

education to African Americans. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the school's founding as "The High School for Colored Children." Originally housed in the former Washington School at 11th and Spruce streets in downtown St. Louis, the school was renamed on October 12, 1875, in honor of Charles Sumner, a Massachusetts Senator who was an ardent supporter of African-American rights. In 1861 Senator Sumner was the first U.S. Senator to call for full emancipation. The decision to name the school in his honor reflected the school's role as a preeminent institution for African Americans. Dropping "colored school" in favor of Sumner High occurred fifteen years before local African-American leaders succeeded in persuading the St. Louis Board of Schools to designate names for all segregated schools.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Missouri passed a new state constitution requiring all school boards to support education for African Americans. However, the Board of Education for Colored Schools occupied only rented space and its schools moved often. Sumner was no exception. In 1895 it was relocated to 15th and Walnut streets, near the saloons and pool halls of downtown St. Louis. Concerned citizens petitioned school officials to move the school again and in 1910 Sumner was relocated to The Ville neighborhood, where it occupied a new structure at 4248 Cottage Avenue. The new Sumner High strengthened the neighborhood's status as a center for middle-class African-American life in St. Louis.

Another historical landmark tied to Sumner High School involved the hiring of African-American teachers. Initially, Sumner had an all white faculty, but the parents requested that a special effort be made to recruit African-American teachers. Two years later, in 1877, the school's first African-American principal took charge.

Sumner High School further enhanced educational opportunities for African Americans in Missouri when, in 1890, it established an extension called the Sumner Normal School to train elementary school teachers. In 1925 the Sumner Normal School became a college; it was known as the Sumner Teachers College until 1930 when it was renamed Harriet Beecher Stowe Teachers College. In 1940 the Teachers College moved to new facility on Pendleton Street where it remained until 1954 when, in one of St. Louis' first efforts to desegregate its public schools, the St. Louis Board of Education merged Stowe College with the all-white Harris Teachers College.

Sumner graduated its first class in 1885 and over the years its alumni list boasts a number of accomplished African Americans, including the opera singer Grace Bumbry, activist Dick Gregory, musician Tina Turner, tennis great Arthur Ashe, Liberian Ambassador Lester Walton, educator Julia Davis, rock history legend Chuck Berry, performer Robert McFerrin, actor Robert Guillaume, Yankee catcher-outfielder (and the American League's first black Most Valuable Player) Elston Howard and local newscaster Julius Hunter, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep pride that I recognize Sumner High School, a symbol of progress in African American history for its distinguished record of achievement in public education. As a community leader and elected official, I am proud to salute Sumner and all Sumner students and alumni on this very special anniversary. Sumner High School is a

source of pride for St. Louisans and a model for public schools across the nation.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today with my good friend and colleague from the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ENGLISH, to introduce the "Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005." Mr. ENGLISH and I share a passion for and commitment to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, quality housing in which to live, to prosper and to raise their families. I am grateful for his continuing leadership in this area, and I am honored that he joins me today in introducing this important piece of legislation. I also am very pleased that 51 of our colleagues, including members from both sides of the aisle and several from the Committee on Ways and Means, join us today in introducing this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, LIHTC, program was created as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Today, the LIHTC program is widely regarded as the nation's most successful housing production program resulting in the construction and rehabilitation of more than 1.3 million housing units for lower income households. As a direct result of the LIHTC program, 130,000 new affordable housing units come online every year.

In addition to producing housing, the LIHTC program is unparalleled in contributing to the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States. LIHTC properties are frequently among the first investments in a concerted revitalization strategy. The credit drives and catalyzes public/private/community partnerships that replace blight with safe, affordable housing, attract private capital, and prime the market for other activities, including increased homeownership and expanded retail development.

The redirection of capital to affordable housing through a tax incentive creates net economic efficiencies, because the housing credit more effectively marshals private sector capital than would be accomplished through any direct spending program. Because it sets up competition among developers for credit allocations and among corporations for access to investment opportunities, the LIHTC is considerably more efficient than a direct spending program.

The success of the LIHTC program is virtually unmatched. However, as a Nation, we still confront a serious affordable housing deficit—a gap that we must bridge to ensure that our most vulnerable families have access to quality, affordable housing and safer neighborhoods in which to live and prosper.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005. This legislation would make two important changes to current law. Most significantly, the bill would double the current LIHTC from \$1.85 per capita to \$3.70 per capita beginning in 2006, which would yield twice the number of affordable housing units annually and begin to close the current

gap. Second, the legislation would rename the LIHTC the "Affordable Housing" tax credit to remove any negative connotation and more accurately describe this effective program.

If this legislation were to pass, we are assured by affordable housing advocates, investors, syndicators, and developers that there is more than enough capacity in the market to effectively use these additional credits. In fact, the need for affordable housing throughout the country virtually assures the continued success of this program.

In addition, this legislation is a jobs creator. According to industry estimates, 112 jobs are created during the first year of construction of every 100 units of affordable housing, 46 of which morph into permanent positions. Based on that estimate, because doubling the current LIHTC would create 130,000 additional units annually, that translates into 145,600 new jobs nationally—59,800 of which would be permanent.

America is confronting an affordable housing crunch, and many hardworking men and women continue to seek employment. This legislation would make significant strides to address both problems. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support this important measure and to ensure its consideration and passage.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. Founded in 1977 by 25 Hispanic business leaders, the Chamber was the first physical office of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception, the Chamber has worked towards the development of its members, and worked to develop strong business relationships between Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses in Kansas City. As one of the principal advocates for Hispanic businesses in the City, the Chamber provides an invaluable resource as it helps local businesses build capacity and develop business skills. Their programming includes the how-tos of business planning, advertising, sales and marketing, procurement and certification. In today's competitive business environment, their work is more important than ever.

Today, the Chamber represents the interests of twelve-hundred Hispanic-owned businesses in Metropolitan Kansas City and currently has five-hundred members, having grown by three-hundred percent in the last three years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this historic organization.

HONORING ARABELLA MARTINEZ

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Arabella Martinez, a legendary figure in Oakland and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. For almost four decades, Arabella has been a tireless advocate for community and economic development within Oakland and beyond, and the scope of her exemplary work on behalf of her community is truly unparalleled. I take pride in adding my voice to those of my constituents in honoring Arabella today on the occasion of her retirement.

A student of social welfare, Arabella received both her BA and MA from the University of California at Berkeley. After receiving her degrees she became involved with the Community Service Organization, a Latino civil rights group.

In 1967, Arabella became the first executive director to the Spanish Speaking Unity Council. She is best known for her position as CEO of this council and for developing programs to build responsibility and economic preparedness in the Latino community. During this time, she helped build this organization into a strong economic development and community organization with considerable assets.

In 1974, Arabella took an absence from her work at the Unity Council and joined the Carter administration as assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. After her term in 1980, she returned to Oakland and worked for almost a decade as the President of the Center for Policy Development.

In 1992, Arabella returned to the Spanish Speaking Unity Council and helped the organization through complex financial problems. During her second term she spearheaded the Fruitvale BART project and sponsored the Fruitvale Community Collaborative. Both of these projects were formed to bring together residents, community groups, churches, schools, merchants, and agencies to improve the quality of life for children and families in the Oakland area.

Arabella is also involved with many organizations such as the National Council of La Raza, the Drug Abuse Council, The Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, the Oakland Business Development Corporation, the Bank of America's Police Advisory Committee, the Oakland Housing Authority, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission and the University/Oakland Metropolitan Forum. She has received numerous awards for her work, such as the Hank Rosso Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award, the 1993 MTC Award, the David C. Lizarraga Community Development Award, and the Oakland Citizen of the Year Award.

It is clearly evident through Arabella's activism that she is an extraordinary leader, friend and advocate for her community. Her exemplary humanism is an inspiration to us all, and it with great pride that I join the Oakland community in celebrating her accomplishments. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and thank Arabella Martinez for the truly invaluable contributions and she has made to our community, and for the example she leaves for future generations to follow.

REINTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005, along with Representatives FRANK, ROSEHTINEN and SHAYS. In past Congresses, this legislation has been cosponsored by almost 200 members and we expect similar support this session.

Bias crimes are disturbingly prevalent and pose a significant threat to the full participation of all Americans in our democratic society. For the year 2003, the most recently available data, the FBI compiled reports from law enforcement agencies across the country identifying 7,489 criminal incidents that were motivated by an offender's irrational antagonism toward some personal attribute associated with the victim. Law enforcement agencies have identified 9,100 victims arising from 8,715 separate criminal offenses. Racially motivated bias again accounted for more than half (51.4 percent) of all incidents. Religious bias accounted for 1,343 incidents (17.9 percent) and sexual orientation bias each accounted for 1,239 (16.6 percent) of all reported hate crimes, followed by ethnicity/national origin bias with 13.7 percent and disability bias with 0.4 percent of all incidents. While every state reported at least a small number of incidents, it is important to note that reporting by law enforcement is voluntary and it is widely believed that hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

Despite the pervasiveness of the problem, current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to incidents against protected classes that occur only during the exercise of federally protected activities, such as voting. Further, the statutes do not permit federal involvement in a range of cases where crimes are motivated by bias against the victim's perceived sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that four States have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 States have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

This legislation will make it easier for federal authorities to prosecute bias crimes, in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped federal prosecutors combat church arson: by loosening the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal law. While ostensibly identical to past versions, this Congress the bill is more explicitly inclusive of the transgender community. In addition, we have included a provision mirroring the Washington State hate crimes statute that is designed to protect the 1st Amendment rights of the accused, without burdening the prosecution of those alleged offenses.

State and local authorities currently prosecute the overwhelming majority of hate crimes and will continue to do so under this legislation, with the enhanced support of the federal government. Through an Intergovernmental Assistance Program created by this legislation, the Justice Department will provide technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance to State and local law enforcement officials in

cases of bias crime. The legislation also authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to State and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Finally, under our bill, the Attorney General or other high ranking Justice Department officials must approve all prosecutions undertaken pursuant to this law, ensuring federal restraint, and further ensuring that the States will continue to take the lead.

Behind each of the crimes statistics cited above lies an individual or community targeted for violence for no other reason than race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. People like Waqar Hasan of Dallas, who lost his life in a post-911 backlash hate crime. His murderer admitted that he wanted to send a message to the local Arab population and beyond. These discrete communities have learned the hard way that a failure to address the problem of bias crime can cause a seemingly isolated incident to fester into wide spread tension that can damage the social fabric of the wider community.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our Nation. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience and they should be subject to comprehensive federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMA AND BERNIE KOSTER

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Norma and Bernie Koster, who will be jointly honored with the Torch of Liberty Award by the New Jersey Region of the Anti-Defamation League at the League's Bergen County Awards Reception on June 1, 2005. They are being recognized for their distinguished service on behalf of the ADL's vital mission of combating bigotry and anti-Semitism, their support for humanitarian values, dedication to nurturing their community, and working to secure its future.

Norma Wellington Koster began a career of activism as a B'Nai B'rith girl and a leader in her synagogue youth group. She subsequently became a staff producer for a local television station in the greater New York metropolitan region, where she volunteered for 19 hours on the "Rheumatism and Arthritis Association Telethon." Because of her success on that production, she was named the producer of "The World of Heart" for the American Heart Association and of two telethons for "The City of Hope", where she instituted and volunteered for their newly formed Young Leadership Division.

Norma Koster has also been deeply involved in numerous Jewish causes and charitable organizations. She founded the Single Parent Seminar at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, where she is now an active member of the Cultural Arts, Art, Senior, and Alzheimer's Committees and currently serves as the Tree of Life Chairperson. A Member of the Board of Trustees of the United Jewish Appeal, she is a former co-chair