

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 1996*

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, due to my son's hospitalization I was unable to be present and voting on January 5, 1996.

Had I been present I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1643.

## A TRIBUTE TO ALEC COURTELIS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 1996*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I rise to mark the passing of a truly honorable American, Alec P. Courtelis, a dear friend who recently lost his battle with cancer after a brave 2 year struggle. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

The productive life of Alec Courtelis is the personification of the American dream. Alec was born in Egypt, and realizing that educational opportunities in his native land were limited, he came to the United States as a foreign student to attend the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL. War in the Middle East broke out soon after Alec's arrival in the United States, preventing his father from being able to fully support Alec's higher education. Rather than return to Egypt, after getting approval from the immigration authorities, Alec held several jobs to pay for his education, including construction worker, parking lot attendant, testing laboratory inspector, dishwasher, and short order cook.

While at the University of Miami, Alec met his wife, Louise Hufstader. After earning a degree in civil engineering, Alec joined Juriet & Associates, Inc., a soils engineering and community development consulting firm, gaining valuable experience. Six years later, Alec formed his own real estate development company, the Courtelis Co.

Alec followed the Courtelis philosophy ". . . to dedicate yourself to the principles of creativity, hard work, persistence and honesty . . . success will surely follow," and his company has grown to become a leader in major real estate developments over the past 30 years.

To show his appreciation to the country that had given him so much, Alec became a civic leader, dedicating his time and resources to the field of education, serving on the Board of Regents for Florida's State university system, the Armand Hammer United World College of the America West and the International Board of the United World Colleges.

Alec was a recipient of both the Horatio Alger Award and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and was cochairman of We Will Rebuild, a prominent civic organization which assisted in the rebuilding effort in Dade County after the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Alec Courtelis will perhaps be best remembered for his valiant fight against pancreatic cancer, which he refused to let weaken his will. Instead of the 3 months which doctors

had diagnosed that he had to live, Alec combined chemotherapy with mind over matter to fight the disease for 2 full years, inspiring other cancer patients in the process. Alec will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

## TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY E. JOHNSON

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 1996*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman from the 8th Congressional District of New Jersey who has devoted her life and career to the Township of Bloomfield. Her name is Dorothy E. Johnson.

This month, Dorothy will be honored by her friends and coworkers on the occasion of her retirement from the Bloomfield Public Library after 25 years of service. Dorothy's presence at the library will be sorely missed. While others may be able to perform her job, it is unlikely that her spirit and dedication could be surpassed.

In addition to her duties as the library director, she is an active member of the Bloomfield community where she has lived most of her life. She has served as president of the Bloomfield Safety Council, Matron of Eastern Star Chapter #76, and represented her profession as a delegate to many conferences and conventions.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you will join me in wishing Dorothy Johnson a happy and healthy retirement and the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

## AMERICA WORKS—NOTWITHSTANDING THE SHUTDOWN

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 1996*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues a happy ending to what was an unfortunate situation for a 10-year-old girl. The Government shutdown threatened to cause this little girl to be stranded in Germany, missing school, until the resolution of the budget dispute.

At the start of her Christmas break, December 20, she traveled as an unaccompanied minor, from Wilmington, NC, to Germany, to visit her father and ailing stepmother, who is hospitalized with cancer.

Her passport expired on January 2, 1996, and the Consulate in Hamburg, Germany, informed her father that the passport could not be renewed because of the shutdown. The airlines, in turn, informed him that Government directives prevented them from allowing the child to board the plane with an expired passport.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, the mother's distress and more importantly, the girl's distress—being away from home, missing school, and having to pass her time in a foreign land. If ever a face should be placed on the tragedy of this Government shutdown, hers is the face. What a sad lesson in civics for this 10-year-old schoolgirl, faced with the harsh reality that

she could not return home because of the shutdown of the U.S. Government.

But, with the help of Mr. Woody Olmsted, an outstanding Federal Government employee at the Immigration and Naturalization Service; Mr. Bill McKillop, who works at the American Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany; Bob Fritz, Office of American Citizen Services, State Department; Ms. Lisa Piccione, manager of Government Affairs at Delta Airlines; and Mr. Dick Doubrava, who works for Delta Airlines in Atlanta, GA, we were able to ensure that this young girl is able to return to school and home. This is an outstanding example of a public-private partnership, working through a problem. And, even more notably, it is an outstanding example of dedicated public servants, serving and helping citizens of the United States.

America works, notwithstanding the shutdown, and Federal employees are dedicated, even when they are not being paid.

## FULLY REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 1996*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it's to the Democratic credit that the Gingrich Republicans finally realized that their shutdown is hurting Americans. But, by no means, is the Gingrich shutdown over.

Although I would like to be voting on legislation that puts the entire Government back to work, I will support this plan because it puts Federal workers back to work and provides for some crucial services like our national parks, passport, veterans benefits, and AFDC.

The American people must know, however, that while this legislation puts Federal employees back on the payroll, it does not provide the operating funds for many of them to do their job. For instance, there are still no operating funds for many services including Medicare claims processing, toxic waste cleanup, home purchase loans and refinancing, and small business loans.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats want to fully reopen the Government. The other body wants to fully reopen the Government. Let's not be fooled by the Gingrich Republicans. This legislation is nothing more than a band-aid. The job of getting this entire Government up and running again still lies ahead of us.

## ELEVEN THOUSAND INDIAN WOMEN MURDERED FOR THEIR DOWRIES EVERY YEAR

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 5, 1996*

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, in many parts of India, a bride's family pays a substantial sum in dowry to the groom's family to take on the burden of a bride. However, when the dowry isn't enough, the groom's family demands additional gifts. If these demands are not met, the bride is often beaten or even killed. This practice is called bride burning.