

women, minorities, children, and the poor. Initially relegated to the Agriculture Committee, which had almost no relevance to her urban New York district, she would fight to get relevant committee assignments for both her and her Black Congressional colleagues. On the Education and Labor Committee she would support improved employment and education programs, expansion of day care, income support, and other programs to improve America's inner cities.

In 1972 she would challenge the status quo again, when she launched a bid to become the Democratic nominee for President. Though the party initially marginalized her, she persevered to the end, constantly reiterating her message of government's accountability to all Americans.

Her underdog effort inspired both Blacks and Whites around the country, and earned her the respect of her early critics. Shirley would go on to outlast better-known and better-funded primary contenders. At the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, she would receive 151 delegate votes—far more than anyone could have imagined.

Though a fighter, even her opponents were astounded by her innate compassion and empathy. During her presidential bid, Chisholm went to the hospital to visit George Wallace, a political rival and ardent racial segregationist, after he had been shot in a failed assassination attempt.

Wallace was shocked by the Chisholm's gesture—one that was politically risky at best. It is said that Chisholm told Wallace, "I know what they're going to say. But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to anyone". Her words moved him to tears. Two years later when she needed support on legislation to extend the minimum wage to domestic workers, George Wallace would gather the Southern support it required.

In addition to Shirley Chisholm, the recent passing of James Forman represents a great loss to our country. Forman joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961, and was elected its executive secretary one week later. He would soon play a central role in developing SNCC from a loose coalition of student protest groups, to one of the most prominent and effective organizations of the Civil Rights Movement.

Utilizing the discipline and organizational skills he acquired as an Air Force and Korean War veteran, James Forman managed and directed the legions of brave SNCC volunteers, who in the 1960's, descended upon the southern United States to combat the racial injustice that had long festered there.

Today, thousands get academic degrees in public administration and management. I wonder how they might have benefited from talking to James. As a manager and organizer he may have been the best that the civil rights movement ever had. While the movement had many great orators and diplomats, James was a master of the nuts and bolts that make organizations run.

He was also known as something of a field general, willing to endure the same that he asked of his subordinates. James was often harassed, beaten and jailed during his many trips to register voters and organize protests in areas where violence and intimidation ruled. He would see many of his brethren pay the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and justice. This only strengthened his resolve to press on.

Though he left the SNCC in 1966, he would remain a prominent figure throughout the Civil Rights Movement. In subsequent years he would be an outspoken advocate for the socio-economic empowerment of African Americans in the post civil rights era, founding the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

He would also be one of the first African Americans to explicitly call for reparations for the oppressive treatment inflicted on African Americans during their history in this country. Many institutions responded by setting up programs aimed at improving Black communities.

Indeed America has lost much by the passing of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman. But we have gained much by the fact that they lived. They now enter the Pantheon of American patriots whose fearless and unrelenting quest for justice and liberty irrevocably changed this nation for the better.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us". Shirley Chisholm and James Forman showed the world what lay within them, and now their memories will lie within us forever.

HONORING THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF CHISPA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc., affectionately called CHISPA, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. CHISPA is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 Community-based Housing Development Organization, whose California housing projects have served Monterey County's lowest-income population for 25 years, and is the largest private nonprofit housing developer in the area.

CHISPA's Self-Help program allows participants to become homeowners through building their houses themselves. Since 1990, CHISPA's Self-Help program has built 483 homes for approximately 2,560 people in Monterey County alone. This laudable program allows large low-income families to build their own homes with three to four bedrooms, double car garages, vaulted ceilings, landscaped front and back yards, sprinkler systems, and oak cabinets. Working 40 hours per week under the guidance of a construction supervisor, families are able to realize their dream home.

Another worthy CHISPA program is the Moderate Income Housing program in which first-time home buyers receive financial assistance. Beneficiaries of this program include city employees, entry-level professionals, and teachers.

CHISPA Housing and Management, Inc., CHMI, Housing and Maintenance Specialists ensure that houses are of the highest quality by overseeing all construction activities. Program participants learn both construction and maintenance techniques, in addition to valuable management skills. CHISPA contributes to social well-being not only by enabling families to construct beautiful homes, but also by providing participants with a deeper sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud CHISPA's many accomplishments, and commend them for the tremendous effort they dedicate to enabling families to own their own home. I join the entire community in honoring this truly remarkable organization for its achievements in making the American Dream a reality for so many of our citizens.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNUAL
YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOV-
ERNMENT CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of students and advisors that will be gathering in Austin from February 3–7 for the 57th annual YMCA Texas Youth and Government Conference. Each year, delegations of high school students from around the Lone Star State travel to Austin to learn about their government through hands-on activities at the State Capitol. I am very proud of the school delegations that travel from the 32nd Congressional District of Texas to attend and learn from this wonderful conference.

My best wishes to Youth Governor Nathan Gonzales of Benbrook, Youth Lt. Governor Grant Reid of Garland, and all of the other youth officers and delegates that will be making a difference in Austin this week. My special thanks to YMCA Texas Youth and Government State Director Suzanne Mabie for all of the tireless hours of service that she commits to make this conference the great success that it is each and every year.

I've had the privilege of being involved with this conference for the last several years and have always been impressed with the talents of the young individuals who are involved with the program. All my best wishes for a successful 57th annual conference in Austin.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LUCILLE
HALLMAN HOLMAN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lucille Hallman Holman, a South Carolinian native whose dedication to service to God and country shines as an example to all of us. On February 13, 2005, she will celebrate her 100th birthday, and I believe it is important to commemorate her centennial birthday with a few highlights of the many contributions she has made to her church and community.

Mrs. Holman was born in Leesville, South Carolina and began her education in the local public schools. In order to finish high school she was forced to leave home at an early age and matriculated at nearby Betties Academy in Aiken County. She continued her education at Benedict College, a Baptist supported college in Columbia, where she met and married Lewis W. Holman, who was attending Allen University, a nearby African Methodist Episcopal Church supported school.

Mrs. Holman has made significant contributions to society. She joined Chappelle Station African Methodist Episcopal Church in January of 1930, and was appointed to Stewardess Board Number E, where she served for 64 years before retiring in January 1994. In this capacity she also served as a Class Leader.

In July of 1930, Mrs. Holman began working with the Church's Missionaries, and served as President of the Missionary Society for 57 years. Her community involvement extended to serving as the Director of the Church's Young People's Division and as a Trustee of Allen University. She also served as President and Treasurer of the Zoie Social Club.

Reaching out to the widows of her community, she formed the Widows Club, and she still attends the Quadrennial Conventions of the Women's Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church. In addition to her extensive church and community involvements, Mrs. Holman has maintained tireless devotion to her family, raising her five grandchildren after the death of her son.

Her untiring efforts have not gone unrecognized by her peers and associates. Mrs. Holman has received numerous awards and honors for her active membership in her church and her public service. She was named Woman of the Year by Chappelle Memorial A.M.E. Church in 1995. In May of 2000 the Columbia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented her with the Golden Years Award. In addition to these distinctions, she has been selected as Mother of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of this venerable woman on her 100th birthday. She continues to blaze a trail in her community through Christian service. She remains a positive influence to future generations, and I wish her happy birthday and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 13 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING STELLA WELLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Ms. Stella Wells. On February 17, 2005, family and friends will gather to honor Stella, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Stella was born in 1905 in the town of Beech Grove, Arkansas. There, in 1922 under the same roof where she was born, she married farmer Charles Wells. Stella and husband Charley had six sons, 20 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grand-

children. She has a total of 91 living descendants. The two enjoyed a marriage of 54 years.

Stella is a longtime resident of Genesee County. She originally moved to Michigan for a short time in the early 50's and later Stella and Charley moved back to become permanent residents in 1974.

Stella is currently the oldest living member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4087 of Davison. She is also a member of Harmony Baptist Church of Burton as well as Holly Grove Baptist Church of Beech Grove, Arkansas. Along with her many roles in the community, her greatest is as a beloved mother.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing Genesee County, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in not only recognizing Stella Wells for her outstanding life, but to wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is an extremely important conversation on the future of Social Security. Unfortunately, it is soured by the sharp rhetoric of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We simply cannot allow for misleading analysis and flowery language to disguise the truth of this debate. Not only do our current and future retirees deserve better, but also our children and grandchildren, who will be most directly affected by this new proposal, deserve better.

Social Security is truly one of our greatest success stories, virtually eliminating poverty for the aged. While we all agree that important concerns about Social Security should be effectively addressed, I do not believe turning this matter into a crisis should force us to accept what would otherwise be unacceptable. The scenarios touted by the Administration and their Republican allies are better suited for a work of fiction, not a domestic policy debate. Manufacturing a crisis in order to force this ideological agenda on retirees is unacceptable. The \$11 trillion shortfall is a figure plucked out of thin air using fuzzy math based on voodoo economics. And finally, the Administration is selling semi-privatization of Social Security as the solution to all of our problems.

Let's not be fooled by hyperbole. The facts are indisputable and should not be misrepresented by the President or Members of Congress. Crisis? What crisis? If we do absolutely nothing to Social Security, the Trust Fund will be able to pay out 100 percent of benefits for the next 50 years. The real, worst-case scenario shortfall based on a 75-year projection used by the economists at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) would be between \$2 trillion to \$3.7 trillion. While these numbers require our undivided attention, privatizing part of Social Security is not the solution. The President's plan to create private retirement accounts will cost at least \$2 trillion to implement, equivalent to the entire 75-year shortfall predicted by the CBO. In addition, most proponents of semi-privatization admit that the creation of these accounts will not avoid a shortfall on their own merits. In order to

achieve its goal, the Administration is also recommending the guaranteed benefits be cut by as much as 40 percent. This cut is in addition to the diversion of almost a third of Social Security funds to private accounts.

Social Security is the core of old-age support and was intended as an income supplement and a crucial safety net for seniors, not a money making scheme. We must preserve Social Security through sound fiscal discipline and legitimate policy adjustments to meet the demands of future generations. I believe that the Administration should immediately strengthen Social Security by submitting to Congress a balanced budget. If not a balanced budget this year, then the Administration should submit at least a plan or announced course of action on achieving a balanced budget. I also call on the President to reevaluate his tax cut proposal. Making the tax cuts permanent will cost as much as 3 to 5 times the cost of the Social Security shortfall. These fiscally responsible, common sense proposals will help protect Social Security and can be done now. Once these steps are taken we can more responsibly solve any unaddressed concerns. Instead of weakening Social Security I believe that it should be strengthened and made more secure ensuring its success for generations to come. We cannot turn Social Security into Social Insecurity.

SIKHS OBSERVE INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY AS DAY OF BETRAYAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday, January 26, was India's Republic Day, the anniversary of the adoption of their constitution. It is a very important day in India's calendar. The Indian constitution is supposed to guarantee freedom for everyone and ensure everyone full human rights and democratic freedoms. However, in practice, it has not worked that way in the 58 years that India has been independent. I salute the ideals of the Indian constitution, but I cannot urge India strongly enough to start living up to them.

Independent India has been no picnic for the minorities of India. They have suffered severe repression. Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others have suffered greatly at the hands of democratic, secular India. That is why Sikhs in Washington, London, and even Amritsar protested on Republic Day. In Amritsar, the Sikh organization Dal Khalsa hoisted the Sikh flag and distributed flyers saying that the Indian flag "is not our flag" and the Indian constitution "is not our constitution." No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Over a quarter of a million Sikh have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, along with over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and still more Christians elsewhere. Priests have been murdered throughout the country, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been vandalized. By now, the burning death of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons and the beating of missionary Joseph Cooper are well known. In recent days, evangelist Benny Hinn