

We need to rebuild and restore public trust in Congress and its Members. And there can be no better way to begin this process than by giving up lobbyist-provided meals, tickets, vacations, food baskets, and golf outings that have come to symbolize what's wrong with Washington and the way it operates. These gifts should be flat out eliminated. Every Member of Congress earns a generous salary. It's more than enough to live on and serve the interests of the people who are paying it—the taxpayers.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in taking the pledge to do away with gifts from lobbyists. Support the gift ban and get back to work for the people who sent us here.

GREAT PLAINS AND PANHANDLE HEALTH SERVICES

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated professionals in the home health care industry. Across the Nation, one of the great concerns is the fear of not being able to receive high-quality yet affordable health care. In the search for one of the most effective ways to provide this, one need not look to the future, but rather to our history and to the oldest tradition of health service delivery—Home Health Care. This time-honored tradition of allowing the elderly, disabled, and ill to remain in the comfort of their own homes and receive the medical assistance they need has proven to be one of the most cost-effective and beneficial prescriptions a doctor can dispense.

Allowing a patient to stay in their own familiar surroundings allows them to retain their dignity and sense of independence, while still receiving quality medical services. It also allows them to be surrounded by loved ones and family which helps to maintain the ever important family union which can play such a key role in helping to recover from an illness.

In the United States today, home health care is regaining the popularity which it once had. As the desire for this important care increases, home care agencies across the country have met the challenge and now offer a full range of valuable services from skilled nursing and social services to physical, occupational and speech therapies. Nationwide there are over 17,500 agencies which help provide home care and this proven alternative to lengthy hospital stays now accounts for an estimated \$27 billion of the resources spent on health care, as they provide services to over 7 million Americans.

This growing segment of our health care industry deserves to be recognized for its continuing effort to provide affordable and quality care to those in need. We, in Congress and throughout America, can lead the effort to recognize home care agencies and the valuable and cost-effective health care resources which they provide. I call on all Americans to support these valuable agencies and providers who work to enhance the lives of those ill and disabled who are in need of home care assistance. In so doing, I salute all who provide home health care.

RETIREMENT OF BERNICE COLEMAN-LEWIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to acknowledge the retirement of Mrs. Bernice Coleman-Lewis from the U.S. Customs Service. Bernice worked for the Customs Service for 25 years. She rose through the ranks from the position of clerk typist to ultimately become a customs liquidating officer at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

During her tenure with Customs, Bernice was instrumental in helping to ensure that the National Treasury Employee Union [NTEU] became the union for Customs employees. She also became the executive vice president of the NTEU. Bernice was also a member of the Quality Circle in Customs. Always mindful of giving back to the community, Bernice participated in the Customs mentor program for inner city youth, and served 2 years as vice president of the Sentinel Society, Inc., a minority Government employee organization.

Mrs. Lewis has also been active in community organizations, including the 835 Ocean Avenue Tenants Association. She served as the secretary of St. Catherine Chapter 758, for the order of the Eastern Star, and she became a member of Bridge Street A.M.E. Church of Brooklyn in 1994.

Now that she has retired, Bernice is attending State University of New York [SUNY], in Old Westbury, and was accepted into the education program. Mrs. Coleman-Lewis aspires to teach in the Amityville school system on the elementary level.

Bernice is a proud parent of four children, two girls, April And Raisa, and two sons, Ajene and Malik. She is also the long time companion of Nathaniel Lewis. It is my distinct pleasure and honor to introduce Mrs. Bernice Coleman-Lewis to my House colleagues.

LEGISLATION WHICH IS GOOD FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I introduce today a bill to create a win-win situation for the Federal Government and the city of Corpus Christi, TX.

Mr. Speaker, the 104th Congress has made much of reducing the size of Government, saving taxpayer dollars and moving the decision of Government back to States. The administration's reinventing government proposals accomplish the same goals. As a part of the latter, the Vice President has directed the Bureau of Reclamation to initiate a program of title transfer of water supply projects to move ownership of these projects from the Federal Government to the States or local entities.

I introduce this legislation today on behalf of the State of Texas, to create a process so the State or our public agencies may purchase and accept title to the Bureau of Reclamation

projects in the State. This bill has the full support of the Texas State legislature, which recently passed a resolution, signed by the Governor, accepting the responsibility for this process of title transfer.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I introduce this legislation at the request of the city of Corpus Christi. The city supports title transfer and wants local responsibility for the Nueces River project, locally known as the Choke Canyon project.

In 1976, the city of Corpus Christi and the Nueces River Authority contracted with the Bureau of Reclamation for the construction of the Choke Canyon Reservoir-Nueces River project—on the Frio River near Three Rivers, TX. The primary purpose of the project was to provide an additional water supply for the city of Corpus Christi through the year 2040. Since the project was completed in 1982, however, studies have determined that the current supply to the city from the project is less than was promised, and additional water supplies will be required by the year 2003. The local sponsors are proposing that the repayment agreements be recalculated to reflect the diminished water supply from the project, as well as the expenses to the local sponsors in acquiring additional water supplies to compensate for the projected shortfall in the Choke Canyon/Lake Corpus Christi system. After reallocating project costs and/or negotiating a fair settlement of project repayment obligations, the local sponsors are prepared to initiate a project buy-out and transfer of title utilizing a discounted prepayment of their fair share of project costs.

Mr. Speaker, our local citizens are taking a very responsible approach to this situation. They are offering the Federal Government a substantial cash payment up front, they are offering to purchase and protect thousands of acres of sensitive land as mitigation for the original project and they are accepting the responsibility for the future operations and maintenance of the project. As the Corpus Christi Water Engineer James Dobson pointed out in recent Congressional hearings, there are significant benefits to the legislation I offer today:

For the Federal Government, these include: Immediate access to large amounts of capital from early payoffs; avoidance of long term liabilities for Federal share of project O&M costs; avoidance of other future liabilities; continued compliance with Federal project objectives; and reduced federal administrative expenses.

For the local sponsors the benefits include: Long range economic savings by prepayment of debt; freedom from expenses caused by excessive Federal involvement in the project management; and local decision making on resources used locally.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to my colleagues, I introduce this legislation on behalf of a very responsible community in terms of its approach to water resources. As Mayor Mary Rhodes recently pointed out:

I want to emphasize that we are not talking about an area that places disproportional demands on its water resources. Texas Water Development Board studies show that Corpus Christi's per capita water use is one of the lowest in the state for a major city—only 155 gallons per capita per day. Our industries are very water efficient—in the petroleum refining and petrochemical sectors, facilities in the Corpus Christi area use only 40 to 60 percent as much water per barrel of product as similar facilities in other parts of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for this legislation. It is responsible, it addresses a serious local need, it fulfills expressed goals of both the 104th Congress and the administration, but most importantly—it makes sense.

RETIREMENT OF KANSAS CITY
POLICE CHIEF STEVEN BISHOP

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steven Bishop, who is retiring on December 1, 1995 after serving a distinguished 25 years with the Kansas City, MO Police Department, the last 5 years as chief of police.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Bishop has demonstrated an admirable willingness to face the toughest issues. Shortly after taking office, Chief Bishop appointed a task force of Police commanders, clergy and community leaders to study ways in which officers could better communicate and work with citizens to deter crime. A community policing force eventually was established, partnering neighbors with officers throughout our community.

His ongoing pursuit to build a safer community is further evidenced by his work on the Governor's Commission on Crime and the President's Committee on Drug-Free Schools. These and other anti-crime efforts have earned him national recognition. Among Chief Bishop's honors was a special appearance at President Clinton's State of the Union Address earlier this year at which the President paid tribute to him for his outstanding efforts and leadership.

Chief Bishop's interest in law enforcement began well before his days as police chief. In 1970, 3 years after leaving the Marine Corps as a Vietnam veterans, Bishop graduated from Central Missouri State University with a degree in police administration.

While serving as a police officer, Bishop continued to develop his skills and abilities by earning a master's degree in personnel management from Central Michigan University and attending numerous training conferences and seminars. Over the years, he participated in the sergeants supervisory leadership course, the officer survival seminar, the national hostage negotiations seminar, the national organized crime training seminar, and the 147th session of the F.B.I. National Academy.

Not surprisingly, Bishop's impressive aptitude and positive attitude soon won him respect and promotions. He advanced to the rank of sergeant in 1975, captain in 1980, major in 1987, lieutenant colonel in 1989, and chief of police in 1990. He was only 43 years old when he was sworn in to head the department on June 14, 1990.

Chief Bishop's list of accolades includes being named the Ad Hoc Police Officer of the Year in 1988 for his efforts to fight drugs on the City's East Side, and the ABC News "Person of the Week" for his work to foster better relations between the police and the community.

In light of his 25 years of outstanding service to the Kansas City Police Department and the people of Kansas City, I know that my colleagues in the House join with me in honoring

Steven Bishop. We certainly wish Chief Bishop all the best in his future endeavors. His leadership will be sorely missed in my district. Thanks, Chief.

RED RIBBON DRUG AWARENESS
WEEK ACTIVITIES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to acknowledge the excellent work, and important efforts, against drug abuse that the annual Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Campaign represents across America, each and every year around this time.

The work that the many community organizations, and groups are doing as part of this annual drug awareness program and the importance of the educational message of a drug-free society, especially for our young people, is vital in this day and age of rising drug use.

A recent University of Michigan study on the latest alarming rise in drug use, especially among the young, made it clear that each new generation must learn the hard lessons of drug abuse. That learning can and must be accelerated through valuable drug awareness programs.

These programs, and efforts like the Red Ribbon Awareness effort, help provide the opportunities for those hard and costly lessons to be learned by each new generation before it's too late, and our young are on the road to addiction and ruin.

In March of this year, former First Lady Nancy Reagan, famous for her own well recognized and effective, just say no, drug educational efforts, testified before our House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, in which she said, "After great strides that were made just a few years back, I'm worried that this Nation is forgetting how endangered our children are by drugs."

Let us together not permit America to forget that drug prevention, through education of our young, is critical to avoiding devastating long-term costs and damage from drug abuse by our children and future generations.

It was gratifying to note that President Clinton announced that there will be a teenage drug use White House conference in January to address the alarming rise in youth drug use.

Our young people, I know, will surely benefit from the valuable learning and awareness from these efforts of Red Ribbon Week, such as that of the Orange County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council, and other important programs throughout the mid-Hudson region of New York State.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL
AMERICANS: MARGARET ROSS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to Margaret Ross, who on August 31, 1995, ended her 32-year career with the New

York City Board of Education. She is an individual who selflessly dedicated her life to children and parents. Throughout her professional career as a social worker, supervisor, and administrator she has been viewed by all whose lives she has touched as a knowledgeable, fair, and caring person. Margaret Ross is an outstanding citizen and deserves to be recognized as a great "point-of-light" for all Americans.

This longtime resident of Crown Heights, NY, in central Brooklyn, Ms. Ross is involved in many activities that contribute to the betterment of the community. She is a current member and past president of the Sterling Place Civic Association; a member of the Sterling Community Revitalization Corp.; a member of the Medgar Evers College Community Council; a member of the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus; executive member of Thurgood Marshall Democratic Club; and an elected official of the Democratic Party serving as State committeewoman of the 43d assembly district. Ms. Ross serves as an executive member of the Coalition for Community Empowerment which was founded by Congressman MAJOR OWENS and is the leading policy setting organization for the African-American community in Brooklyn.

Margaret Ross' dedication transcends professional, personal, and religious domains. Realizing her knowledge, skill, and compassion early in life, Ms. Ross utilized her talent to empathize with people in need. Upon graduating from undergraduate school, she worked as a caseworker in the Department of Welfare. For a short time thereafter, Margaret Ross worked as a psychiatric social worker in Kings County Hospital and then joined the Bureau of Child Guidance of the New York City Board of Education. Subsequently, she became a supervisor of school social workers and 6 years ago, chairperson of the committee on special education in district 13.

In an effort to embrace her fellow professionals and to further develop her craft, Margaret Ross is also an active member of the National Association of Social Workers. Currently, she serves on the executive committee of the political action committee. Margaret Ross joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at Morgan State University and has continued her affiliation with the Brooklyn alumnae chapter to the present day. She currently serves on the social action committee of the Brooklyn chapter.

Ms. Ross began her service to her community and church early in life. She patterned herself after her mother, Alice Debnam, who was a prominent member of Concord Baptist Church. Widowed in her early 1940's, Mrs. Debnam kept Margaret and her two sisters centered with strong religious values and an emphasis on education and a work ethic. After attending Public School 44 and Girls High School in Brooklyn, Margaret Ross received her bachelor of arts degree from Morgan State University. This led her to Howard University where she received a master of social work degree. Subsequently, she attended Brooklyn College for a master's degree in administration and supervision. Margaret Ross is married to Kenneth Ross of Trinidad and Tobago; and they have one daughter, Joann. Ms. Ross is the aunt of Assemblyman Roger Green. Along with her sisters Theopia Green and Ruth