

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the state of Alabama, a man whose significant impact and dedication to the needs and interests of his constituents will be felt for many years to come. Senator Heflin will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Elizabeth Ann Heflin, his son, Tom Heflin, and his two grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

FALL RIVER HERALD NEWS
SALUTES CDBG

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 23 years ago, when Congressional Districts in Massachusetts were changed, one of the first issues I worked on involving the newer parts of my district concerned the Community Development Block Grant Program for the City of Fall River. Working with then Mayor Carlton Viveiros, I was successful in preserving parts of the CDBG Program in Fall River that were being threatened by legislative changes. And in the years since then, Fall River has continued to be a national exemplar of how this program works for the benefit of our constituents.

On Friday, April 1, the newspaper of Fall River, the Herald News, ran an excellent editorial, which testifies both to the value of the CDBG Program nationally, and to the good work that people have done administering it in Fall River. As the editorial eloquently pointed out, "Allowing a community's water mains to decay does nothing to foster self-reliance. An 80-year-old widow on a small pension, living alone, will probably not be lured from the paths of righteousness if she receives some help paying her heating bills." As the Herald News notes, CDBG funds in Fall River "are a good example of tax money being put to a variety of concrete uses that directly benefit people." Given that we are now in a national debate on this program in response to the President's proposal substantially to reduce it and reorganize it, I ask that the very thoughtful editorial by the Fall River Herald News be printed here.

The most common (and often misguided) gripe about government is that you pay your taxes and you never see your money at work.

In fact, it is popular to believe that government spends its entire budget on "pork barrel" projects of the "how do butterflies fly" variety.

This kind of thinking is so enshrined in the American consciousness that no one really believes government ever does anything useful with taxpayer dollars.

That's not true.

Witness the Community Development Block Grant Program. That program brings about \$5 million to Fall River every year. That \$5 million is not spent on pork.

Money from CDBG funding puts police officers on foot beats, helps poor elderly people pay their utilities and has helped reline miles of city water pipes.

Does that sound like pork to you?

At a recent press conference, Fall River Mayor Edward M. Lambert Jr. spoke strongly about the need to preserve the CDBG program.

Lambert said the program is threatened by an initiative aimed at rolling a number of similar programs together, cutting funding and handing control over to the Department of Commerce. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has always administered CDBG programs.

Frankly, any threat to CDBG money is a threat to Fall River.

Of course, numerous people will say that the cutting of another "entitlement" program is a good thing, that "self-reliance" needs to be encouraged.

It's difficult to see what these people mean. Allowing a community's water mains to decay does nothing to foster self-reliance. An 80-year-old widow on a small pension, living alone, will probably not be lured from the paths of righteousness if she receives some help paying her heating bills.

In Fall River, Community Development Block Grants are a good example of tax money being put to a variety of concrete uses that directly benefit people.

That kind of government program deserves to continue on a steady course.

HUMANITARIAN FOOD AND
MEDICINE EXPORT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will remove current, and prohibit future, embargoes on the export of food, medicine, or medical devices. Embargoes on these items, as we have seen time and time again, do not have the desired policy effect on the targeted country. In fact, they only punish the innocent and most vulnerable people in these countries. Does anyone believe that denying the people of a foreign country food or medicine because of our quarrel with their leader will make them more sympathetic toward the United States? We are fond of talking about "humanitarian" treatment in foreign countries. But it is our policy of embargoing the export of food and medicine to certain countries that is most un-humanitarian. We need to practice what we preach.

Also, it is very important to remember the harm we do to our own citizens when we deny them the right to sell their products to whoever they like. It is not very humanitarian to deny our own citizens the right to their livelihood because our political leadership does not get along with the political leadership of another country.

Mr. Speaker, we do ourselves no favors in denying our citizens the right to export the essentials for life to citizens abroad. And we do no real harm to leaders abroad, who actually benefit by our sanction policies, as they provide a convenient scapegoat for their own economic failures. The fact is that trade promotes peace. Forcibly cutting off trade relations with another country promotes militarism and conflict.

I hope my colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR PRESIDENT,
VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Ukrainian people and their President, Viktor Yushchenko. President Yushchenko's election last fall marked a powerful triumph of popular will over the forces of fraud and repression. Mr. Yushchenko's vision of the Ukraine, shared in his address to Congress this week, is an inspiration to freedom loving men and women in Eastern Europe and across the globe.

Through the power of peaceful protest, the government of the Ukraine embraced the forces of freedom last fall, conducting free elections for the first time in over eight decades. The world watched as nearly 80 percent of eligible Ukrainian voters turned out to cast ballots on December 26, 2004. This remarkable participation is a measure of the collective courage of the Ukraine people, many of whom voted despite threats to their personal safety and employment.

President Yushchenko himself carries visual scars, a tangible badge of his own strength and resolute determination in the struggle for freedom. He has demonstrated enormous grace and selflessness in his perseverance. He is well known as a man of high integrity who surely, with the cooperation of global allies, will work hard to reject the corrupt political forces that sought to block him from public office.

We in this Chamber have pledged our support for the Ukraine through resolutions, words, and deeds. It is an honor to welcome President Yushchenko to the United States. I look forward to working with him and the good people of the Ukraine during this exciting moment in their nation's history.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greek-Americans on the occasion of Greek Independence Day, and wish all people of Greek descent across the globe, peace, happiness and prosperity. In the same spirit of friendship and brotherhood, I ask all of my Greek friends to use this joyous occasion to renew their commitment to peace by doing all that they can to facilitate and promote the end of the long-standing stalemate on the beautiful Mediterranean island, Cyprus.

Recent remarks made by Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis with regards to Greece's support for the resumption of negotiations on the Cyprus question along the lines of the United Nations' Plan for a settlement (the "Annan Plan") are deeply encouraging, and should be supported by the international community and the United States. Greece's role in facilitating negotiations under U.N. auspices and convincing the Greek Cypriot side,

under the leadership of President Tassos Papadopoulos, to return to the negotiating table cannot be understated.

Now, the time is right for peace and reconciliation on the island. The Turkish Cypriots have already declared that they are ready and willing to sit down and discuss the "Annan Plan"—a plan they overwhelmingly supported in the referendum held on April 24, 2004—with their Greek Cypriot counterparts. I fervently hope, Mr. Speaker, that all sides will seize the opportunity of Greek Independence Day to come together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation to achieve the final and lasting peace that has so long eluded the people of Cyprus.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH
AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Flint Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., who on Saturday, April 9, will hold their 44th annual Sojourner Truth Founder's Day Awards Luncheon. During this ceremony, awards will be presented to nine deserving recipients.

The Sojourner Truth Awards are given each year by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., as a reminder of the endless effort which freedom demands of those who would be free and to recall the fact that slavery comes in many forms: enveloping the spirit as well as the body. In this regard, the Club annually acknowledges those members of the community who have shown to represent these ideals with dignity and distinction.

One such award is the Club's Frederick Douglass Award, which this year will be given to the Honorable Archie L. Hayman, Chief Judge of the 7th District Circuit Court in Genesee County. A lifelong resident of Flint, Judge Hayman received degrees from C.S. Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint, before receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1985 from Detroit College of Law. After stints at General Motors and his own private practice, Judge Hayman was elected to the bench of the 68th District Court in 1995, and was appointed to the Circuit Court one year later by former Governor John Engler. Judge Hayman has consistently shown a willingness to improve the community, as evidenced by his involvement with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, NAACP, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flint, and many others.

The next award is the Positive Image Award, and its recipient is Mrs. Mancine Broome. Mrs. Broome is known throughout the City of Flint as one of its most ardent community activists. In the political arena, she was an integral part in successful campaigns to elect her late husband, Sylvester, to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners. Other campaigns followed, as did several citywide activities designed to enhance community spirit. Mrs. Broome has often been found as an active member or leader of groups including the Greater Flint Afro-American Hall of Fame, Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Soror-

ity, Bishop Airport Authority, and the National Association of Media Women. In addition to her long history of activism, Mrs. Broome has worked with Flint Community Schools as Supervisor of Graphic Arts and Printing Services for 38 years.

The Club Appreciation Award goes to Ms. Gloria J. Coles. In 1984, Ms. Coles moved to Flint to become Director of the Flint Public Library, a position she held for 20 years, until her recent retirement. As Director, Ms. Coles led her staff in establishing the Library as a community focal point, a central location for enriching lectures and programs, and a hub for technological advances. During her tenure, Ms. Coles was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the State Library of Michigan, and in 1991, served as Board President. She also chaired Michigan's White House Conference Committees in hopes of setting a federal agenda for our nation's libraries. Ms. Coles has also been active with the Fairwinds Girl Scout Council, the United Way, and the Michigan Humanities Council.

Alexandria Poole, a senior at Grand Blanc High School, and Otis Wiley, a senior at Carman-Ainsworth High School, have been selected to receive this year's Youth Achievement and Academic Award. Miss Poole is a multi-talented young woman who balances a 3.902 grade point average with activities such as singing, playing and tutoring piano and viola, and studying Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. Mr. Wiley has excelled in the classroom, where he earned a 3.423 grade point average, and also on the athletic front. During his high school career, Mr. Wiley made it to the State Finals in three sports: football, basketball, and track and field, and has been honored for his efforts on local, state, and national levels. Despite his hectic schedule, Mr. Wiley still finds time to volunteer for various church and community projects.

Also being honored during the ceremony are the winners of the Flint Club's Essay Contest: Miss Diamond Nelson (1st Place), Miss Breeanna Walker (2nd Place), and Miss Michelle A. Cochran (3rd Place).

Last, but certainly not least, the Sojourner Truth Award itself this year will go to Ms. Pamela Loving, President and CEO of Career Alliance, Inc. Serving in this position since 1997, Ms. Loving oversees a multi-service organization that provides workforce development strategies and assistance for residents of Genesee and Shiawassee Counties from all walks of life. Each day, 800–1,000 people utilize Career Alliance's services in hopes of learning and/or developing skills that will enable them to increase their effectiveness in the workforce. Ms. Loving draws on extensive experience in the private, public, and corporate sectors to achieve her goals. She is a tireless advocate for promoting civic and community awareness, and improving the quality of life for all those she comes into contact with. Currently Ms. Loving serves as Co-Chair for Governor Jennifer Granholm's Community Challenge, as well as the Board of Directors for the Focus Council, Mission of Peace Housing Development Agency, Flint District Public Library, and Hamilton Community Health Network. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the YWCA Nina Mills Award, and the Jewish Federation Senator Donald Rieggle Award, among many others. Ms. Loving is a true role model and is deserving of the highest respect.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club's longstanding commitment to community service, and their mission to seek answers toward critical issues in the areas of health, education, employment, and economic development. These awardees have exemplified the highest of qualities, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating them all.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP BILLY
BASKIN—PASTOR, TEACHER AND
COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Billy Baskin, one of the preeminent religious leaders of our community. On Sunday, April 10, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m., he will be honored at Miami's New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International during a special appreciation service defined by the theme: "Adding Years to Your Life—Adding Life to Your Years." Bishop Victor T. Curry, the Pastor of New Birth Church Cathedral, will lead other members of Miami's clergy and countless admirers throughout Miami-Dade County, in lauding this honoree portrayed as The Man, The Mandate and the Ministry.

Having founded Miami's New Way Fellowship Praise & Worship Center in 1975, Bishop Baskin truly evokes the genuine leadership of a Good Shepherd who attends to his flock in many ways, and the whole week long. As pastor and teacher, he exudes the knowledge and caring of a religious visionary who goes about empowering his congregation with his sermons. He has been a source of inspiration and a mentor to a host of other religious leaders who are now leading other congregations throughout South Florida and beyond.

Throughout the longevity of his pastorate, he has truly persevered in showing us the Way, the Truth and the Life that only his knowledge and experience could expound. As he continues to be involved with our faith-community, Bishop Baskin is never oblivious of the needs and concerns of others, particularly the less fortunate among us. It is his tireless consecration to his ministry that defines the measure of his consummate commitment to serve "... the least of these."

His timely and resilient leadership at the New Way Fellowship Praise & Worship Center for some thirty years is genuinely commendable. As a respected community leader, he has indeed earned our deepest respects and utmost admiration.

This is the legacy of Bishop Billy Baskin. I am truly privileged in thanking him for his many years of service. My honor in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my gratitude for everything that has sacrificed on our community's behalf as he continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of serving the community.