

Thus we cannot tell the tale of American liberation movements without mentioning with highest regard the great Jamaican-American leader Marcus Garvey, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and champion of oppressed people of African descent across the globe.

And the very marrow of the anti-war, Black Power, and anti-colonialist movements of the late 1960s, 70s, and 80s was the inspirational and haunting melodies of Bob Marley, perhaps the most important figure in 20th century music. Marley elevated music beyond the level of an art form and made it instead an earthly embodiment of spiritual truths, melodious wisdom which transcended daily problems and cut to the heart of man's most pressing struggles. Even today, the music of Bob Marley articulates the groanings of people's movements throughout the world, unceasing in its cry for peace and freedom.

The list could go on: 'Granny Nanny,' the revolutionary maroon who fiercely and successfully battled the British throughout the 18th century; General Colin Powell, our national hero; Claude McKay, the great poet and inspiration for the Harlem Renaissance; Dudley Thompson, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Grace Jones, Harry Belafonte, and many, many others. These Jamaicans and Jamaican-Americans have had an enormous impact on American history and culture, cutting their own paths across the world and touching the lives of millions of Americans.

On this special occasion, I hold that Independence Day is not simply a 24-hour period in Jamaica; it is, instead, a way of life. And it is my hope that we in the United States, with our economic policies and diplomatic relations, encourage the spirit of self-determination and independence in Jamaica, assisting Jamaica's people as they work for the economic and social freedom that they so sorely deserve.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICA SAVING FOR PERSONAL INVESTMENT, RETIREMENT AND EDUCATION ("ASPIRE") ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues Congressmen FORD, PETRI, and ENGLISH in introducing the ASPIRE Act, which presents new hope for extending the American dream.

The ASPIRE Act—or America Saving for Personal Investment, Retirement, and Education—renews our commitment to ensuring opportunity for every child. This Act is in keeping with our government's long-standing tradition of expanding opportunities for each generation of citizens. It upholds the tradition of the Homestead Act, which in the nineteenth century sought to create opportunity through land ownership. It is in the same spirit that, in the twentieth century, we created universal public education—and then opened up access to higher education through the GI Bill and Pell grants.

Living up to our goal of ensuring opportunity requires a new strategy, one tailored to the information age. In the twenty-first century, opportunity is tied to ownership. And yet we see

today glaring disparities in the distribution of assets. A huge gulf exists between those who have ready access to asset-building tools, and those who do not.

If we are to make good on our promise to America's youth, we need an honest new effort to broaden ownership of assets. We need to make savings incentives universal, rather than reserving them exclusively for the wealthy and middle class. The tax deductions we currently use to incentivize savings disproportionately benefit those in the highest tax brackets, not those who need the most help.

By creating universal "KIDS accounts," the ASPIRE Act will give every child born in this country a real stake in the future. Under the program, every child's account will be credited with an automatic \$500 seed contribution at birth, supplemented by up to an additional \$500 for children living below the median income.

These accounts will be invested in a system like the Thrift Savings Plan for federal employees, giving kids and their parents a range of indexed investment options, from government bonds to international stocks. The accounts will be able to receive up to \$1,000 each year in private voluntary contributions. Children in lower income families will receive dollar-for-dollar government matches for annual contributions of up to \$500. As in Roth IRAs, the growth of account balances will be tax-free.

When children turn 18, thanks to compound interest, they will have a real nest egg that they can use for higher education costs, save for future home-ownership, or save for retirement. They can then choose to maintain their accounts within the ASPIRE Fund, or roll them over to private financial institutions.

Some will criticize universal savings accounts as too "big government" or too expensive. But let me tell you, we subsidize asset-building in a very big way already—70 billion dollars each year for the homeowner's mortgage interest deduction and 150 billion for retirement accounts like IRAs, just to name two. Contrast this with the seven billion dollars per year it would take to bring savings to every American. That's less than 3 percent of what we currently spend subsidizing savings and investment for middle class and wealthy Americans.

Universal KIDS accounts will go a long way toward the creation of a true stakeholder society. They will enable millions of young Americans to gain access to higher education. They will put homeownership—the cornerstone of Americans' financial stability—within reach of millions more families. And they will put every young American on track for developing retirement savings.

Consider that a child receiving the full \$1,000 seed contribution, contributing as little as \$250 per year to an account earning 7 percent, would hold an account worth \$21,480 by her 18th birthday. By the time this individual reaches age 65, the account balance would grow to over half a million dollars.

We know from experience that incentives like matching contributions can help lower-income families save. Evidence provided by individual development accounts as well as 401(k) plans clearly points to the success of these strategies. In addition, international models demonstrate the feasibility of a universal accounts program. This is the so-called baby bonds idea that Tony Blair has instituted in Great Britain, and if they can do it there, we can do it here in the United States.

Think about the way that universal accounts would transform the outlook of young Americans. A new generation, assured savings accounts at birth, would cultivate a savings habit from a young age. These kids would grow up knowing that they own something, getting quarterly statements. KIDS Accounts would encourage a new culture of increased financial literacy, which is critical for enhancing one's prospects in a society where ownership equates with opportunity. Your lot in life shouldn't depend on your parents' paycheck. KIDS accounts would give every child in the United States a real stake in the future, and a reason to dream.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this bill is both bipartisan and bicameral, with Senators SANTORUM and CORZINE introducing a companion in the other body. I hope that the breadth of our initial supporters will foreshadow a wider embrace of this legislation that truly transcends party lines.

I want to thank my colleagues from both parties and both chambers for the hard work that has gone into thinking through details of this effort. And special thanks are due Ray Boshara and Reid Cramer at the New America Foundation, who have provided much of the intellectual foundation underlying this important step forward.

Mr. Speaker, too often our policy innovation falls victim to our partisan acrimony. If we are to preserve the universal opportunity that has been the hallmark of America for two centuries, we need to get beyond stale ideas and ideological blinders and embrace new ideas for a new age. I'm proud to join my friends today in introducing the ASPIRE Act and look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reinvigorate the American dream.

RECOGNIZING DON MILLER AS A HERO OF CHEMISTRY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Don Miller of Downingtown, PA, as one of the American Chemistry Society's 2004 Heroes of Chemistry.

The Heroes of Chemistry Award was created in 1996 to recognize the innovation and hard work of scientists whose chemical work has produced successful commercial products.

Along with four of his colleagues at Wyeth, Don is being recognized by the ACS for his pioneering work in developing the world's first antibody-targeted chemotherapeutic agent. Don headed this team of scientists for 7 years, seeing the research all the way through to product approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Don's love of science led him first to the University of Pittsburgh and then on to Purdue University for his PhD. His career as a scientist has taken him across the United States and around the world, but the driving force in his life remains in Downingtown with his loving wife, Eva, and his daughters, Skye and Rhiannon.

The ingenuity, perseverance and dedication of Don Miller, and all of his colleagues in the

various fields of chemical research, has had a tremendously positive impact on the quality of our health and lives and we all owe Don and his dedicated colleagues our utmost gratitude and appreciation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that on rollcall 397 I voted incorrectly and would like the RECORD to reflect that I had intended to vote "yea" on that rollcall vote.

INTRODUCTION OF OCEANS 21

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today signals the beginning of a new era in the protection and management of this Nation's largest public trust resource: our oceans. Along with the other bi-partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, JIM GREENWOOD of Pennsylvania, TOM ALLEN of Maine, and CURT WELDON of Pennsylvania, I introduced OCEANS 21, a comprehensive oceans policy bill that answers the calls of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

Our bill offers a comprehensive legislative solution to all of the crises documented in both oceans reports by establishing a strong national oceans policy that protects, maintains, and restores the health of marine ecosystems. This national policy will secure, for present and future generations, the full range of benefits of healthy marine ecosystems—a responsibility that I take quite seriously in my job of representing California's central coast, home to the Nation's largest national marine sanctuary.

The importance of this policy cannot be overstated, as we all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the person who visits the ocean once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, as well as opportunities for scientific inquiry, including medical discovery, and personal reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. This is a huge economic contribution to our gross domestic product, a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming. Our bill explicitly protects these returns.

Mr. Speaker, to implement the national oceans policy set forth in OCEANS 21, we provide four national standards which covered actions, defined as those carried out by the Federal Government or paid for in part by Federal funds, must be consistent with. These standards include a precautionary approach and a reversal of the burden of proof. These cornerstones of OCEANS 21 are founded on

the opinions of many marine scientists who have seen the health of marine ecosystems degrade over the past years. In fact, many scientists have been encouraging a restructuring of our ocean policy to reflect a precautionary approach and a reversal of the burden of proof for many years. For example, in a 1998 Science article, Paul Dayton, a preeminent marine scientist, asserted, "If society's environmental needs are to be protected so that future generations can also enjoy, learn, and profit from marine ecosystems, this legal burden of proof must be applied to our marine resources so that those hoping to exploit them must demonstrate no ecologically significant long-term changes." Today, I am proud to report back to the scientists, those who know our oceans better than most, that members of Congress have heard their calls and have responded.

As asserted in both the Pew and U.S. Commission Reports, our government needs a way to promote greater coordination among federal agencies whose actions may affect the oceans. Our bill responds to this issue by establishing a National Oceans Council comprised of secretaries of departments and heads of independent agencies. OCEANS 21 recommends that this Council be chaired by a National Oceans Advisor to the President. We recognized early on in our House Oceans Caucus leadership discussions that the best way to improve federal stewardship of our ocean resources was to offer a mechanism for bringing federal agencies together and to have an advisor to the President who can articulate the importance of the oceans. The National Oceans Council and the National Oceans Advisor are the solutions we present.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of the oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy over 30 years ago is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. Both the Pew and the U.S. Commission Reports clearly state that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach, and move away from our archaic approach based on political boundaries. This new ecosystem-based management approach will not be as easy as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality.

We have responded to the call for ecosystem-based management by including within OCEANS 21 a provision for Regional Ocean Councils, whose primary responsibility is to do ecosystem planning. We do comprehensive land use planning, so why not do comprehensive ocean planning? With a national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems and with Regional Ocean Councils charged with developing and implementing regional ocean ecosystem plans, we can turn back the tide of irresponsible ocean management.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also provides an "Organic Act" for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—an agency whose existence today is only reflected in an Executive Order. Our bill establishes NOAA in statute. However, unlike some of the other proposals currently being considered, we do not simply codify the status quo. This is because we recognize the status quo has failed and, if long-term ecological sustainability is

one of our goals, then we can no longer consider our ocean resources in a piecemeal fashion. OCEANS 21, therefore, restructures NOAA to better reflect the importance of ecosystem approaches.

Setting the stage for a long-term solution to the best possible management of our ocean resources, we also call for the President to submit recommendations for reorganizing Federal departments to establish a Department of Natural Resources. This way, all of our valuable natural resources can be managed together—reflecting our full acknowledgement of the connections between all parts of the natural world, from the oceans to the land to the air.

In addition to addressing the problems of oceans governance, OCEANS 21 also addresses the need for increased investments in marine science research, including ocean exploration, and marine education.

Mr. Speaker, to address the Pew and U.S. Commission recommendations surrounding the ocean science, our bill calls for a national strategy on ocean and coastal science and authorizes funding for marine ecosystems research. OCEANS 21 also creates a National Oceans Council Subcommittee to focus Federal investments on scientific areas especially requiring attention.

One of the most exciting aspects of OCEANS 21 is that it will help to instill a new marine stewardship ethic in all people—from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating challenging scientific processes. The bill does this in many ways: by explicitly describing education as one of NOAA's missions; by creating an interagency ocean science and coastal education program; by establishing an ocean science and technology scholarship program; and by creating a mass media campaign on how we are all dependent on healthy and productive oceans.

Mr. Speaker, OCEANS 21 is a comprehensive response to two comprehensive ocean reports that both deliver the same sad message: our oceans are in peril and we must act now. It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented, once-in-a-generation opportunity pass us by. With the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and The Pew Oceans Commission Reports both calling for immediate action to protect the oceans, this Congress has a responsibility to the American public to pass legislation that ensures future generations have the opportunity to benefit from healthy oceans. Since coming to Congress in 1993, I have worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of our oceans and today, my dedication to protecting this Country's largest public trust resource is reflected in the introduction of OCEANS 21. I have worked with the bi-partisan co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus to introduce a bill that we all support and this bi-partisan effort should be celebrated.

The Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. Action by this Administration could very well save our oceans. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans by supporting the House Oceans Caucus Leadership's ocean policy bill. Our bill will not only bring U.S. ocean policy