need in this country are more young men and women like her.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 2004*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 70th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act on June 26, 1934. Since the passage of this momentous legislation, federal credit unions have consistently proven themselves to offer high quality financial services at low costs to over 85 million Americans.

As members of this body, many of us are well aware through first-hand knowledge of the importance of federal credit unions. Owned by their members, federal credit unions are financial institutions that embrace the true spirit of volunteerism. Federal credit unions are run by volunteer boards of directors that are elected by their members, and encourage the value of saving regularly to build economic security for the future.

The entire premise of the credit union movement is the commitment to values that we can all embrace. Folks with modest means who oftentimes are overlooked by other types of financial institutions are assured of access to financial services thanks to America's credit unions. Driven by a deeply held commitment to member service rather than financial profits, credit unions offer not only low-cost financial services but also much-needed financial education to some of the most neglected sectors of our society.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act seventy years ago. In conjunction with all the fine work of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the trade association that exclusively represents the interests of federal credit

unions, there is no doubt in my mind of the benefits Americans across the nation will continue to gain because of the good work of our nation's federal credit unions for many more years to come.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4548) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes,

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, from its inception in 1996, the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Program (OFF) was susceptible to political manipulation and financial corruption. Trusting Saddam Hussein to exercise sovereign control over billions of dollars of oil sales and commodity purchases invited the illicit premiums and kickback schemes now coming to light.

But much is still not known about the exact details of Oil-for-Food transactions. That is one reason my Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations convened a hearing on April 21st to help pierce the veil of secrecy that still shrouds the largest humanitarian aid effort in history.

This much we know: The Hussein regime reaped an estimated \$10.1 billion from this program: \$5.7 billion in smuggled oil; and \$4.4 billion in oil surcharges and kickbacks on humanitarian purchases through the Oil-for-Food Program. There is no innocent explanation for this.

At the hearing, the Subcommittee heard the program, while successful in many ways, was riddled with corruption and the independent efforts of the Iraqis to investigate the fraud was being stifled by the Coalition Provisional Authority.

We want the State Department, the CPA, the intelligence community, and the U.N. to know there has to be a full accounting of all Oil-for-Food transactions, even if that unaccustomed degree of transparency embarrasses some members of the Security Council.

Two months ago, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan assured me he wants to get to the bottom of this scandal and restore faith in the ability of the U.N. to do its job. Subsequently, the Secretary General appointed Paul Volcker to lead an independent panel to look into the Oil-for-Food Program.

While Mr. Volcker brings expertise and prestige to the task, we are concerned about the slow pace of the U.N. investigation. The Volcker panel has just announced the hiring of senior staff. Nevertheless, they continue to say an interim report, possibly this summer, will address the conduct of UN employees and allegations about the Secretary General's son's involvement.

But we also need to know more than what just happened at the U.N. We also need to know what happened at the US Mission. We

need to know what our intelligence community knew and knows.

Many of the allegations are true, we just don't know which ones yet. We should be long past asking whether something went wrong in OFF. It's time to find out exactly what went wrong and who is responsible.

Our staff has been through the minutes of the U.N. "661 (six-six-one) Committee" of Security Council members responsible for sanctions monitoring and oversight of OFF. Those minutes tell a story of diplomatic obfuscation and an obvious, purposeful unwillingness to acknowledge the program was being corrupted. Questions about oil or commodity contracts were dismissed as dubious media rumors beneath the dignity of the U.N. to answer, while Saddam was given the undeserved benefit of every doubt.

We cannot ignore the profoundly serious allegations of malfeasance in the Oil-for-Food Program. To do so would be to deny the Iraqi people the accounting they deserve and leave the U.N. under an ominous cloud. This is the Iraqi's money we're talking about, so the Iraqi Governing Council and its successor should get cooperation from the CPA and the State Department in conducting its inquiries.

In Iraq, and elsewhere, the world needs an impeccably clean, transparent U.N. The dominant instrument of multilateral diplomacy should embody our highest principles and aspirations, not systematically sink to the lowest common denominator of politics profiteering.

This emerging scandal is a huge black mark against the United Nations and only a prompt and thorough accounting, including punishment for any found culpable, will restore U.N. credibility and integrity.

That is why it is critical to get to the bottom of the corruption. In order to do that we need to the intelligence community to better assist the Congress in its investigations.

Mr. Chairman, this Sense of Congress will help address the difficulties many committees have had obtaining information and documents—especially from the intelligence community—pertaining to the Iraq Oil-for-Food Program. This amendment should reinforce the importance Congress places on the Oil-for-Food investigations.

**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES THE CONTRIBUTION OF REVEREND WILLIE MAE NANTON, PASTOR OF THE CADWALADER-ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the eve of her retirement to recognize Reverend Willie Mae Nanton for her role as a pastor and community activist.

As Pastor of Cadwalader-Asbury United Methodist Church for the past 7 years, she has inspired and touched the lives of many. She is the first female pastor of the church in its 100-year history as well as the first female President of the Concerned Pastors and Ministers of Trenton and Vicinity. She has been an instrumental part of these organizations not only as a leader but also as a friend.

Rev. Nanton also has been involved with other organizations in her community, serving as a Board member of the Economic Development Corporation, a Board member of Black United Methodist for Church Renewal, a past president of the Northwest District Board of Ordained Ministry, a Board member of Ecclesia Ecumenical Ministry, a past Board member of Big Brothers & Sisters, and a Board member of Leadership Trenton. Through these organizations, she has positively contributed to the Trenton community's development and the spiritual growth of its members.

Over the years, Rev. Nanton has improved the quality of life of individuals in her community by being involved in Leadership Training Workshops, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling, Community Organization Development Planning and Management, Group Counseling, Interfaith Care Givers, and Meals on Wheels of Trenton. New Jersey is fortunate to have such a dedicated servant, and she deserves the utmost praise and recognition.

She has earned our heartfelt appreciation for a noble career of public and private service, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me today in recognizing her achievements.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, had I not been detained in Colorado earlier this week attending the funeral of a close family friend, I would have voted accordingly on those votes on which I was forced to be absent: rollcall No. 276 (H. Res. 591), "yea"; rollcall No. 277 (H. R. 4363), "yea"; rollcall No. 278 (H. Res. 660), "yea"; rollcall No. 279 (H. Res. 683), "yea"; rollcall No. 280 (H. Res. 683), "yea"; rollcall No. 281 (H. Con. Res. 449), "yea"; rollcall No. 282 (H. Con. Res. 13), "yea"; rollcall No. 283 (Amendment to H.R. 4613), "no"; rollcall No. 284 (H.R. 4613), "yea"; rollcall No. 285 (H. Res. 658), "yea"; rollcall No. 286 (H. Res. 686), "yea."

### TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP WILBERT S. MCKINLEY

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Archbishop Wilbert S. McKinley in recognition of his spiritual leadership in the community.

Archbishop Wilbert S. McKinley is the senior pastor of The Elim International Fellowship.

The doors of the church were opened for ministry on July 26, 1964. As the founding pastor, Archbishop McKinley has served the church faithfully for 40 years.

Archbishop McKinley has an overwhelming passion to introduce people, especially men, to the Church and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Archbishop McKinley believes that these teachings hold the key to every door. He is especially called to reach black men with the message of hope through Jesus

Christ and with the necessity of embracing one's spiritual, national and racial identity.

Archbishop McKinley has been a gift to the Church. In addition to his pastoral duties, he is a leader who is committed to sharing his time and talent with others.

Mr. Speaker, Archbishop Wilbert S. McKinley has been a spiritual leader in his community for more than 40 years. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

### IN LASTING MEMORY OF BILLY BOB SMITH

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of Billy Bob Smith from Prescott, Arkansas, who died Sunday, June 13, 2004, at the age of 83. As a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, nephew and friend, his life was full of achievements and honors that impacted his entire community.

Mr. Smith was born December 10, 1920, in Nevada County. The World War II veteran was the recipient of 5 battle stars and an Oakleaf, participating in the Battle of the Bulge as well as the Normandy Invasion. His courage and patriotism led him to serve in the 413th Antiaircraft Artillery battalion, C Battery in Central Europe, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, Normandy and Northern France. For his dedication and loyalty to our nation, we will forever be grateful.

Mr. Smith was a selfless public servant and a leader, spending much of his adult life serving his fellow citizens in Nevada County. He was a member of the Prescott Church of Christ and served as a Justice of the Peace for 14 years.

I am deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Smith. His loyalty and dedication to Nevada County, his family and his country will forever be remembered. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Elya, his son, Michael, and his three daughters, Bobbie, Donna, and Jan.

### HONORING DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS GENESEE CHAPTER NO. 3

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the members of the Disabled American Veterans Genesee Chapter No. 3 as they celebrate their 75th anniversary on July 11, 2004 with local veterans and their families.

The Disabled American Veterans Genesee Chapter No. 3, of which my father, Timothy L. Kildee, was a member, was founded on March 18, 1929. The members of this non-profit organization have worked diligently on the behalf of America's wounded war heroes to ensure that they are not forgotten by our government and society. Through their efforts and generous donations from the community, they are able to assist disabled veterans by providing services such as transportation to and