

steps of the Statue of Liberty and feel the warmth of heart that the immigrants felt when they first arrived in America. I need to look at the Liberty Bell with glistening eyes and understand its full meaning. To be a good American in the future, I must learn, understand, and accept all of America's past.

Right now, the opportunities to serve my country are limited, but are, by no means, small. For the land itself, I recycle, I put trash in the trashcans to keep our streets clean. I plant trees to keep our environment healthy. For my fellow citizens I keep myself clean and presentable, I work hard for my money, and buy American products. I do not judge others in an unjust manner, if at all. I abide by the great laws of the country, and I keep myself up to date with the current affairs of America. After all the opportunities and services that America will have provided me by the time I am twenty years old, I will be obliged, not by law but by choice, to give back. I feel that the best way to help America is to help others in the name of my country. I am provided with such an opportunity by organizations like the Peace Corps. Then, in my adult years, I shall be fully prepared to choose a job that will help fellow Americans. I shall work honestly, hard, and be a good citizen. I shall vote and pay my taxes on time. All these things may seem small and trivial to some, but to me, they are ways I can give back to a country that has given so much to me.

America is truly the land of opportunity. My service to America is to grab all the opportunity that is thrown my way and make the most out of it, so that later in my life as an American I am able and ready to provide such an opportunity for others.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE L. STRAIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William L. Strain, Assistant Director of the Communications Department at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. On March 31, Mr. Strain retired from the extension service after 45 years and two months of service.

Mr. Strain is a native of Morgan County, Alabama and a graduate of Morgan City Training School in Hartselle, Alabama. He graduated with honors from Tuskegee Institute where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to Mr. Strain's academic accomplishments, he served his country as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In 1958, Mr. Strain served the people of Alabama as an Assistant Negro County Agent in Butler County. He went on to serve similar positions in Coosa and Tuscaloosa Counties respectively. In 1971, he served as the plaintiff in the civil action landmark court case *Strain vs. Philpot*, which establish the tone to bring about equal opportunity for Extension minority employees and clients, throughout Alabama and the rest of the nation.

Ever since that landmark case, Mr. Strain continued to dedicate his life to improvements in the Extension Service. He served as a member of numerous professional associa-

tions and has received many awards for his outstanding leadership in higher education, development of community relations and professional involvement in local, state and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to add that I am honored to stand here today and congratulate Mr. Willie Strain. He was a trailblazer in his field and paved the way for many African-Americans.

GALBRAITH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX YEARS, 1843-1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers, members, and friends of the Galbraith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church for "156 Years of Charting Our Legacy Through Spirituality With an Unchangeable God."

Mr. Speaker, Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church was organized before slavery was abolished and while the city of Washington was still in its infancy. The church grew out of the efforts of the late Bishop Singleton T. Jones, then pastor of the Zion Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in Southwest Washington. He extended the borders of Zion by establishing a mission in the northwest section of the city. In 1843, with a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne on New Avenue, Northwest, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, the mission was established. Rev. Singleton T. Jones preached the sermon. Professor R.H. Dyson, Chorister of the then noted Clintonian Songsters, furnished the music. Six members joined the mission—Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne, and two other individuals whose names have been lost in history. Rev. Richard Tompkins, a local preacher from Zion Wesley Church, was appointed to take charge and served for approximately ten months.

The Mission struggled and fluctuated for a period of eight years until its reorganization in 1852, under the leadership of Rev. R.H.G. Dyson. The success of the Mission at this time was due primarily to the efforts and determination of Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and Mr. Julius Warren, the Assistant Class Leader to Rev. Dyson. The first building, a room 8 feet by 20 feet, was erected by Mr. Payne and was used for Sunday School and preaching services on Sunday, and for day school taught by Miss Martha Ross. As there were few facilities for the education of Black children in those days, the church served a double purpose.

After only two months, the church became too small for the congregation. Mr. Payne stretched a number of tents in the rear of the building, providing accommodations for three hundred people. In 1853, because of the danger and lack of protection from a band of lawless white men, who amused themselves by stoning the tents during services, Mr. Payne erected another home for the mission with two stories.

Upon the recommendation of Presiding Elder J.H. Hammer, Rev. Dyson joined the Annual Conference May, 1853, and was again sent to the Mission. In the fall of 1852, a lot

was purchased on L Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, Northwest for \$225.00. The owner, Dr. Hall, donated \$25.00 for the purchase price, and Brothers Julius Warren and Payne each paid \$25.00 for a deed of trust. Mr. Naylor, a builder and contractor, agreed to build a church for a reasonable sum to be paid in small amounts. The cornerstone was laid in 1853, the first to be laid by the Colored Masons of Washington. Rev. Dyson selected the name "Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Chapel" in memory of Bishop George Galbraith. The dedication was March 1854.

Mr. Speaker, this city is grateful for the spiritual guidance and the progressive leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Frederick B. Massey, Sr., and those who preceded him, coupled with the cooperation of the officers and members of Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JANE ZEIS, IN CELEBRATION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jane Zeis. On Friday, April 30, 1999, Jane Zeis will retire from her position as Clerk at the Ottawa County Board of Elections.

Jane Zeis is truly a committed employee and a valuable asset to the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Having started as a part-time employee in early January of 1978, Jane worked diligently as Ottawa County began to register its voters, and very soon thereafter was hired to a permanent, full-time position. Her dedicated efforts and outstanding contributions over the past twenty-one years have enabled Ottawa County to have one of the best Boards of Elections in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Zeis embodies the very spirit of American workmanship through her conscientious attention to detail. In doing her job of processing changes of address, absentee balloting, and ensuring the country's precinct maps are up-to-date, among many others, Jane has performed utterly wonderfully. Her meticulous organizational skills and motivation have produced a thorough and complete county planning commission guide including precinct, school, and congressional district information.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is very evident that Jane Zeis has given freely of her time and energy to assist in the preservation of American ideals. Our electoral process is the backbone of our nation, and those individuals, like Jane Zeis, who worked hard to make that system free and democratic are true American patriots.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jane Zeis. On the occasion of her retirement from the Ottawa County Board of Elections, we thank her for her service and we wish her all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL
LAWRENCE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to reiterate my admiration for our men and women in uniform. These courageous soldiers risk their lives daily, both on and off the battlefield.

Our soldiers give the ultimate level of commitment by defending freedom, not just for the citizens of this great country, but also for others around the world. Today the soldiers in the Baltic region are specifically in our thoughts. We all look forward to their quick and safe return home to their families.

Our military forces are a magnificent team. All the branches of service work together to ensure the security for our nation. Whether these soldiers are training at home or defending freedom abroad, this well-oiled machine has become one of the best fighting forces the world has ever known.

Recently there was a tragic loss in my District at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. A Marine soldier heroically gave his life during a daily training exercise and in turn saved the life of a fellow Marine. The quick thinking of Corporal Bobby J. Lawrence saved his partner, but sadly took the life of this bright young man. Thank you Corporal Lawrence for your honor. You are truly the optome of what makes our military great, and this country will forever be proud to claim you as a United States Marine. Our thoughts and gratitude are with your family.

Mr. Speaker, we should never forget the dedication of the men and women for our Armed Services. The courage shown by Corporal Lawrence is an example of the price some often pay so that others can enjoy freedom. The sacrifices of our brave military personnel should not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WELFARE
TO WORK AMENDMENTS OF 1999

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform, we must confront two hard truths. First, as welfare rolls decline, those remaining on assistance are increasingly likely to be those who have multiple barriers to employment, such as low levels of education, language barriers, disabilities, and substance abuse problems. These barriers will require major investments to overcome—certainly far greater resources than provided to many of those who have left welfare over the last few years. This issue becomes even more important when you consider that by the end of 1999, recipients and their children will have reached welfare time limits in 19 states. And second, the primary responsibility for raising low-income children is too often left solely to mothers. It is true the welfare reform law

strengthened our Nation's child support enforcement system, but that does not address situations in which non-custodial fathers want to support their children but do not have a job. In short, our current programs and policies do not make a clear enough distinction between deadbeat dads and dead broke dads.

To address these two critical issues, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Welfare to Work program. The bill would provide \$1 billion in FY 2000 to help long-term and hard-to-employ welfare recipients join the work force and to help non-custodial parents support their children. The legislation would extend the Welfare to Work (WtW) program established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which provided \$1.5 billion a year in FY 1998 and FY 1999 for states and local communities to help move a long-term welfare recipients in high poverty areas into jobs and help them succeed in the work force.

By providing greater flexibility to States and localities, the legislation would make substantial improvements to the original WtW program. The focus would continue to be on long-term recipients or the fathers of their children, but the program would be considerably simpler to operate. For example, under this proposal, eligible participants would be those which meet at least one, rather than two, barriers to employment. Furthermore, the list of barriers would be expanded to include with disabilities, those who are homeless, or those who have been victims of domestic violence. In addition, the first barrier listed in current law, which requires that the recipient not have a high school diploma and have low skills in reading or math would be split into two categories in order to serve those who gained a degree but whose low skills still form a major barrier to employment. And finally, the bill would allow States to offer vocational education to WtW participants and allow services to be provided to children aging out of the foster care system.

Noncustodial fathers will also face simpler eligibility requirements, so long as they agree to establish paternity and to pay child support once they are employed. The importance of non-custodial fathers in children's lives is often forgotten, except when it is time to collect child support. The majority of children on welfare live with a single parent, and only about 20% of them receive child support from their noncustodial parent. The vast majority of these noncustodial parents are either unemployed or only able to obtain intermittent, low-wage employment. Assisting these fathers in finding and keeping employment and increasing their earnings is therefore critical to enhancing child support payments and to increasing their involvement in their children's lives. For these reasons, at least 20% of new formula funds would be targeted to noncustodial parents.

Under this proposal, as under current law, about 75 percent of Welfare-to-Work funds will be allocated to States on a formula basis, with 85 percent of these funds passed through to local Private Industry Councils of Workforce Boards. The remaining 25 percent of the funds will continue to be awarded on a competitive basis by the Department of Labor to support innovative projects by a variety of private and public organizations.

In 1998, the first year of the WtW program, 44 States, the District of Columbia, Guam,

Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received Welfare-to-Work formula grants. Approximately \$368 million in competitive grants have also been awarded by the Department of Labor to 126 grantees in communities throughout the country. A third round of competitive grants will be awarded in 1999, with high priority for applications which focus on recipients or non-custodial parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, substance abuse problems, or a history of domestic violence. It is worth noting that there was only sufficient resources to fund one out of every ten applications for the first two rounds of the competitive grant program.

In Baltimore, Maryland, part of which I represent in Congress, the City Office of Employment Development received a 1998 competitive grant of \$3.3 million to provide comprehensive services to recipients and non-custodial fathers in public housing. Participants will work for 6 months in supported jobs (while also getting life skills training), and then be placed in unsubsidized employment. Baltimore is also the headquarters for three major national efforts supported by \$16.5 million in Welfare-to-Work competitive funds. The efforts are managed by Marriot International, by Johns Hopkins University, and by the Enterprise Foundation. In each case, these nationally recognized organizations will be testing innovative, work-oriented strategies focused on job retention, skills development and career advancement.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare to Work program helps the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients make the transition to employment. I urge all of my colleagues to support this extension of the program to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform not only in reducing dependency but also in reducing poverty.

IN HONOR OF THE 1ST ANNUAL
DONOR AWARENESS BIKE-A-THON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon which will occur on Sunday, April 25. This event, which consists of an eleven mile course around Lake Quinsigamond, will raise awareness and money for the University of Massachusetts Memorial Blood Donor Center, the HLA Registry Foundation, Inc., and The New England Organ Bank. Individuals and their families who have donated or received blood products, bone marrow and organ and tissue transplants will be there to bike for and/or lend their support to the issue of supply and demand for these "Gifts of Life."

As we draw attention to this event, the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon, it is important to remember that every day in the United States fifteen individuals die for lack of an organ, ten die for lack of a compatible bone marrow match, and countless others are dependent upon blood transfusions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to commend the organizers and participants of this event for their great efforts.