

well, publishing several groundbreaking written works.

Richie Perez was a truth-seeker. Wherever he went, he spoke the truth, lived by the truth, and inspired the truth in others. He embodied the meaning of righteousness and what is good and real in our local communities. He believed in giving people a second chance, and in fighting back against the injustices that had imperiled them.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richie Perez, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize his extraordinary life.

TRIBUTE TO THE NFA CONVENTION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the National Franchise Association (NFA), the association of Burger King franchisees. The NFA will be in Orlando May 3–6, 2004 for its 12th Annual Convention and Tradeshow. I am delighted the NFA has chosen once again to return to Orlando. In fact, this will be the third time the NFA has visited Orlando with nearly 3,500 Burger King franchisees, vendors, and other participants. With its theme parks and attractions, Orlando is one of our Nation's premier vacation and convention destinations—it's clear to see why groups like NFA want to return to Orlando over and over again. The theme of this year's NFA convention, "The Magic of the Fire," is quite apropos as it combines the "Magic" of Orlando and the entrepreneurial "Fire" of the Burger King franchisees.

Two Burger King franchisees, in particular, have been instrumental in bringing the Burger King family to Orlando. They are Julian Josephson and Dominick Vespoli.

Julian Josephson, the Chairman of the NFA, has a story very similar to many of our immigrant ancestors who brought their entrepreneurial spirit to this country seeking a brighter future. Julian moved to the United States from Johannesburg, South Africa in 1978. Since then, he and his business partner Stanley Smiedt, have built a successful business that includes nearly 40 Burger King Restaurants in Southern California, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. Julian has not only provided exceptional leadership to the NFA as chairman and vice president, he has served his community through numerous initiatives. Julian has been a dedicated husband and father to his wife Jenny and their children Heidi and Anthony. Julian and Jenny are the proud grandparents of Maya Silberstein.

Dominick Vespoli is the Convention Chairman. Dominick grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey and began working in Burger King restaurants in 1974. He worked in a variety of jobs learning the skills needed to run successful restaurants. In 1990, Dominick became a Burger King franchisee. He, and his business partner Nathan Blau, now own and operate 10 successful Burger King restaurants in New Jersey. Dominick has been a dedicated husband and father to his wife Celenia and their two sons, Jason and James.

The restaurant industry as a whole employs 12 million men and women, a significant driving force for our economy. I commend Julian and Dominick, and their fellow franchise owners, for their contributions to job creation and economic growth. These entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy. I wish to thank them for their outstanding service to the NFA and their commitment to their communities. I look forward to seeing them both and the other Burger King franchisees when they visit Orlando in May.

HONORING JEFFREY BUSCH

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jeffrey Busch upon his selection as the Jefferson Award winner in Delaware. Mr. Busch is the founder and chairman of Safe Blood for Africa, an organization dedicated to stemming the tide of HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. With true innovative spirit, he has brought a business approach to the logistical problems of getting safe blood to this region. Mr. Busch is not only a commendable American citizen, he is an exemplary citizen of the world.

With the utmost humility, Mr. Busch ensures safe blood for transfusions in 20 sub-Saharan African nations. His organization also protects Africans from the spread of such diseases as hepatitis B and C and syphilis. One would never know to speak to Mr. Busch that he has likely spared thousands of Africans from the dangers of HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Jeffrey Busch upon his selection as the Jefferson Award winner in Delaware. His selflessness serves as an example to us all. Furthermore, it has been my sincere privilege to know Mr. Busch personally, and I am very proud to that he is a Delawarean.

RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the American Legion, a noble organization, chartered by Congress in 1919. The American Legion turned 85 this week and its members across our Nation are celebrating this historic event.

I'm proud to report that my home district celebrated this occasion recently at an event hosted by Retired Air Force Colonel Ted Buck of Mt. Vernon. He served 22 years active duty including 30 months during the Vietnam War. He received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, The Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with a Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the Legion of Merit award for his duty as a pilot for Dr. Henry Kissinger on his historic shuttle diplomacy.

I mention Colonel Buck by name because he puts a face on an organization made up of

many heroic men and women who, like Colonel Buck, have put their lives on the line for this Nation. While patriotism and support for our men and women in uniform comes in and out of favor here in Washington, D.C. our Nation is blessed to have an organization that exists to meet the needs of our veterans. I consider myself fortunate to be a member of the American Legion and I'm honored to have the opportunity to wish them a happy 85th birthday. I speak for all of my colleagues in wishing the American Legion many more years to continue their work to insure appropriate respect for the American veteran and their families.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 393) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2004 and 2006 through 2009:

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, a few days ago, I reluctantly voted for the budget resolution that was thoroughly debated on the House floor. My reluctance in voting for the budget was based on one main cause, my concern for our nation's veterans. Even though we increased funding in veterans' care once again, I believe there was further room for improvement.

The budget that we passed is a step forward in the areas of deficit reduction and spending control. I am heartened by our efforts to cap some areas of government spending but disappointed that we continue to debate the proper level of veterans' funding. In the past months, there has been great discussion in the funding that these brave individuals who have sacrificed so much for our country will receive from the VA. With that discussion, I believe that we should never lose sight of what these veterans have accomplished and what they have meant to our Nation's freedom.

As this process moves forward, I believe that there are additional areas of the budget that can be curtailed to further supplement our veterans' funding needs. For example, we should continue to scrutinize our massive foreign aid budget for savings that can be returned to the U.S. shores and to the veterans' needs.

In the end, I voted for this budget because we must continue the process and we will have opportunities to improve our veterans' funding. Additionally, to delay this budget means we delay our national defense and our homeland security priorities. To delay this budget risks not having a budget at all and that leaves no barriers to government spending. In a time of war, we can not allow that to happen.

We must all work hard to improve the budget before it comes to conference. I hope that

at that point we will all be able to vote for the budget without reservation and with the confidence that our Nation's veterans have been properly cared for by the government.

HONORING JOANNE GLAUSER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Joanne Glauser upon her nomination as a Jefferson Award finalist. Mrs. Glauser is the co-founder of the Delaware chapter of Shoes That Fit and truly exemplifies the American spirit. After reading an article about children who were too poor to have clothes that fit properly, Joanne decided to take action. Five years later, she was named "top volunteer in the nation" by the executive director of Shoes That Fit.

In only the last 4 years, Mrs. Glauser's chapter has provided over 35,000 items to needy children in Delaware. Her selflessness and dedication have touched the lives of thousands who may otherwise have gone without.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Mrs. Glauser upon her nomination as a finalist for the Jefferson Award. May she continue to serve as an example to us all.

CHILD NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT AND INTEGRITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, obesity and poor nutritional habits are growing problems in our Nation, particularly among our children and adolescents. Health costs alone will be stratospheric in the near future due to the poor eating habits of our youth.

The very foods children need for good nutrition are often grown in their own communities. Farm to Cafeteria projects across the country link farmers with local schools to serve students the freshest possible foods as part of the National School Lunch Program. When combined with nutrition education, farm visits, and school gardens, children learn to enjoy and even get excited about eating healthy—and at the same time family farmers strengthen their markets and community ties. While Farm to Cafeteria projects have proven cost-effective over time, schools often need assistance to cover the initial staff resources, training, and equipment required for a successful project.

To respond to this need, our colleague RON KIND and I have introduced the bipartisan Farm to Cafeteria Projects Act (H.R. 2626) that is now a part of this bill. The Farm-To-Cafeteria provision establishes a \$10 million competitive grant program to provide schools with up to \$100,000 to cover these costs and garner long-term benefits for children, farmers, and their communities during the term of the reauthorization.

I ask my colleagues to vote for this piece of legislation, to show the country that we care about what our children are eating.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHWEST BRONX COMMUNITY AND CLERGY COALITION ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.

Formed in 1974, the NWBCCC is a 501(c)3 organization with the mission of uniting area residents to identify common problems and empowering them to work together to solve them. The NWBCCC unites nine neighborhood organizations and a youth organization, Sistas and Brothas United, in an effort to improve the neighborhoods of the Bronx. They seek to influence the most important decisions that are made within their community, such as private investment patterns, the delivery of government services and major land use considerations.

This important organization is engaged in several initiatives aimed at improving housing and education. The NWBCCC Housing Committee provides tenant organizing assistance to over 75 tenant associations, resulting in hundreds of repairs and reinvestments to buildings each year. NWBCCC has also worked extensively to reduce overcrowding in schools. In 1999 and 2000 the organization's efforts led to the construction of over six new schools and annexes.

Mr. Speaker, what impresses me the most about this organization is its commitment to youth. Sistas and Brothas United, the youth organization within NWBCCC, has made great strides to help develop the minds of the youth in my community. SBU organizes hundreds of neighborhood youth to build youth leadership in order to identify local problems and work to bring about solutions. SBU's work currently focuses on school reform, campaigns to renovate abandoned buildings to become schools and youth centers, and efforts to improve parks and traffic safety.

In an effort to raise the consciousness of people within their community, some of the members of SBU have begun to compose and perform thought provoking and insightful poetry. The following is a poem that was written by Jorman Nunez and Jacklyn Torres, active members of SBU.

JN: Jacky And I are going to tell ya something from our prospective so listen to our lyrics

JT: Jorman got something to tell yall now, so Jorman let em hear it

JN: Asthma rates have been going up and all I do is gasp and pant

What are they doing to fix this? They're building another filtration plant

And what amazes me is in the Bronx they want to do it

Using the excuse of in a couple of years our water's going to be polluted

Trying to take the Bronx down well we don't want to destroy her

Besides . . . the only reason it's going to get polluted is cause they're constantly letting development be done over our water

so they're basically polluting our water and trying to fix it later as a solution

And build a plant to put smoke in there air and cause more pollution

There's something else I want to say ladies and gents

Check this out look at this environmental statement

Planning to build it in our low class area cause the statement say they should

And rejected putting it in another place just cause it was a white upper class neighborhood

We have to do whatever in our power to stop this by all means

Cause I'm tired of seeing all this atrocious disappointing scenes

JT: Attention every one, ladies and gentlemen gather round

The other night I'm writing a poem and my ceiling's fallin down

Now yall must be wondering if my landlord is a clown

Well his name's * * * * *, so how does that sound

Since the landlord don't wanna help with the infestation of rats

I guess the only solution is to buy 10,000 cats

And as the funds for us go up, the neighborhood's still in strife

Unfortunately, because of this, a small child lost his life

Even after this, we remain on the same path

How many more casualties will we have, you do the math

So until these the problems are solved, don't even think of us relaxin

Cuz I still can't understand why a slumlord lives in a mansion

So I've said what yall need to know until we see better days

But my turn is over so Jorman say what you gotta say

JN: This has been keeping me up and I can't even rest

I just need to get a couple of things off my chest

the Governor is probably annoyed and thinks he's being mistreated

Shouldn't we be angry whenever he says education is vital and doesn't even mean it

Politicians get angry when we get so mad we shiver and shudder

But don't we have a right to be angry when we have books older than my grandmother

Governor I got something to tell you only once there won't be a sequel

We never are going to stop bothering you until all education is equal

Governor when I see you I'm going to be mean with my salutation

You're going to hear all of the angry voices of the minorities that you said only need an 8th grade education

I think you and the position of governor should start doing its separation

Cause the last time I checked governors aren't suppose to gamble with our education

They're suppose to help with problems that come along until they see no

But I guess he just rather be gambling with our future in one of his casinos

But listen I'm done I don't want to waste more of your time

Jacky it's your turn give them a piece of your mind

JT: Soldiers of society trying to keep their eyes on me

In their hands is my education

And I blindly search for academic salvation

Though I have no books to read, no chairs to sit in, no room to breathe

And yall say keep your head up

Well, to tell you the truth, I'm fed up

Even the Governor says we don't need college

All we need is an eight-grade education?

Yeah, that's enough knowledge

Though my sarcasm seems amusing,

It's dripping with the truth