

need or desire for immediate cash; and (4) inability to prepare one's own taxes due to limited language, literacy, or computer skills.

This bill takes a two-pronged approach aimed at curtailing the drain on the EITC program by first regulating income tax preparers and refund anticipation loan providers and, secondly, creating IRS-administered grant programs for free tax preparation for low-income taxpayers and to help individuals establish a bank account for the first time.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID DAVIS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to photographer David Davis and the outstanding work he has done to promote our Native American culture in Colorado. David is constantly challenging himself as an artist, and his recent project focusing on Native Americans has garnered national attention. While I would like to congratulate David on his recent accomplishment, I would also like to recognize his selflessness in donating proceeds of the project to Native Americans.

David first became interested in the Native American culture in 1993, when he did a photo shoot of a Native American wedding dress for an advertisement. Since then, he has traveled around southwestern Colorado and the neighboring states taking photographs of Native Americans against the breathtaking backgrounds of the Colorado Plateau. David made a DVD of his photographs entitled "Native Faces—Desert Light," and his work on this project will be shown at a Native American film festival in Tuba City, Arizona. Some of the proceeds from the project have been donated to endeavors encouraging Native Americans to take up photography, and his work is sold at stores on reservations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring the selfless work of David Davis to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. He has helped to promote this historically rich culture, and has brought to light the majesty of this land and its native peoples. I wish David all the best with this project and his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, consider this scenario: "The formation of a free and democratic society is being hampered by internal and external strife. The drafting of a constitution encounters opposition and various parties within the country are struggling for power. The economy is underdeveloped and there is little order. The people are unsure of their future and this promise of democracy. It would take decades for this democracy to truly flourish and become the republic that it is today."

That's the history of America, Mr. Speaker. The people of Iraq, a year after their liberation, are facing many of the same obstacles of early Americans. However, they have accomplished more in one year than the United States accomplished in a decade—they have drafted a working constitution that guarantees freedom of religion and worship, freedom of expression, freedom to peacefully assemble and demonstrate, freedom to organize political parties, freedom to join unions and the right to equal treatment under the law. This progress is unprecedented.

365 days ago, our troops, along with other coalition forces, entered the country of Iraq to liberate a badly battered and abused population. Our troops performed with determination and tenacity: they were given their mission and performed brilliantly. Now, because of their accomplishment, 24 million people live in a country that has voiced its dedication to freedom and democracy. Unfortunately, there are those in this country that lack the same resolve to freedom and democracy. At the first sign of opposition and test of honor they run and hide behind words such as "quagmire." This wavering support is disheartening at best and it undermines the incredible accomplishments of our troops, especially those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. It also undermines the determination of the Iraqi people to establish a democracy—deeming them incapable and incompetent.

Even as we speak here today, progress is being made in Iraq. As chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee I've visited Iraq and witnessed first-hand their accomplishments. With our help, they have surpassed prewar peak electrical generation levels and are on track to be generating at 140 percent over their prewar level by June. Water facilities are currently operating at 65 percent of prewar levels, mostly due to years of neglect, electricity shortages and post-war looting of plant and emergency generators. Current projects include the rehabilitation of 15 water treatment facilities and portions of the Sweet Water Canal to Basrah. These projects will benefit over 14.5 million Iraqis and provide a future for water reliability.

One year ago this country, along with our allies, made the decision to topple a tyrannical regime, liberate a people, and help build a democracy in the heart of a terrorist breeding ground. Our troops have done, and continue to do, their part. It is time for all leaders in America to do their part: we must stand by the Iraqi people and government as they begin their long and challenging journey towards freedom. Our own past demonstrates that democracy is messy; at times there will be setbacks and frustrations, but in the end, freedom is worth every sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOAN BOWMAN, MAYOR OF LENEXA, KS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, I attended the funeral of an outstanding public servant who was taken from us too soon. Former Lenexa, KS, Mayor Joan

Bowman died on March 11 after 26 years of dedicated public service to the community that is my home.

Joan Bowman died after a long battle with cancer. This longtime community leader, volunteer and advocate for education and individuals with disabilities was elected Lenexa mayor in 1995 and 1999. She was first elected to the Lenexa City Council in 1987, the same year she was inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Her career in public office began in 1978 as a member of the Shawnee Mission West High School Advisory Board. In 1981, she began the first of two terms on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education, where she served as board president for 2 years. In her honor, flags at Lenexa city hall were flown at half staff.

Last month, the people of Lenexa dedicated to former Mayor Bowman a 7-foot, bronze statue of Na Nex Se, the Shawnee Native American woman after whom Lenexa was named. Dedicated to Bowman for her leadership and service to our community, the statue was funded with city resources and through a local letter writing campaign, which ultimately raised \$8,000 more than was needed. I hope that Joan Bowman's legacy, as embodied in the Na Nex Se statue, will inspire future generations of Lenexans to make significant contributions to our community. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD for your review a copy of the Kansas City Star's obituary regarding this remarkable, dedicated public servant.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 12, 2004]

FORMER LENEXA MAYOR DIES

(By Eugene Scott)

Former Lenexa Mayor Joan Bowman, who was an advocate for education and persons with disabilities in her 26 years of public service, died Thursday after battling cancer. She was 63.

Bowman was respected as a volunteer and an officeholder, and news of her battle with cancer had been widespread in recent years.

In February, city officials dedicated a statue of Na Nex Se, the Shawnee American Indian woman after whom Lenexa was named, to Bowman in honor of her service and leadership.

Bowman was elected mayor twice, in 1995 and 1999. She was elected to the city council in 1987, the same year she was inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Current Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm said Bowman's desire to implement projects in Lenexa's best interest greatly enhanced the city.

"Her biggest impact on Lenexa was that she took a reasonable approach. Joan would study every issue brought before her, and give it the necessary attention," he said.

Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn worked with Bowman on the Johnson County/Wyandotte County Council of Mayors and developed a personal friendship.

"She was an outstanding leader, and a wonderful mentor to those of us who knew her," she said. "She was always ready to listen, and to give . . . wise counsel."

While Bowman formed friendships with other political leaders, Dunn said her ability to separate professional and personal relationships made her an effective leader.

"Her ability to see the big picture in every situation, to rise above personal feelings and do what was really the best thing for the greater good encouraged others to do so as well," Dunn said.

Rich Becker, Lenexa's mayor when Bowman was elected to the city council, admired her strong work ethic. "She was the toughest woman I ever met in my life," he said.

"She was very meticulous, and she wanted to make sure that all the i's were dotted and all the t's were crossed."

While demanding, Bowman was humble, Becker said, and realized that being a team player would lead to success for everyone involved.

"She liked to involve as many people as she could in making decisions. She was involved in so many things, and very easy to work with. She was the kind of person you look up to and say 'nice job,'" he said.

Her career in public office began in 1978 as a member of the Shawnee Mission West Advisory Board. In 1981, she served the first of two terms on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education. She was board president for two years.

Julie Miller, a Shawnee Mission school board member for 16 years, met Bowman when the two served on the district's advisory boards. She remembers Bowman being consistently well-informed and dependable. "She was a brilliant person. You could always count on Joan," she said.

Before beginning her career in public service, Bowman taught math at junior high schools in the Shawnee Mission district. She graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1962.

David Watkins, Lenexa's city administrator for 19 years before leaving to accept a position as city administrator in Auburn, Ala., said Bowman's experience in education allowed her to communicate effectively with community members while listening to their concerns:

"She could take complex issues like the watershed program, and take all that technical info and reformat it to citizen groups in a manner that they can understand."

She was on the Lenexa Convention and Visitors Bureau board, the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, and was a member of the Lenexa Historical Society.

Council member Diane Linver said that despite Bowman's numerous offices and accolades, she would want to be remembered as a person who cared about her family and her community.

"She was a wonderful wife, a wonderful mother and a wonderful friend," she said.

Survivors include her husband, Ed, and two sons.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAYOR VAN WILLIS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mancos, Colorado, Mayor Van Willis who passed away recently at the age of eighty-seven. Van was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. In his years spent in public service, Van embodied the ideals of integrity and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from our public servants. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Van lived an immensely rich and full life, always holding firm to his beliefs in serving his community and country. He spent ten years serving his nation in the Army, earning a reputation as a solid and dependable leader.

After moving to Bayfield in 1947, he embraced the pioneering spirit of Colorado, running a ranch there, and later in Mancos. Van dedicated his efforts towards the betterment of his Mancos community, spending twelve years as the mayor of Mancos, serving on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, and serving as president of the Mancos Community Development. He also held a post command in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Mayor Willis' passing, but can be comforted in knowing he helped make Mancos a better place for future generations. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his sister Margaret, his children, Linda and Dean; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Willis' selfless dedication to Mancos, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community and nation.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR RANDOLPH L. BRAHAM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a brilliant and remarkable scholar, Professor Randolph L. Braham. Dr. Braham is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science from the City College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he is also Director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. He is a distinguished member of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Professor Braham is an outstanding scholar and chronicler of the Hungarian Holocaust whose sixtieth anniversary we are commemorating this week.

His two-volume work, *The Politics of Genocide: The Holocaust in Hungary*, won the Jewish National Book award in 1981, and earned him citations in the New York State Assembly. In 1995, he was awarded the Order of Merit Officer's Cross of the Hungarian Republic.

Born in Romania in 1922, Professor Braham received a traditional Jewish upbringing in Dej, a small town in Transylvania. His parents and many relatives perished in the Holocaust. He spent 1943-45 in a forced labor battalion with the Hungarian and German armies in Ukraine. Later, he was captured and incarcerated in the gulag where he experienced the horrors of Soviet labor camps.

After the war, Professor Braham came to the United States on a Hillel Fellowship at the Graduate Faculty of the New School University and encountered many of the émigré luminaries, including Frieda Wunderlich, Arnold Brecht, Erich Hula, and Boris Mirkinguetzevitch.

Professor Braham has spent over forty years as a professor at the City College of New York. He is the author or co-editor of forty-two books on the Holocaust in central and eastern Europe including his all important

documentation *The Nazis' Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary*. Professor Braham has made a most significant contribution to the scientific historiography of the Holocaust in general and the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Dr. Randolph Braham for his remarkable achievements and scholarly contributions in documenting the persecution of Jews in Europe, particularly his extensive history of the Hungarian Holocaust. The life's work of Dr. Randolph Braham is a major contribution to the understanding of the history of the twentieth century, and therefore it deserves to be recognized and honored by the Congress of the United States.

As George Santayana reminded us, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Dr. Braham's important legacy should help all future generations to learn the dark lessons of the past and thus enable them in the future to create societies based on justice and on values that will always include respect for the rights of the minorities and human rights in general.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH LEGISLATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution designating a Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the contributions of Caribbean-Americans from the inception of our country to the present.

Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Sidney Ponson, Maryse Condé, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisholm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who helped shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture.

Many of us in Congress focus on "hot spots" in the Caribbean—Cuba and Haiti—and forget that we have many constituents with roots from Suriname to the Bahamas and from Belize to Barbados.

The recent revitalization of a bi-partisan Congressional Caribbean Caucus forced many of us to re-evaluate the policy between CARICOM and the United States, and to discuss proposed and pending U.S. legislation that will have a direct impact on bilateral relations.

It is also important that we remember that our policies in the Caribbean affect the relatives of our constituents. I wrote this resolution to remind the American public that there are Caribbean-Americans who reside in every state of the union, and make sure that are recognized and celebrated.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community, and create a month designated to annually acknowledge their service to our society.