

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in calling for an end to U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization by co-sponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1028 OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 1028 of Belleville, Illinois.

In 1905, 31 members of the Knights of Columbus Council in East St. Louis, who lived in or near Belleville, Illinois, desired to have their own Council. After several rounds of negotiations with Bishop Janssen, the first bishop of the Belleville Diocese, this committee was successful in obtaining his approval. The National Council issued the charter and the first meeting of Belleville Council 1028 was held on July 7, 1905.

From this small but determined group of initial members, Council 1028 would grow to a peak of approximately 700 knights at the time of their Golden Jubilee, in 1955. During this time of growth, the goals of the Knights of Columbus, Charity, Unity and Fraternity, would be the guiding principals of the Belleville Council.

In 1906, one year after the Council was formed, and again in 1907, Council 1028 presented Bishop Janssen with checks of \$1,000,—a substantial sum in those days!—for the support of 81st. John's Orphanage. For the remaining time that 81st. John's was in existence as an orphanage, that institution was a favorite charity of Council 1028. Other worthy recipients of support through the years have been 81st. Elizabeth's Hospital, the Newman Foundation at Illinois Universities, Parent Teachers of Exceptional Children, the Mamie O. Stookey School, the Autism Society of Illinois, the Murray Center, Special Olympics and numerous local organizations.

The Belleville Council has always been a supporter of local youth activities. Boy Scout Troop 16, at St. John's Orphanage, was organized by the Council and supported for years. Catholic grade school field days were sponsored and numerous trophies were supplied for individual and team sports. The Council still sponsors local youth sport teams and continues to hold annual and recreational programs and many religious activities have helped promote camaraderie among the knights and their families.

While the names are too numerous to mention of those who have been instrumental in the history of the Belleville Council, one name is now officially linked to the Council. The Belleville Council is now named Monsignor Leonard A. Bauer Council 1028 to honor the dedicated service of Monsignor Bauer as the Council Chaplain for many years.

Council 1028 has seen many changes through the last 100 years but they have always stayed true to the Knights of Columbus goals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 1028 and wish them the best for continued service in the future.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF PEACEMAKING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF) who on April 9, 2005, celebrated their ninetieth anniversary marking their work for peace for justice.

We commend Phyllis S. Yingling and the Joint Planning Committee of the Baltimore/Catonsville area for their hard work on behalf of women and world peace.

WILPF, located in 36 nations, was formed in 1915 during World War I. WILPF works to achieve through peaceful means world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence and to establish those political, social, and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom and justice for all.

Out of a meeting planned amongst western European and N. American suffragists grew WILPF. The meeting was supposed to be in Berlin. The war prevented the women from going to Berlin, so the women went to The Hague. Over 1200 women attended. At that meeting the women decided that ending the killing and the violence of war was even more important than suffrage for women.

WILPF's first International President was Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago and the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The United States Section of WILPF maintains a presence in Washington, D.C. providing support and organizing connections for the grassroots activities of WILPF's members located in 80 branches across the United States. They work in coalition with other disarmament, women's human rights, and racial and economic justice organizations to translate women's experience and vision into policies to promote peace and justice

For the last nine decades, WILPF has had a vision of peaceful and non-violent solutions to conflicts around the world.

We salute WILPF for their remarkable vision that we respect and that which still guides us today as we face the human security challenges of tomorrow.

HONORING JUDGE MATTHEW J. JASEN, RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today, Thursday, April 14, 2005, the New York State Court of Appeals will for the first time in modern

memory hold a session outside of the State capital of Albany. For this august occasion they have chosen the newly-renovated courtroom of Erie County Surrogate Court Judge Barbara Howe.

Tomorrow, however, the seven member court will honor one of its former members, and that is the reason why I rise today. Tomorrow, former New York State Court of Appeals Associate Judge Matthew Jasen, a resident of the town of Orchard Park in my congressional district, will be honored by his successor colleagues on the court

Judge Jasen was the Court of Appeals' first Judge of Polish-American descent. The most recent Western New Yorker to be elected to New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals, Judge Jasen is an outstanding contributor to the Western New York community and to the legal profession, and I am proud to honor him today.

Through a combination of intellect and fortitude, Judge Jasen worked his way through the Great Depression to achieve great heights in Western New York's legal community. Educated at Buffalo's own Canisius College and receiving his law degree from the University at Buffalo, Judge Jasen went on to attend Harvard University's Civil Affairs School, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1940.

Before beginning his distinguished career in law, Jasen was called to serve his country in the armed services in Germany during World War II. Following his service, he received an appointment to serve as the United States Military Court Judge at Heidelberg, where he presided over trials of Nazi Youth groups.

In 1957, Jasen was appointed to his second judgeship, the New York State Supreme Court, and 10 years later, Judge Jasen took on the race for Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

Today, Judges of the New York State Court of Appeals are appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. This was not so in the 1960s, when Judges instead ran for this office in statewide elections. Through his skills as a grassroots organizer and with tremendous perseverance, Judge Jasen, a loyal and longtime Democrat, was elected to the Court of Appeals.

Judge Jasen's career on the state's highest court ranged from his election in 1967 to his statutory retirement in 1985 at the age of seventy. During his 18 years on the high court, Judge Jasen played a part in hundreds of landmark decisions of the court, and played a significant role in the court's transition from an elected body to one of appointment based on merit. Nowadays, court appointments are made by the Governor, who must choose his Appeals court appointees from a list of three candidates presented to him by a judicial screening panel. An elected Judge himself, Judge Jasen was a strong advocate for merit selection, having authored articles on the subject in the mid-1970s.

Following his retirement, Judge Jasen re-entered the practice of law himself, serving as Of Counsel to law firms operated by his sons, Peter M. Jasen, Esq. and Mark Matthew Jasen, Esq. Despite advancing age, Judge Jasen's post-judicial legal career has been a busy one as well, taking part in cases on local, State and Federal levels, serving as Special Master in a number of State and Federal actions and in performing other services as an officer of the court.

I am proud to honor Judge Matthew J. Jasen today—an outstanding member of the bar and of the Western New York community—and I am certain that the whole of our community would join with me in offering my congratulations to Judge Jasen upon his receipt of this most recent honor in his long and distinguished career. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me an opportunity to share with the House Judge Jasen's accomplishments and for allowing me this chance to join in honoring him.

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ANDREW CABLE**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Andrew Cable.

Andrew Cable graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1992, and received his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, he decided to pursue a career in law and real estate. He has had an extremely varied and successful professional life: he currently holds a real estate license, a license as a community corrections officer, and a certification in commercial banking.

He and his wife, Rebecca, have been tireless volunteers in their community. Mr. Cable is a member of many organizations, including the Texas Justice Court Judges Association, the Texas Community Justice Task Force, the Wimberly High School Mentor Program, and the Community Emergency Response Team Advisory Board.

Mr. Cable was elected Justice of the Peace in 1998. He represents Precinct 3 of Hays County, which includes, among several other towns, Mr. Cable's home of Wimberly. His extensive education and experience make him an excellent public servant, and an important resource for his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Cable is the sort of energetic, knowledgeable leader who holds our communities together. The people of Hays County are lucky to have him as a Justice of the Peace, and I am happy to have the chance to acknowledge him here today.

**IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM**

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team. The Cardinals won the title of Boys Basketball Division III California State Champions 2004–05. Led by Coach Pete Newell Jr., the exciting victory of 67–56 against St. Augustine took place on March 19, 2005.

The Boys Basketball team has enjoyed a winning season with their record standing at 36–1. Their only loss was by one point to

Santa Margarita in a suspenseful overtime. The team set a Central Coast record with 36 season victories, the most by any team, boys or girls, in the state this season. Their accomplishments brought unprecedented firsts for the Central Coast community.

All nineteen Cardinal players were able to contribute to the successful season. After thirty years of coaching the Santa Cruz High School's Boys Basketball team and with the 2005 State Championship under his belt, Mr. Newell has opted to retire with a winning record. Throughout his career, he has led the team to victory 554 out of 880 games. Mr. Newell's diligent efforts will surely be missed by the Cardinals and the Santa Cruz community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team on their Division III State Championship. They have demonstrated hard work, perseverance, and relentless dedication to the sport of basketball. I extend my congratulations to the Cardinals and wish the team many successful seasons to come.

**MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was barely 20 years ago when the nation first became concerned with minority communities and the disproportionate impact from polluting facilities. At that time, we referred to this problem as environmental racism. This was a term which strongly depicted the harsh reality and the disparities of environmental policy or practices affecting individuals, groups, or communities based on race or color. In the last decade, the pursuit against environmental racism has been transformed into an effort to achieve environmental justice in all socio-economic communities, suggesting that we are making wiser environmental policy decisions and engaging in a proactive approach.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. EO 12898 required that all appropriate federal agencies collect data on the health and environmental impact of their programs and activities on "minority populations" and "low-income populations" and to develop policies to achieve environmental justice. EO 12898 also requires federal agencies and their funding recipients to fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by conducting their programs and implementing policies in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Despite EO 12898, federal efforts to achieve environmental justice have been minimal at best. In fact, in 2002, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held hearings on the issue and concluded that due to organizational and financial limitations, "there is inconsistency and unevenness in the degree to which agencies achieved integration of environmental justice into their core mission." It also noted that "current funding and staffing levels [at federal agencies] undermine meaningful Title VI enforcement at a time when there are increasing judicial barriers to enforcing Title VI."

I come to the floor today to introduce legislation that expands the definition of environmental justice, directs each Federal Agency to establish an office of environmental justice, re-establishes the interagency Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice, and requires that EO 12898 remain in force until changed by law. My legislation represents a significant step in ensuring that current and future federal policies reflect the intentions and goals of EO 12898 and protect minority and low-income communities from poor environmental and energy decisions and policies.

I ask for my colleagues support, and urge the House Leadership to expeditiously bring this critical legislation to the House floor for consideration.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTONOMY ACT OF 2005**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, Senate Government Affairs Chair SUSAN COLLINS, Ranking Member Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, House Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN and I introduce H.R. 1629, the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2005, which passed the Senate in the last Congress, but did not pass the House. It marked the most significant change in self-government since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973. Instead, Congress continues to essentially use the same oversight process it has used since the District was created as a functioning city more than 200 years ago. The partial budget autonomy in this bill would be a major step to improve the efficiency of the congressional appropriations process and a historic step toward full self-government for the District of Columbia.

Our bill starts as a compromise that is less than what the District and every local jurisdiction is entitled to in the management of its local funds. As important as this bill is, it is not the self-contained and more efficient procedure used by every state and locality in our country. The District's budget would still come to the Congress, but it would be discharged after 30 calendar days. This step would take the city a great distance toward functional budget autonomy and away from a congressional process that adds large dollar costs to running the city, and incalculable waste and inefficiency directly traceable to the congressional appropriations process.

Our bill would significantly streamline and untangle the process. It also would eliminate the most inefficient and demeaning impediment to the local control every other jurisdiction enjoys, in requiring that the budget of the local jurisdiction be enacted by the District and the Congress as Congress enacts the budgets of federal agencies, such as the Interior Department and the Labor Department.

For most of my service in Congress, the enactment requirement has usually kept the District from having a local annual budget with which to operate and manage the city for months at a time. The requirement of our bill