

with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts."

Today, millions of young men aged 6–18 have been involved in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing.

We congratulate the Boy Scouts of America on this "Scout Sunday" for striving to instill high values and strong leadership skills in the young men of our nation. These men should be celebrated for their high ideals and dedication to their communities. We take pride in the Boy Scouts' hard work and commitment to civic involvement.

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3030) to amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I held a town hall meeting in Scappoose, Oregon on Monday night. Scappoose is in Columbia County, which has a double-digit unemployment rate.

The first person to speak at that event was a woman who told me that her unemployment benefits will run out this month, she is terrified of losing her health insurance, and she is considering taking a job in California, leaving her children and family behind.

Time after time in Oregon, I hear the heartbreak of a jobless economic recovery.

Oregon has a jobless rate of 7.2% and we have lead the nation in unemployment for most of the past two years. And, it is estimated that as I speak, there are over 34,000 Oregonians who have exhausted all forms of unemployment assistance without finding a job.

These are not just statistics. Each one of these 34,000 people risks losing their car, their home, or being unable to afford college for their children, or vital health care for their family.

Mr. Chairman, all Oregonians hope for an improved economy that creates permanent high paying jobs.

But today, these new jobs do not yet exist in Oregon. And so today, we must show compassion and extend unemployment assistance.

At the end of that same town meeting in Scappoose, a gentleman also talked about the pain of being unemployed and asked me a straight question, who can change this?

I gave him a straight answer. If the President picked up the phone and asked for an unemployment extension we would get it done this week.

I said that before I knew we would be asked to vote the Miller amendment today. So today, I want to say to the President, sir I challenge you to feel the passion, the anger, and the pain of the millions of Americans who are out of work.

Pick up the phone Mr. President, and let's extend unemployment benefits this week.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the Miller

amendment and I yield back the balance of my time.

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3030) to amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. Today the House must once again come together to provide relief to America's unemployed. Much like a year ago, the President says that the economy is improving, but those words are cold comfort to those who have not only lost their jobs but also their unemployment benefits in recent weeks.

It is always the same story with this administration—the recovery is right around the corner. We have been hearing that now going on 3 years. Already this month, 375,000 unemployed Americans have exhausted their state benefits. In my State alone, nearly 26,000 people will have neither a paycheck nor extended unemployment insurance benefits. That is the second highest number of workers who have exhausted their benefits on record. These folks have been left with no job or assistance and believe me—they are struggling to provide for their families this winter.

This amendment extends unemployment benefits for workers for another 6 months retroactively to December 20th, when Congress failed to act before adjournment. Of course, we learned last month that only 1,000 new jobs had been created—despite administration estimates that said a quarter million new jobs would be created that month.

Mr. Chairman, this majority acts as if unemployment benefits were some kind of hand-out—welfare for working families. But their inability to find work is hardly due to a lack of trying. If anything, it is due to the failed economic policy of this administration, which promised a million-and-a-half new jobs with its last round of tax cuts. That those jobs have not materialized seems apparent to everyone but them.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is the least we can do. Too many families were left out in the cold this holiday season due to the Republicans' refusal to address this issue. This amendment is not enough, but it is better than nothing, which until now is all this majority has supported.

HONORING GIVE KIDS A SMILE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL ACCESS DAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 6, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the American Dental Association for organizing the 2nd Annual Give Kids A Smile National Children's Dental Access Day. Today,

dentists from across the country will be generously volunteering their time to provide free screening and dental care services to children in need.

In its inaugural year last year, dentists participating in Give Kids A Smile National Children's Dental Access Day provided free care to an estimated 1 million disadvantaged children nationwide. Beyond providing free dental services and dental health education, this annual effort is aimed at raising awareness about the large number of children that go without dental care each year and the impact this can have on their overall health and wellness.

Give Kids A Smile Day provides a tremendous opportunity for parents who lack adequate health or dental coverage to get needed dental care for their kids. There is a clear need for this. According to a recent report on health care quality, only 38 percent of children in poor health and less than half of all children between the ages of 2 and 17 have seen a dentist in the past year.

Access to good health care is synonymous with access to good dental care and too many children and families are being left behind. Given the impact untreated dental disease can have on a child's health, school performance and overall quality of life, there is no question that we need to improve awareness about and access to dental care.

I applaud the American Dental Association for spearheading this effort. I commend the California Dental Association for their participation and the many dentists in my district from the Southern Alameda County Dental Society and the Alameda County Dental Society for performing this public service. Their contributions now and in the future will go a long way in improving the health of many needy children.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS "50 YEARS OF PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITY"

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 6, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of North Texas for celebrating 50 years of desegregation on their campus. In the summer of 1954 the University of North Texas accepted doctoral student A. Tennyson Miller as the first African-American student admitted into the university.

Since 1954 African-American students have been scholars, athletes, both homecoming kings and queens, and most importantly leaders. They have shaped and molded the identity and character of the University of North Texas. The excellence of UNT today is directly linked to the diversity of its students.

The year of 1954 was a turning point for civil rights and in particular, for the African-American community. Literally, the doors of opportunity began to open up in America's history. The landmark Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* sent public institutions in an uproar when it aimed to desegregate public schools.

Within this tumultuous and controversial time, of the beginning of the Civil Rights

Movement in the 1950s, the University of North Texas took a giant step forward by opening its doors to African-American students. And it is only appropriate, that during February, Black History Month, that UNT celebrates their own turning point in history with the 50 Years of Progress and Opportunity, 1954–2004 culminating in a celebration on Saturday, February 14, 2004.

In 2004, the UNT is commemorating its desegregation as well as the incredible progress made in during those 50 years. I congratulate the African-Americans who overcame barriers to pave the way for others at the University of North Texas. I also applaud the university's former and current African-American students, faculty and staff for their continued dedication to the Mean Green of UNT.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 6, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support Taiwan, a democracy and a dependable friend of the United States. In fact, the United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner, while Taiwan is the seventh largest United States trading partner. In the year 2000, total U.S.-Taiwan trade was approximately \$65 billion, with a Taiwan surplus of approximately \$16 billion. Taiwan's chief exports to the United States include clothing and footwear, toys, and various electronic products. In recent years, Taiwanese government officials have attempted to accommodate increased United States pressure on trade issues. They met many U.S. demands for greater market access for U.S. goods and services and responded to U.S. complaints by taking stronger measures to protect U.S. copyrights and other intellectual property rights.

At the same time, Taiwan's political system had undergone dramatic changes, including a transition to democratic political pluralism. The combination of these developments led to subtle changes in U.S.-Taiwan ties, including

deepening economic, military, social, and other contacts. Today, the United States is an important investor and trading partner for Taiwan, with United States markets receiving about 25 percent of Taiwan's exports. Taiwan continues to enjoy Export-Import Bank financing, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) guarantees, most-favored-nation status, and ready access to U.S. markets.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province of China, and PRC officials have grown particularly upset over the statements and positions taken by Taiwan's democratically elected president, Chen Shui-bian, who increasingly has referred to Taiwan as a sovereign independent country. These statements and positions have contributed to an intense domestic debate in Taiwan over its national status. President Chen also has been a strident proponent of using the scheduled March 20, 2004 presidential elections to hold an unprecedented national referendum on several policy issues. Beijing strongly opposes a referendum in Taiwan, fearing it could be used to gauge support for—and possibly to declare—Taiwan independence.

In recent years, the PRC has steadily increased its missile build-up along the south China coast opposite Taiwan, now deploying close to 500 missiles. As Taiwan faces military threats from China, the people of Taiwan plan to express concern over their wellbeing and security in a proposed referendum on March 20, 2004. Therefore, as the world's leading democracy, we must support the people of Taiwan and their right to hold this referendum.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA WEST

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 6, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you and my colleagues a tribute to a lady from southwestern Pennsylvania who has made a difference in the lives of countless veterans.

When Linda West was in junior high school in Uniontown, in Pennsylvania's 12th Congress-

sional District, she began visiting the homes of housebound veterans as part of a community-service project. This effort marked the beginning of a mission that would lead a coalition of veterans and community organizations in Las Vegas, NV, to honor her with a Lifetime Achievement Award last December.

As a student at the University of Cincinnati, Linda worked with veterans in Uniontown during semester and summer breaks. After graduation, she relocated to Las Vegas and formed new relationships with veterans there to match those she had found so rewarding in Uniontown. She visited veterans in hospitals, delivered food to their homes, assisted with burials and arranged honor guards. In recognition of her efforts, the Chapel of Four Chaplains more than 20 years ago confirmed her as an assistant Nevada State chaplain, the first female lay clergy in the organization. She receives no pay or reimbursement for expenses.

She is a national service officer of Veterans of the Vietnam War, where she has helped veterans with their medical, spiritual and health-care benefits needs for more than 15 years. When necessary, she has practiced suicide intervention with these veterans, especially those suffering from the effects of Agent Orange.

She worked with a Vietnam veteran to ensure passage of the first increase in Nevada's veterans' property tax exemption in the 48 years since the bill was passed in 1953. The legislation, including added benefits for veterans who were more than 60 percent disabled as a result of their service, was intended as a thank-you to the State's veterans but had become nearly meaningless over the years.

She also worked with a veteran to derail legislation that would have ended the teaching of American Government and history in Nevada's public schools, instead adding a mandate for the teaching of the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

Here in the 12th Congressional District, we're grateful to Uniontown native Linda West Myers for the generous contributions she has made to our Nation's veterans.