

the disabled live, opportunities for integration of persons with disabilities through employment largely rest on informal work, particularly self-employment. Unfortunately, persons with disabilities are often denied loans by banks and lenders.

Improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries is an overlooked developmental challenge. As James Wolfensohn, the President of the World Bank once said, "unless disabled people are brought into the development mainstream, it will be impossible to cut poverty in half by 2015 as agreed to by more than 180 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000". So is the goal to give every girl and boy the chance to achieve a primary education by the same date.

Every child is unique and has a fundamental right to education. Yet in developing countries, only a small minority of disabled children is in school. Less than 10 percent of children with disabilities attend formal education and over 9 in 10 are illiterate. When denied the basic right of education, disabled people become severely restricted in terms of their economic, social and political opportunities as well as the prospects for their personal development. Without an education it is more difficult to secure a job, particularly one that pays a decent wage, to participate actively and fully in the community and to have a meaningful voice in policy making, especially on issues that directly concern the affected population.

Given the dynamics of disability and health, access to adequate health care services is essential for the promotion of independent living for the disabled. Health services play a critical role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and conditions which can cause physical, psychological and intellectual impairments. Yet for the majority of persons with disabilities living in developing countries, poverty precludes access to these vital services—either because health care facilities and practitioners are not sufficiently available, or there are not enough funds to purchase needed medications and devices. Particularly dramatic is, beyond the lack of orthopedic surgeons, the greatly insufficient number of medical rehabilitation centers to help people adapt to disabling conditions. According to the World Health Organization, at most only 5 percent of the disabled in developing countries have access to rehabilitation services.

The potential for enhancing the possibility of persons with disabilities to carry on independent lives rests on the integration of the disabled into the general community, rather than placing them in exclusionary institutions or relegating them into "colonies" of disabled. Community Based Rehabilitation programmes, which are in the process of becoming fairly well established in industrialized countries tend to be part and parcel of these strategies, but remain rare in developing countries.

In developing countries, persons with disabilities are often excluded from the mainstream of the society, discriminated against and denied their human rights. Violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities are seldom addressed in society. Many disability legislation and policies are based on the assumption that persons with disabilities are simply not able to exercise the same rights as non-disabled persons. Consequently, the situation of persons with disabilities is often addressed in terms of rehabilitation and social services. In many countries, existing provisions do not provide for the rights of disabled persons in all their aspects—that is, political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights—on an equal basis with persons without disabilities. Further-

more, anti-discrimination laws often have weak enforcement mechanisms, thereby denying opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on the basis of equality in social life and development.

Mr. Chairman, the adoption of the UN Convention will not provide a magic wand in overcoming the dismal conditions faced by persons with disabilities in developing countries. However, without such an instrument their chances of becoming fully integrated in their societies will remain infinitely difficult to attain.

YVONNE ROBERTSON HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI REGION OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvonne Robertson, a friend, constituent and outstanding community volunteer, who will be honored for her distinguished service to our community at the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice's (NCCJ) 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 27, 2004.

Yvonne has dedicated over 30 years of community service as an active volunteer. As a former educator, she has focused much of her community service on youth. Yvonne has served on the boards of Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts; the Adolescent Clinic; the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation; and the Greater Cincinnati Youth Collaborative. In addition, she is the Immediate Past President of Advocates for Youth Education, which grants need-based college scholarships to area students.

Yvonne has a special interest in social service organizations. She was the first chair of The Gathering, a day long conference for African American women centered on personal, spiritual, social, health and work related issues. She chaired the Negro Spiritual Festival, and has been a trustee of the Cincinnati chapter of the Red Cross; the Cerebral Palsy Center; and Family Services of Cincinnati.

Active locally and nationally in arts organizations, Yvonne was appointed national director of the arts for The Links, an international women's service organization, and during her tenure established a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. She has also served as trustee for the Cincinnati Ballet; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; and the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Yvonne for all she has done to make our community a better place, and we congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

CONGRATULATING THE BOB JONES ACADEMY MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to congratulate the Bob Jones Academy Mock

Trial team for winning the Championship at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Orlando, Florida. The team represented their families, school, and State in an outstanding way and are an example of excellence, dedication, and teamwork to the country. I am very proud of their achievement.

Success is never achieved alone, and I would like to extend congratulations to the families, friends, and teachers who share in this moment as well. Principal, Dr. David Fisher, and head coach, Mr. Michael Murphy, as well as his assistants Miss Ruth Hindman, Mr. Allen Fretwell, and Mr. Chuck Nicholas share in this honor by their investments in preparing the team.

For over 75 years, Bob Jones Academy has maintained a tradition of excellence in Christian education with a faculty committed to preparing young lives—both in mind and character—to serve Christ in all walks of life. Ashleigh Millard, Matt Miller, Daniel Hindman, Ben Adams, Kerry Weigand, Richie Patton, Elizabeth Sowers, Emily Sowers, Alex George, Betsy Apelian, and Daniel Nickerson continue this tradition of excellence.

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLIAMS PRESTON FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND HER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of popular music's most effective and accomplished champions, Frances Williams Preston, on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Preston, whom Fortune magazine has called "one of the true powerhouses in the pop music industry," steps down this year after 18 years as President and CEO of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI). And while her daily presence as the leader of BMI will be missed, she will no doubt continue to make her mark on the industry that she has come to lead.

Since entering the music business through the mailroom of WSM Radio in Nashville forty years ago, Ms. Preston's passion for music and acumen for business have shaped the art both in Nashville and nationwide. Tapped by BMI to open its Nashville office in 1958, Ms. Preston oversaw the growth of an industry giant which now employs 400 people in Nashville and thousands all over the globe. Under Ms. Preston's leadership, BMI became a driving force in Nashville's music scene, helping songwriters make a living doing what they loved, much as she did, herself. And although she eventually left Music City for New York in 1986 to take the helm of BMI's national and international operations, she has always remained an active fan and supporter of Nashville music and Southern artists.

Ms. Preston's numerous awards and commendations barely do justice to her lifetime of achievement, yet she retires as one of the most decorated individuals the music industry has ever seen. Ms. Preston has received nearly every honor available to a music industry executive, including a Trustees Grammy in 1998, and membership in the Country Music, Gospel Music, and Broadcasting & Cable

Halls of Fame. Her three honorary degrees include one from the Berkeley College of Music, and she has received more than two dozen national awards recognizing her leadership and ingenuity. Esquire Magazine's designation of Ms. Preston as "the most influential and powerful person in country music" is typical of the respectful and admiring treatment she deservedly receives in the press.

Her expertise on songwriters' issues has also made Ms. Preston an effective and valuable resource on Capitol Hill, to the equal benefit of both her "constituents" and of lawmakers, and her influence has been broadly felt in the law of intellectual property. Over the years, policymakers in all levels of government have sought her counsel, including Tennessee Governor Winfield Dunn, Vice-President Al Gore, and President Jimmy Carter.

Despite her many accolades from the music industry, Ms. Preston still considers her community contributions to be among her greatest achievements. Her proudest accomplishment, she says, was her pivotal role in creating the Frances Williams Preston Research Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. In addition to her numerous board memberships and community leadership roles, Ms. Preston was the first woman board member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, and the first woman Rotarian in Tennessee. It is a person of commendable character who looks back on a star-filled life to see her community service as the highlight of it all.

On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I applaud Frances Williams Preston's contributions to music, business, her community, and our Nation, and I wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATING MR. TONY BENNETTI ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anthony C. Bennetti is retiring from the Santa Clara Valley Water District as General Counsel to the Board of Directors. During his service, he played an important role in resolving legal issues with the California State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. During his tenure, he helped to secure needed financing for the capital expansion of water utility infrastructure for Santa Clara County.

Prior to his service with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Mr. Bennetti served as Acting City Attorney and Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of Palo Alto, California, and

Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Jose, California. In all, he has contributed over 24 years of public service to the State of California. The community thanks him for his years of service and congratulates him and the Water District upon his retirement.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our seniors. May is Older Americans Month, and I commend communities around the country for the special work they are doing to honor senior citizens.

The theme of Older Americans Month for 2004 is "Aging Well, Living Well." Every day I see examples of seniors in my district in western Wisconsin who are indeed aging and living well. Eighty-year-old constituents who continue to work every day stop by my office to discuss issues that impact their businesses; grandparents tell me about the hours they spend each week volunteering at The Boys and Girls Club or other sites; and seniors faithfully show up at town hall meetings, asking questions, sharing opinions, and demonstrating their knowledge of what goes on here in Washington.

It is especially fitting to celebrate seniors this month as we prepare for the dedication of the World War II Memorial. More than perhaps any other event, World War II will long define the heroism, patriotism and strength of what is aptly called "the greatest generation." Sixteen million Americans served in the armed forces during the war. Millions more served at home by growing victory gardens, collecting scrap metal, and taking factory jobs to support the troops overseas and keep the country running. Men who had never left their home states were shipped halfway around the world to serve in the Asian and Pacific theaters. And women who had never held jobs outside the home took work in factories, offices, and on faraway battlefields. Nearly sixty years after the conclusion of this war, the stories of these brave men and women remain moving.

After serving and sacrificing on the war front and the home front, this generation then returned home to construct the interstate highway system, explore outer space, and see America through an unprecedented era of growth and improvement. Clearly, we can never adequately thank this generation for what they have done. No words can express how grateful we are for the milestones—surviving the Great Depression, winning World War II—or for those everyday struggles and sacrifices that go largely unrecorded.

The seniors throughout our country—the retired schoolteachers, the millions of veterans, the farmers and all those who helped make our country great—deserve more thanks than we can give them. I am glad, though, that we have this month to recognize the generation that defined America in the 20th Century and continues to impact us all today.

HOMAGE TO MR. EDWARD LEON "SHINE" JESSUP

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a legend in my hometown of Union City, Tennessee, Mr. Edward Leon "Shine" Jessup.

Shine is being honored for his 40 years of service as an employee of the W. R. Case Company. But he has done so much more in his life. He was born on November 30, 1918, graduated from high school in 1936 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in January of 1942. He entered the Aviation Cadet Program and went to Cadet Pilot Training in Arkansas and onto the Advanced Program. He got his wings in 1943 and was sent to the Overseas Training Unit.

Stationed at Rackheath, England, First Lieutenant Jessup flew a B-24, named "Mis-B-Havin" on 30 missions as an 8th Air Force Lead Crew Pilot. In February of 1945 he was stationed at Randolph Field in Texas where he taught cadets until June.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross three times, the Air Medal five times, the ETO Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon several times as well as various other ribbons.

He married Aurelia McGuire on May 1, 1943, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. They had two children—Linda Jo Jessup Jennings and Edward Leon Jessup, Jr.

After leaving the Army in 1945, "Shine" began his career as a salesman for Shapleigh Hardware Company in Waycross, Georgia. After a year in Georgia, he transferred back to Union City. He worked for Shapleigh until 1960 when he took a job with Witte Hardware until 1964. It was in that year that he began his career with the W. R. Case Company with whom he has been associated for the last 40 years.

Shine Jessup has contributed much to his community, his state and his country. As we dedicate the World War II Memorial this month here in Washington, D.C., I rise to pay honor to a very special veteran, and a long time friend of mine and my entire family, Shine Jessup.