

are more likely to have money problems, career problems and credit problems and less likely to make informed decisions as citizens and voters.

To combat economic illiteracy, the National Council on Economic Education developed a vast network of state councils and university-based centers, teaching approximately 120,000 teachers who, in turn, teach basic economics to over seven million students.

Ms. Bryant is being recognized for her program, "The Cost of War." This model applies economics instruction to her world civilization class. Because economics influences world events, this curriculum instills in students an understanding of the economic impact on historic events. Her hope is to engage students and inspire them to become active in community and national affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bryant deserves to be recognized for her innovative approach to educating students on the role of economics in our global environment. It is with great pleasure that I stand today to congratulate her and applaud her achievement.

**SAMMY SOSA: THE HERO OF
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sammy Sosa, the baseball player who—but for Mark McGwire—in any other year would have replaced the legendary Roger Maris as the single-season home run hitting champion. Sosa trailed McGwire in this year's dramatic and unprecedented home run derby. But in Washington Heights, Sosa is bigger than baseball and in the hearts of the people, he is number one.

The Dominican-born Sosa is the toast of Washington Heights, a vibrant, colorful neighborhood on the west side of my Congressional District, dominated by immigrants from the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are proud of their country and their community, and take special pride in those heroes who remember their roots. Sosa has done just that in his generosity toward the poor in his homeland—before and since Hurricane Georges—and in his expressed desire to participate in a neighborhood parade through the streets of Washington Heights.

Sosa grew up in poverty with his widowed mother and six siblings in a seaside town in the Dominican Republic. Today, at 29, after nine years in the big leagues, he is being paid \$42.5 million under a four-year contract. But throughout, he has maintained his humility, his exuberance for life, and his concern for his people. When Hurricane Georges devastated his country, taking as many as 200 lives, Sosa's foundation cranked up its operation to ship down desperately needed relief supplies. In his hometown, San Pedro de Macoris, Sosa's generosity had already earned him the title, Sammy Claus.

His countrymen in Washington Heights will join with all New Yorkers this weekend to let Sosa know just how much they appreciate him, on and off the field. He will be honored by John Cardinal O'Connor, head of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York; and there

will be a parade, if not in Washington Heights, then Broadway will do.

**HONORING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE VERNON RE-
FORMED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vernon Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Waukesha County landmark and symbol of religious freedom and Wisconsin's pioneering spirit. On October 18, the church will celebrate its founding 150 years ago in 1848, the same year Wisconsin achieved statehood.

Formed in a rural farmhouse on October 18, 1848, members of the church attended to their spiritual needs while the church structure was built. The result was a church society that was to construct the holy Covenanter church ever to exist in Wisconsin.

The Covenanters were part of a movement in Scotland during the late 16th Century that strove to defend the Presbyterian Church, a stance that brought them persecution by the Church of England and the British Crown. Many left Scotland and during the ensuing centuries carried their faith to new countries. Founders of the church in the Town of Vernon were of Scottish and Irish descent.

An active local congregation supported the church for more than 65 years, but the members could not sustain its regular operations. In recent decades, an annual service has been held at the church each fall conducted by a visiting Presbyterian minister.

The church building, completed in 1854, and an adjacent buggy shed and its grounds have been maintained by the church's cemetery association to preserve their appearance. Directors of the association are exploring the possibility of placing the church on the National Register of Historic Places.

This Sunday, October 18th, the church will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a special service. Descendants of church pioneers now live as far away as New England, Florida, Hawaii and Canada.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to recognize and commend the Vernon Reformed Presbyterian Church, a house of worship carved from the wilderness 150 years ago, through the courage and dedication of our Wisconsin pioneers.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPE-
TITION AND CONSUMER PROTEC-
TION ACT OF 1998**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of H.R. 3888, the Anti-Slamming bill. This bill prohibits a despicable practice that has seen tremendous growth over the past few years in the telecommunications industry.

Many of us have received phone calls from phone carriers advocating that we switch to their calling plan. For many consumers, it is an annoyance that they could live without. Even worse is the practice of "slamming", which occurs when a solicitous phone company, without full and proper authorization, changes the consumer's phone subscription so that they can indicate as the consumer's phone provider.

Under H.R. 3888, this type of practice is prohibited. The bill requires, before changing a consumer's telecommunications subscription, that a soliciting phone carrier affirm that the subscriber is authorized to change phone subscriptions, and that the subscriber fully acknowledges and intends to switch their telecommunications service from one carrier to another.

Under this bill, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is required to enact verification procedures which are aimed at inhibiting this practice. Those procedures include the preclusion of negative option marketing, and a requirement that a telecommunications provider complete and keep a copy of a verification of change in oral, written, or electronic form in their records. Furthermore, to protect recent immigrants, the FCC is asked to require that any verification of change correspondence be made in the same language as the original solicitous contact was made.

The bill also includes a provision authorizing the FCC to sanction corporations that violate any of their prescribed procedures. To buttress those sanctions, the bill allows the FCC to award monetary damages to the victims of this practice. Typically, those damages are set at the actual damages to the consumer or \$500, whichever is greater, but the FCC can also at certain instances, triple the damages. This provisions removes the incentive to "slam" because it undercuts the reason why phone companies do it, because it is profitable.

I support this bill because it protects consumers, not phone companies. IT makes sure that phone subscribers will also get the opportunity to make a smart, and informed decision when choosing how they want to communicate to the rest of the world, without being subjected to the trickery of under-handed telemarketers.

I encourage you all to vote for this bill, and strike a blow against opportunistic phone companies out to make a quick dollar at the expense of our hard-working consumers.

HONORING ROBERT G. STAUF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise a man who for more than three decades has given himself to the education of our youth and to the betterment of his community.

Robert Stauf started teaching in the Bronx in 1984 after graduating from Fordham College. For the next few years he taught at St. Philip Nerl School while he furthered his studies at Hunter College, where he did graduate work in guidance and school counseling, and at Manhattan College, where he did graduate work in administration.