

long commitment to the business and to Erwin. Both George Sr. and George Jr. served as Erwin past mayors and George Joseph, Jr. continues to manage the department store. He continues to be among Erwin's most effective and giving community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Louis Joseph used every minute of his long and productive life to make the world a better place. He was a respected and successful businessman, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

#### LEGAL AID

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God with liberty and justice for all. Justice for all—yet every year when this appropriation comes up we have to debate funding for Legal Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind this chamber about the vital and indispensable role Legal Services plays in providing access to our civil justice system for all people who would otherwise be financially incapable of seeking justice in our courts of law.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make a decision right now about what kind of government we want to be. We can either decide to ensure justice for all Americans or we can have justice for all Americans with thick wallets. We can honor all of the men and women who have sacrificed corner offices and 6-digit paychecks to work at Legal Services offices, like the one down the hall from my Chicago office, or we can turn our back on them.

I know funding is tight. I know there is a war to pay for and hundreds of other worthy causes to fund. The money pot is only so big. But this is where we need to make our decision. We promise liberty and justice to all, not liberty and justice to all who have the resources to pay for it. We are talking about the most basic representation to those Americans who have nowhere else to turn to seek justice.

When we are serious about improving race relations, relationships between law enforcement and communities, when we are serious about reducing racial profiling on our streets and roadways, in our airports and in our courtrooms, when we are serious about the real pursuit of justice for all of America, we will secure the resources necessary so that everybody will have an opportunity to bridge the gap between those who have and those who have not.

We must provide access to the judicial system for every single person who seeks it.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ALLEN MUIR, JR.

### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I remember a very dear friend of

mine, Robert Allen Muir, Jr. of Staten Island, New York, who recently passed away. Bob was one of the kindest, most sincere and genuine people I have ever met—and I long considered him a member of my family.

Bob was a widely respected election lawyer who worked with candidates from both sides of the aisle, including Governor George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Steve Forbes and myself. Bob also was an aide to Mayor Lindsay and Congressman Freddy Richmond. He had a great legal mind and he put his expertise to use helping those leaders he felt could make a positive impact on New York City, State, and the nation. In addition, Bob was filled with common sense. He understood the concerns of average Americans, and he was able to express them in simple language that always made the point.

Bob was born in New York City and moved to Staten Island in his early 20s. He later lived in Brooklyn and New Jersey until finally returning to Staten Island and the New Brighton community in 2003.

A graduate of Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey, Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his law degree from Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan.

Besides a great friendship, Bob and I also shared another passion, the New York Yankees. Bob reserved his Friday nights during baseball season for trips to the Bronx to watch his beloved Bronx Bombers. He also enjoyed outings on his boat, cooking, and gardening. He and his wife, Ilsa, were set to begin their new life in their new home. Bob designed this beautiful home himself to resemble a traditional Colonial residence. Everything was looking great until the Almighty called him home.

Along with Ilsa, Bob leaves behind two daughters Karen and Heather. All who knew Bob were grateful for his kindness and compassion. He was always fighting for the most vulnerable among us. New York State and City are a better place because of Bob Muir. We miss him dearly.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT (H.R. 5717)

### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will improve No Child Left Behind (NCLB) implementation while maintaining its important accountability provisions.

NCLB provides a crucial level of accountability for the results of study in the classroom. While this change was welcome on both sides of the aisle, this law did present some technical problems in its ground-breaking measurement and assessment of education achievement. I have worked closely with education specialists at the North Central Education Lab as well as local education professionals as part of my Education Advisory Board to gather data on NCLB implementation. This work resulted in a White paper detailing areas of concern to my local schools, coupled with practical solutions to these problems.

Specifically, this Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act focuses on highly-qualified teacher requirements, determinations of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), and NCLB sanctions. My legislation maintains NCLB's important accountability provisions while improving implementation of the law in these key areas.

Every child deserves an excellent teacher. Unfortunately, several schools are experiencing difficulty meeting the highly-qualified teacher requirements in certain hard-to-staff areas. Much like rural teachers were given relief through rules, teachers in "hard to staff" areas should be granted relief for the highly qualified teacher provision in the form of a two year extension. However, schools must demonstrate that they are working towards full compliance in order to qualify for the extension.

Secondly, I strongly support measuring AYP for students. However, current law does not measure individual student improvement, counts students under multiple sub-groups, and creates discrepancies between NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My legislation ensures that students are compared for consecutive years rather than two different classes for the same school year, places equal weight on each student, and clarifies Individualized Education Program status under NCLB. All these changes still maintain accountability measures under NCLB but provide more accurate assessments.

Now that this landmark legislation has been in effect for a few years, it is important we revisit its effects. My bill takes into consideration important practical concerns of my local school boards while staying true to the goals of NCLB. I am proud that this bill reflects the advice and counsel of the North Central Education Lab, my Education Advisory Board and the National Education Association. I want to pay special thanks to Dr. Paul Kimmelman, the chairman of our 10th Congressional district Education Advisory Board, who led much of this work.

Mr. Speaker, the Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act represents a strong bipartisan consensus, backed by school management and unions, to make the job of defining success and education achievement more accurate and useful.

#### HONORING REVEREND HOWARD JOHNSON

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Howard Johnson for his dedication to the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church of Mobile, Alabama, where he has spent the last 24 years as pastor.

Reverend Johnson was born on June 26, 1940, in Jackson, Alabama. He was reared and educated in Clarke County. He became a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Citronelle, Alabama, and served there for 12 years. He received both an associate arts degree and bachelor of arts degree from S.D. Bishop State Junior College and Mobile College between 1975 and 1976. He received his master of divinity degree in 1979 when he

graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and his doctor of divinity degree from the Virginia Seminary. Since 1984, Reverend Johnson has served as the pastor at the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Johnson has held various positions in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church and the Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church. He has also led and been a member of many civic and religious organizations. Currently, he is the chaplain for the University of South Alabama Medical Center. He is truly a leader in our community and deserves recognition for all of his many achievements.

On Sunday, July 13, 2006, Reverend Johnson will be recognized for his 24 years of service to the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church. He and his wife, Gloria, are the proud parents of three wonderful children—a son, Private First Class Howard Johnson II; and two daughters, Zsaquez RaShaunn and Geiselle LaVonne. Private Johnson was America's first casualty in the war in Iraq. Tragically, Private Johnson's supply convoy was ambushed in the early days of the campaign in the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah. Private Johnson remains a hero not only to his family and friends but to a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Reverend Johnson on this special day and this remarkable achievement. Unfortunately, a prior engagement out of town will prevent me from joining Reverend Johnson and his family and friends as they celebrate this milestone. I know his lovely wife, Gloria, his family and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks to the Good Lord for Reverend Johnson's exemplary service over the years to the congregation of Truevine Missionary Baptist Church.

#### WELCOMING THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPHOLDING CORPORATION TO SOUTHWEST ALABAMA

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and welcome the International Shipholding Corporation to the port city of Mobile, Alabama.

For six decades, the International Shipholding Corporation has been an institution in the port of New Orleans.

Unfortunately, following Hurricane Katrina, restrictions regarding the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet were placed on the shipping industry, creating a financial burden on the corporation and similar companies. After much deliberation, International Shipholding Corporation decided to move its corporate headquarters and operations of its subsidiary CG Railway Incorporated, to the port of Mobile.

When the corporation takes up residence in Mobile in early 2007, it will bring 150 jobs to the area and more than 80 related jobs in the local maritime community. The move is also expected to increase ship traffic at the Alabama State Docks by about 9 percent. Moreover, we will be proud to have International Shipholding as the only corporation in Mobile to be publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

While I know the men and women of the International Shipholding Corporation are saddened to leave their roots in southern Louisiana, I sincerely hope they find that the hospitality of the people of Mobile and southwest Alabama will help to make their transition easier.

I rise today on behalf of the people of Mobile and the First District of Alabama to welcome the newest member of our corporate family, the International Shipholding Corporation.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BENJAMIN STEPHENSON

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House in Edwardsville. This Sunday, July 2nd marks the dedication of Stephenson House and the completion of a successful community effort to reopen her doors to the public. The House is 186 years old.

The Stephenson House is on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered to be the oldest brick home in the county. The House was also a gathering place for many of Illinois' early political leaders. Benjamin Stephenson came to the Illinois Territory in 1809 where he was appointed the first sheriff of Randolph County. During the War of 1812 he attained the rank of Colonel. Stephenson also served in Congress as a representative from the Illinois Territory from 1814–1816.

Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Committee learned in 1998 that they succeeded in receiving a grant to restore the historic House. Since that time, it has been a community effort to complete the restoration. The House is now restored and furnished as it would have been in 1820, allowing visitors to learn about Illinois in its earliest days. Visitors to the House are given a tour by volunteers who dress in period costumes, giving a glimpse into 19th century life in Edwardsville.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Stephenson House on her dedication. I wish the volunteers and staff at the Stephenson House all the best in the years to come.

#### PATRICK DURANTE

#### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, one of the best known and admired political figures in suburban Chicago is Patrick Durante of Addison, Illinois. One of the most influential local newspapers FRA NOI recently published a commentary by Leonard Amara about Pat that is worth reading and portions of it follow:

#### POLITICAL UPDATE

For many years, folks from our ethnic community have demonstrated leadership in many Illinois counties. This month, we highlight the career of the highly regarded Patrick Durante. Serving as Chairman of the Addison Township Republican Organization

since 1974, this is the longest term to date for a Republican township chairman from DuPage County's Republican Party.

Born in 1940, Pat's political life started in 1964 at the age of 24, as a member of the Young Republicans. He went on to serve as Addison Township YR president, DuPage County YR vice chairman, and Illinois state YR executive director. During the course of his township chairmanship, he also served as the Illinois 6th District State Central Committeeman for 9 years. This early success demonstrated Pat Durante's interest in improving his community by suggesting its agenda and taking a leadership role.

Franco Caladiapietro, a candidate for the Illinois House in the 45th District, says of his mentor: "I'm involved in the political process because of people like Pat Durante. Pat, along with Hank Gianvecchio, Ed Levato and others of Bloomingdale Township, are my role models as to what politicians should stand for, what we should aspire to be."

For Pat, as an Italian American in the early 1960s, breaking into the German/Irish/English Republican establishment in DuPage County was no easy task. There were only about a half dozen Italian Americans in the DuPage County Republican Party back then, and arguably our president wasn't well received. Having to endure the "usual Mafia, Dago barbs that were constantly spoken behind our backs," according to Pat, he takes great pride in knowing that he helped open doors, because today there are hundreds of Italian Americans in various positions throughout the DuPage County Republican Party.

Although Durante has been part of dozens of campaign staffs, and has personally run dozens of campaigns, his fondest memories include being a deputy state chairman for President Ronald Reagan; coordinator for Jim (Stringini) Ryan, Illinois attorney general and candidate for governor; and, most of all, serving as executive assistant to Congressman Henry Hyde.

In 1963, now-deceased Elmwood Park Village President Elmer Conti urged Durante to get involved in politics. Conti was also instrumental in getting Henry Hyde to run for Congress in 1974. Pat has always held that, if ever there is a non-Italian to whom Italian Americans owe a large debt, it is Hyde.

Pat's family lived on Peoria Street in the Taylor Street neighborhood. Angelo Durante, his paternal grandfather, came to America in 1901 from Laurino, Avellini, Italy, and opened up newspaper stands to make a living for his son James (Patrick's father), and his six daughters. His wife, who was a Gregorio, was also from Laurino.

His maternal grandfather, John Bertelotti came here from Stazzema, Italy, in 1911, along with his wife and two daughters, Josephine (Patrick's mother) and Corrinne. He opened John's Grocery Store at Flournoy and Loomis and became prominent in the Chicago Italian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Early in his professional life, Pat scraped up enough money to buy a house in Itasca, where he raised two wonderful children, Lori Ann and Vincent. Pat and his present wife, Kathie Cermak-Durante, currently reside in Addison. Vince and his lovely wife Katie live in Bartlett and recently presented Pat with life's greatest reward, a grandson, Nicholas. Though Pat's parents passed away, they left him with many inspirational traits, the most compelling of which are his pride in being an Italian American and a passion for politics.

His future plans are to stay with Congressman Hyde until he concludes his term at the end of 2006. He will stay on as Addison Township chairman for a few more terms if his fellow Republicans allow him. And he will be involved in campaigns for governor, congressman and a few others. He will continue to