

obtain quality legal services. With the help of Richard's efforts, more people, regardless of their income status, will have access to quality attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Jones Jr. has dedicated his time to improving the community as a member of law enforcement and a civic leader. 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.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, today I rise on behalf of the hard-working farm families of Southwest Georgia who have more than earned the economic assistance that a tobacco buy-out would provide.

By introducing this amendment, my colleagues seek to make a statement about the tobacco industry as a whole. In reality they are punishing American farmers who have already suffered the loss of more than fifty percent of their income. A tobacco buyout does not provide an incentive to grow tobacco nor does it get the U.S. Government out of the tobacco growing industry, rather it provides our farmers with an honest chance to survive.

Those of us representing American tobacco growers are in the best position to understand the unique importance of tobacco reform. We have been working on a bipartisan basis for over two years to end the depression-era price support system that, despite severe cuts in quotas and the even greater economic losses of our farm families, has not been touched in nearly 18 years. This amendment obstructs our reform efforts and complicates the chances of any real solution. Our farmers deserve better.

I urge my colleagues not to support this amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. WHITEHEAD

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of John C. Whitehead for his continued dedication to public service.

John was born in East New York and raised in Bedford Stuyvesant by his loving parents, Jesse and Mary. The ninth of twelve children, he was educated in the New York public school system.

John previously served his country proudly as a member of the United States Army and Reserves.

He has vast experience with many civic groups and community-based organizations. John is a founding member of the youth organization Black Men Who Care. He is the Chief Executive Officer and an Executive Board Member. He is a member of the Men's Caucus for Congressman Ed TOWNS where he is a Congressional diplomat and Chairman of this year's awards dinner. John is also an executive board member of Community Board No. 5 which serves East New York.

John is deeply involved with a number of community organizations. He is an Advisory Board Member of NIA Theatrical Production Company and New York City Works, a Special Advisor to the Committee To Honor Black Heroes, and a member of Black Watch. John has served as a supervisor and youth counselor for the Vanguard Urban Improvement Association, which was founded by Albert Vann (City Councilman and Former Assemblyman), and is the former vice-president of the Spring Creek Tenants Association.

John is currently employed by the New York City Department of Sanitation as well as being a licensed paralegal. He has served as Vice-President of the United States Steel Workers Local No. 2, and has worked as a security supervisor for Burns Security.

John is a single parent of six wonderful children: John Jr., Jeffrey, Jatina, Dakeem, Jay and Justin. By his example of community service, love of neighbor and a strong work ethic, he strives to teach his children that they can be successful in any endeavor they undertake. John's greatest focus and concern is to be the voice for those hard-working taxpayers who are not being heard. They need and deserve someone to ensure the delivery of quality services to their community.

Mr. Speaker, John C. Whitehead has continued to strengthen and improve the community through his wide array of civic activities. 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 HONOR OF VIRGIL BLANCO

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Blanco on being selected as a Fulbright Scholar for 2004. For his remarkable achievement, Mr. Blanco was honored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at Middlesex County Administration Building in New Brunswick, NJ.

Mr. Blanco, a professor of modern languages and department chairman and director of the Center for International Education at Middlesex County Community College, has been selected as a 2004 Fulbright Scholar Program recipient. The Fulbright Scholar Program is an honor bestowed upon only 800 American faculty and professionals, by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Blanco recently spent 3 weeks visiting French and German post-secondary educational institutions, learn-

ing in-depth their educational system. He also lectured about community colleges and immigrant students in the United States.

Mr. Blanco has been an active member in his community. He was founder and chairman of the New Jersey Collegiate Consortium for International Education, and also served as chairman of the New Jersey World Trade Association, co-chairman of the New Jersey World Trade Conference, and member of the State Advisory Committee on Bilingual Education.

For his outstanding research and dedicated community service, Mr. Blanco has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, such as the N.J. World Trade Council Education Award, the Above and Beyond Award for Teaching Excellence, and the N.J. Department of Labor and Industry Research Grant.

Mr. Blanco received his bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, a master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and his post-doctorate degree from the University of Madrid.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Virgil Blanco for his continued pursuit of educational excellence, and for his dedicated service to the students of Middlesex County Community College.

A TRIBUTE TO CONSTANTINE LINCOLN STEWART

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Constantine Lincoln Stewart for his public service for the City of New York and his volunteer efforts to educate our children.

Lincoln, as he is more affectionately known, currently serves as a senior policy advisor in the Office of Policy Management with the New York City Comptroller's Office. As a Senior Policy Advisor, he conducts research and analyzes public policy issues affecting education, the infrastructure, public safety, and technology. He has worked in the Comptroller's Office for the last 17 years.

Lincoln is also an adjunct professor at York College in Jamaica, New York. He tutors students of all ages throughout the city. He enjoys the opportunity to be a positive influence on young people. Lincoln especially likes working with students in the areas of math and science. These areas are traditionally viewed as problematic for women and people of color. Lincoln emphasizes that it is the student's duty to take responsibility for his or her own education. He often tells his students that the international community is providing opportunities for ambitious African-American, Latino, female and immigrant youths.

Lincoln was born in Jamaica. He is the second of Samuel and Lethe's five children. He received his degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of the West Indies. After graduating, he immigrated to Brooklyn in 1980. He quickly resettled in West Texas after accepting an offer as a chemical engineer with the Phillips Petroleum Company. Two years later, he returned to Brooklyn and attended Baruch College where he earned his Masters of Business Administration.

Lincoln is the loving husband of Charmanie Harris Stewart, his wife, partner, and friend for

17 years. He is the proud father of three gifted children: Lincoln, Jr. is currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps; Anika is an honors student; and Din, his youngest son, attends St. Raymond's Catholic School.

Mr. Speaker, Constantine Lincoln Stewart has dedicated his professional career to serving his community while still finding time to tutor children throughout the area. 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 MEMORY OF LEDA JELINEK

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Leda Jelinek who passed away June 7, 2004. She served the country as a distinguished member of the Army Nurse Corps for 30 years until her retirement at Fort Ord in 1971. Col. Jelinek is survived by her sister, Veva Fitzgerald of Monterey and many friends who loved her.

Born in Bonesteel, South Dakota, Leda entered nurse's training at the Hospital of St. Vincent's in Sioux City, Iowa. After completing the program with distinction, Leda began a long and remarkable nursing career. She was commissioned by the Army Nurses Corps in 1941 and subsequently served at a plethora of Army hospitals throughout the United States. In addition, she served in Korea, Germany and Japan. General George Marshall was one of her many patients on the VIP floor of Walter Reed Hospital in 1953. She was a Chief Nurse Anesthetist before her promotion to Major whence she became the Director of the Advanced Medical Specialist School at Fort Bragg. Upon her retirement and during her distinguished career Leda received the Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), American Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Legion of Merit, the American Defense Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Col. Jelinek was an ardent supporter of the Democratic Party and was a Jimmy Carter delegate at the National Democratic Convention of 1976. Former Congressman Leon Panetta had her as a campaign worker on numerous campaigns. She was affiliated with Monterey County Democratic Party and the Women's Democratic Club.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Leda's many accomplishments, and I commend her for her lifelong dedication to her community and friends. She was a remarkable figure, and her memory will live on in the many people whose lives she has touched. I join the Monterey Bay community, and friends and family in honoring this truly admirable woman and friend for all of her lifelong achievements.

#### A TRIBUTE TO NORMA CIRINO

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Norma Cirino in recognition of her public serv-

ice and volunteer efforts to strengthen the community.

Norma has worked for the New York City Department of Probation for five years. In this short time, she has made an unforgettable mark on the Department and the East New York community. She was born and raised in East New York.

Norma is well known in her "home neighborhood" of East New York. She attends all of the 75th Precinct Council, Community Board #5, and Cabinet meetings. She serves on several boards of community organizations. In 2000, she created the annual Department of Probation "East New York Family Day." This event gathers law enforcement, elected officials and community residents at Thomas Jefferson Field for a great day of family fun. This event has drawn over 1,000 participants each year. More than 150 sponsors and many community organizations have made this event possible at no cost to the public. Norma has also developed "Afternoon with Santa." This event is held during the Christmas season and involves probation officers reading stories and distributing toys to the children of the Cypress Hills Housing Development.

Norma consistently conducts community outreach and develops affiliations with community organizations and residents. Hundreds of East New Yorkers have been employed, received health services or educational opportunities through referrals received from Norma.

Norma has linked community-based organizations to community service work, crews. The work performed by these crews has improved the quality of life in East New York. She has also increased the community's voice in the criminal justice system by helping people report crimes and connecting them with criminal justice services. Finally, she has helped change the community's perception of law enforcement through her affiliation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed and Seed program.

Norma graduated from Maxwell High School. She takes pride in the East New York community where she lives with her daughter Stephanie, who is the light of her eyes. Her sisters, Lydia and Rosa, her brother, Anthony, all of her nieces and nephews, and her mother live in the community as well.

Mr. Speaker, Norma Cirino has dedicated her time to improving the community through both her professional and volunteer efforts. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcalls 359 and 360. I would have voted yes on rollcalls 361 and 362.

#### TAX REFORM

#### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, public distrust. That is the main reason why we urgently need fundamental tax reform.

More and more Americans distrust the current tax system because they perceive it as unfair. Are they wrong? No. Lower and middle class Americans bear a disproportionate tax burden. Small businesses bear a great compliance burden. That is unfair.

Does fairness in our tax system matter? Yes, it matters because tax collection depends on voluntary compliance. And in a democracy like ours, people contribute private resources to provide the public goods and services we deem appropriate as a community, including helping those not able to fend for themselves.

In America, paying taxes embodies a civic relationship of mutual responsibility, and people's obligation to pay them is as legitimate as any other public duty.

So, I am glad that we are beginning this discussion of comprehensive tax reform—an issue that will only become more important for us in Congress.

Let me offer the following five points to consider as we discuss this important issue:

First, fundamental tax reform is a necessity. The current tax system is complicated, inefficient, and unfair. Its unpopularity is warranted, and that is a problem because that breeds distrust.

The tax code must be simplified in order to eliminate wasted time and money spent on compliance. For example, the average taxpayer with a self-employed status has the greatest compliance burden in terms of tax preparation—59 hours.

Furthermore, the complexity of the tax code is evident by the fact that small businesses overpaid their taxes by \$18 billion in 2000 and 2001 because of return errors, according to a GAO report. Small businesses unfairly bear the burden of the tax code's complexity simply because they do not have the financial resources to hire sophisticated tax advisors.

Second, simplification can occur only with fundamental tax reform. This is clear after decades of incrementalism. We know that tax reform cannot be done in a piecemeal fashion. The current tax system is flawed at its root. Hard-working, middle-income class people bear the largest burden in our current tax system.

Third, fundamental tax reform must focus on the tax base. Our tax base is derived from total income. However, this is complicated by the bewildering array of adjustments, deductions, credits, omissions, and mismeasurements. This undermines the fairness of our tax system. Therefore, fundamental tax reform must focus on the issue of the tax base in order to achieve equity, efficiency, simplicity, and accountability.

Fourth, the tax code must encourage entrepreneurship. Small businesses provide our economy's foundation. They need a tax system that frees resources for investment and ensures affordable capital. We must support small businesses, which make up the backbone of our economy.

Fifth, fundamental tax reform is possible. Tax reform is not an easy task. However, the