

compose art or to communicate with students in other cities, states and countries. Strong arts, theater, music and athletic programs enable students to find that they have talents in multiple disciplines.

From the first September nearly 300 years ago, Abington Friends School has been a special place for children. Quakers and non-Quakers and children of all races, nations and economic backgrounds have received rigorous academic training in an environment which empowers them to create, question, challenge and explore. Students are taught the value of peaceful conflict resolution and are required to perform community service. With these powerful guiding principles, Abington Friends School has been able to help children grow into productive, responsible adults committed to improving their communities and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the students, faculty, administrators, and parents of Abington Friends School as they celebrate their rich history, the dedication to the community, their commitment to peaceful resolution of conflict and their respect for all members of the human family without regard to race, color, creed or social standing. I praise their efforts to raise generation after generation of American children dedicated to working for the common good and I wish them prayers and good wishes for the next 300 years and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON.
CHARLES ARTHUR HAYES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the deepest sympathies of our community to the family and friends of Congressman Charles Arthur Hayes of Chicago, IL, who served in this body from September 1983 through December 1992.

It was my distinct pleasure to know and work with this indefatigable man we called Charlie, including a visit to his central city Chicago district. During that tour, we walked from public housing development to public housing development, trying to envision a better and different future for the people—especially the children—living there.

He knew every nook and cranny of his town. While we explored his neighborhoods, he talked about his early life, how upon graduation he had sought to work in Chicago but was denied because he was a man of color. He eventually joined the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and spent his life as a tireless and vocal advocate for the working people of our Nation—and for those who wish to work but are denied access.

Through his life, he helped America move forward. As a staunch ally of Martin Luther King, Jr., and civil rights advocates, he changed the laws of our land to meet the Nation's promise that "All people are created equal."

We shall miss you, Charlie. I still look for you in the corridors of Congress, and still hear your voice. Very few citizens with a background like yours achieve election to this

Chamber. You brought a set of experiences and a world view that need greater voice. Rest in peace, faithful servant. In your life, you made a difference.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize permanently a very successful, low-cost, community-based program to train and counsel current and potential women business owners. This program was created as part of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988, which I authored.

Mr. Speaker, women entrepreneurs are an increasingly significant part of the U.S. economy. They account for approximately one-third of all U.S. businesses and are starting businesses at twice the rate of men. Masked by these impressive statistics, however, is the fact that women encounter numerous obstacles trying to start, maintain or expand a business—obstacles which must be eliminated if we are ever to realize the full potential of this dynamic sector of our economy.

While all small businesses have common challenges—access to capital, for example—there are particular problems faced by women. In 1988, the Committee on Small Business first heard testimony from dozens of women business owners on this issue. One area which was repeatedly cited was a need for business training to teach women financial, management and technical skills. The women's business training program, which is the subject of today's legislation, thus was established as a pilot program to see if it could help fill the training void. I can report to you today that it has exceeded our hopes for it.

As befitting a program administered by the Small Business Administration, this program takes a very entrepreneurial and business-like approach to fostering and assisting women entrepreneurs. Organizations experienced in business counseling and training may submit to the SBA proposals for Federal funding to start a training center. The process is very competitive as Federal funds for the program are limited and must be matched by non-Federal assistance according to a specified formula. I can assure you that such terms weed out all but those who are the most committed to assisting women entrepreneurs and are the most likely to be able to keep their centers operational over the long term.

Nine years after getting off the ground, there are currently 54 training sites—19 of which are currently receiving Federal funding—in 28 States and the District of Columbia. Contributing to the program's success is the fact that this program does not require a one-size-fits-all approach. Each center tailors its style and curriculum to the particular needs of the community—be it rural, urban, low income, or linguistically or culturally diverse.

With the centers flexible enough to base everything from hours of operation to class offerings on community needs, the sites have understandably been highly responsive to low-income women and those seeking to get off welfare. We all know the intensive assistance

that must be given to women who are likely to be entering the business world for the first time. Having spoken to the directors of many of the women's business centers about their programs, I can attest to their commitment to working with these women; to making available the necessarily broad array of business and skills courses; and to providing them a learning atmosphere that is supportive enough to bolster them in their decision to make the transition from welfare, yet realistic enough to prepare them for the responsibilities of owning a business.

More than 55,000 women have sought and benefited from the training and counseling in business management, marketing, financial and technical assistance offered by the centers. The centers have directly led to business startups, expansions, and job creation. Equally important, the program has also prevented business failures.

Mr. Speaker, I could spend hours giving concrete examples of the accomplishments of this program and describing the experienced and talented people who put enormous time and energy into running their sites. I will, however, take just a minute to give a few examples of how creatively this program has responded to the needs of its clientele and the realities of the economy and business world they seek to be part of:

The Washington, DC and Los Angeles sites are working on a pilot program with the Department of Defense to provide business training to military spouses, who often cannot develop a career because of the frequent moves required by military life. The training is focusing on portable businesses—ranging from computers to hair care services—that the military spouse can move when the family changes duty stations. This pilot program will take place in Norfolk and San Diego.

All of the women's business centers—including those no longer receiving Federal moneys—are linked on a women's business intranet, which will lead shortly to an Internet training site. Based at the Dallas business center, the computer training site will make available to any woman with a computer business training, mentoring, counseling, etc. This program and its potential so impressed IBM that it has partnered with the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership to give them 240 computers for the sites to teach women how to use computers for business purposes such as developing a business plan.

The Milwaukee program has set up in a nearby office building a coffee business called Coffee with a Conscience. The training center rotates potential businesswomen as "owners" of the coffee cart, giving them firsthand experience in the fundamentals of owning a business, including bookkeeping, ordering supplies, and working with customers, and also gives them an opportunity to answer threshold questions such as whether they want to put in the time that owning a business demands.

The Center for Women and Enterprise in Massachusetts last year was given \$150,000 by the Bank of Boston toward the center's private matching fund requirements. Since then, one of the center's clients has won a Small Business Innovation and Research award, which is a highly competitive Federal grant given to small businesses which have technologically innovative and commercially feasible products to develop.