

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LANA BOLDI, UAW
REGION I-D

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has dedicated over 23 years to the United Automobile Workers, Lana Boldi. As an International Representative for UAW Region I-D, her remarkable achievements as a CAP Coordinator have brought so many families and communities together in an effort to educate and promote political action and community service. As members of UAW Region I-D gathered together on November 3, 2001 to bid farewell to Lana, a longtime friend and advocate of the labor movement, they honored her retirement with a celebration of memories, laughter, and fun.

A leader and an activist all her life, Lana Boldi was the first female apprentice in the Fisher Body Corporation. She was a past Vice President and Chairperson of the UAW/CAP Council of Kalamazoo County, Chairperson of UAW Local 488's Community Service Committee, and Chairperson of the Labor Participation Committee of the United Way in Kalamazoo County. She was a founding Chairperson and Vice President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in the Kalamazoo area, and on the National Task Force of CLUW, specializing in Apprenticeships for women. Her leadership continues today, as she is Chair of the Kent County Democratic Party Executive Board, of which she has been Vice Chair of for the past five years, and continues to sit on so many other boards and committees.

Demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment throughout the years, Lana Boldi has truly led her community in a new direction, creating and developing programs that have advanced UAW Region I-D's political and community outreach services. She was a Chairperson of the Labor Task Force for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease, a board member of the Michigan State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention group, and a board member of the Community Coordinated Child Care of Kent County. Additionally, Lana's outstanding efforts have not gone unrecognized, as she has been honored with prestigious awards from the Grand Rapids YWCA, MEA Region 9, and the Michigan House to name a few. Lana Boldi's crusade to raise the standards of activism and community outreach programs is one that will be remembered by citizens of this community for years to come.

I applaud Lana Boldi for her leadership and commitment, and thank her for dedicating her life serving her community and UAW Region I-D. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her for her exemplary years of service.

IN HONOR OF LORETTA A.
WASHINGTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Loretta A. Washington in recognition of her service to her community and her commitment to God.

Loretta A. Washington was born in Brooklyn. The first of six children, she attended Wingate High School and then went on to Edison College in Florida. Her desire to succeed led her back to New York where she continued her education at Baruch College.

Loretta and her husband, Michael have two beautiful children, Chanelle and Micah. Loretta began her career in banking at Chemical Bank (before it became Chase) in the early 1980s. Starting as a teller, she worked her way up the corporate ladder. Loretta understood that education had to be at the top of her list and God at the beginning of the list. She challenged the way things were done at the branch, ruffling feathers along the way; however, she was able to win over the staff and customers with a combination of her kindness, business sense and smile.

In the summer of 1999, a Branch manager position opened at the Bedford Avenue branch and Loretta jumped at the opportunity to enhance her career. She welcomed the opportunity to make a difference in the community in which she lived her entire life.

Loretta's primary focus is to impart her financial knowledge to businesses in the community, in hopes of building and improving financial awareness for all. She is dedicated to God and the community in which he allows her to serve. Her motto is, "Let's serve the people with a smile!"

Mr. Speaker, Loretta A. Washington serves her community and her religious beliefs through her work. As such she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly dedicated spiritual woman.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES THAT VET-
ERANS DAY CONTINUE TO BE
OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 298 sponsored by Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN that ensures November 11 remains a day solely committed to United States Veterans, a separate day from any other federal holiday, day for federal elections, or day for national observances.

Veterans Day is a day of celebration, a day of remembrance, and a day of thanks. It is a day when we celebrate the challenges that our country has faced and the moments in America's history where we have united on land, air, and sea to fight for our country and to ensure security, happiness, and safety for our world's people. It is the one day a year when we remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives' for our country, its ideals, and its foundation of personal freedom. It is a day to remember the families of the victims who may have lost a son, daughter, husband or wife during times of war. And above all, it is a day of thanks for the 25.5 million veterans today who look towards the American flag with such feeling of pride, devotion, and American spirit and who define what it is to be an American.

United States veterans truly are some of our nation's bravest citizens. They not only risked their own lives but sacrificed time away from their loved ones to protect our country. Because of their sacrifice this day of honor should remain solely theirs. Since November 11, 1919, we have been acknowledging these men and women annually. It would be a tragedy if we try to combine their memorial with other days of observance.

As Chairman of the VA/HUD Subcommittee for the past three years, I have had the privilege of working very closely with veterans and their various organizations. A day in their honor is the least we can do to acknowledge the pledge they have made to a grateful nation.

TRIBUTE TO GURMALE SINGH
GREWAL, 2001 DEVELOPER OF
THE YEAR

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man whose leadership and achievements span the decades and who has touched the lives of so many across southeastern Michigan, Gurmale Singh Grewal, or Gary, as many of his friends and associates have come to know him. As members of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Apartment Association of Michigan gathered together on November 27, 2001 for their Leadership Recognition and Awards Night, they honored Gurmale Singh Grewal as their 2001 "Developer of the Year".

As Singh Development Company CEO and a distinguished businessman, Gary has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to his family, work, and community for many years. Beginning in 1921, Gary's grandfather, Sarwan S. Grewal, left his village in India for the United States, heading to California and then settling in Detroit. With a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

strong interest in land and building development, Sarwan Grewal purchased the Wolverine Hotel in Detroit, which today is the current location of Comerica Park. Believing firmly in the traditions of family, hard work, and advancement, he brought his grandsons, Tahil, Lushman, Jeat, and Gurmale to the United States for their education. Upon the death of Sarwan, they unanimously agreed to carry on in their grandfather's footsteps. Gary received a degree in Business in 1973 from Wayne State University, and in that same year established the Singh Development Company, Ltd. Chosen as the company's CEO in 1973, Gurmale still heads Singh Development today, now a third generation, family-owned and operated company.

With current developments in many metropolitan Detroit area communities including Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Canton, Detroit, Novi, Northville, Rochester Hills, West Bloomfield, and Wixom, Singh developments comprise over 5,000 multi-family and senior apartments, 2,100 single family homes, and over 400,000 square feet of commercial property space. Today, Singh Development Company, Ltd. is one of the oldest Indian-owned companies in the United States.

The Grewal family is also one of the oldest Sikh Indian families in the United States, and as Sikhs carry the honor in northwest India of being the "Lions" or "Warriors" through their shared middle name Singh, they strive to protect of all that is good. The Grewal family carries the Singh name with pride, and Gary and his family truly reflect this in their business ethics and practices today.

Gary, like his grandfather before him, carries on the traditions of family, hard work, and advancement, and it is practice of these principles that has truly been the driving force in the success of Singh Development. He is a distinguished businessman, family man, and a leader in his community. It gives me great pleasure to honor Gary, for his leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of dedication.

IN HONOR OF BERTA MAY BARKER
DYER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Berta May Barker Dyer in recognition of her commitment to her community and her family.

Berta May Barker Dyer is a native of Costa Rica. She lived in Colon, Panama for several years before she moved to the United States and became a citizen.

Berta's first career was as an elementary-school teacher. After some consideration, she decided to put aside her career as an educator and take care of her eleven children. Recognizing the importance of education, she supported and encouraged her children's pursuit of professional careers. Several of them became professionals working in the areas of education, cosmetics, electricity, medicine, the U.S. Marines, the airline industry, and housewives. She credits her parents the late Joney Dyer de Barker and Steven Parchment with instilling the importance of education in her as well as a guiding and nurturing spirit.

At Berta's tender age of seventy-one she has a wonderful rapport with her thirty-three grandchildren and enjoys visiting with her five great grandchildren in Colon, Panama. She still finds time to read and preach to several of her grandchildren about the importance of education.

Berta is a devout Seventh Day Adventist who credits her strong religious background to her beloved stepfather, Amos Barker Clark (aka "Pa"). She is a member of several community organizations. As a retired Nursing Assistant, she acts as a missionary reaching out to the sick and shut ins throughout her Brooklyn community. In addition, Berta is an avid seamstress who crochets and embroiders as a hobby.

Mr. Speaker, Berta May Barker Dyer has lead a life dedicated to her community and her family. As such she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like the record to reflect that, had I been present on December 5, 2001, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call Nos. 472, 473, 474, and 475. Thank you.

NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives passed an important bill, the American Indian Small Business Development Act, and I was pleased to support it. This bill creates a three-year pilot program that would provide grants to Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) for the purpose of assisting Native Americans start or expand a small business. These pilot projects will complement programs already in place that are designed to provide culturally-tailored business development assistance by allowing Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians to access additional one-on-one counseling and other technical assistance that is provided by the SBDCs.

I am proud of the successful work that the SBDCs perform in Minnesota. They provided support and long-term counseling services last year to over 3,500 existing and prospective businesses, including to 77 Native Americans. With the bill we passed today, they will be able to expand and respond even more to the overwhelming need for assistance in our Native American communities.

Mr. Speaker, some Tribal leaders in Minnesota are concerned that the bill today doesn't include the Native American Business Development Centers. These centers were created to address unique Native American

cultural and economic problems and opportunities that were not being addressed by the Small Business Administration. I share their concern. However, I feel that we need to create as many opportunities as possible for Native American entrepreneurs and look forward to working with the SBDCs and Minnesota tribes to make sure these resources are put to good use.

The average unemployment rate on Indian lands is 45 percent. Congress has a responsibility to make sure we support all programs that are designed to foster economic development and to assist Native Americans to create new small business opportunities. I'm pleased we addressed this issue today and look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure all programs benefiting Native Americans are fully supported by this Congress.

KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY
PROMISE INITIATIVE

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, the success of Social Security in reducing poverty among the elderly and providing essential income security to America's workers and their families is well known. Without Social Security, nearly half of our seniors would live in poverty. Yet Social Security faces significant financial challenge ahead. Unless we modernize the program's Depression-era financial structure, program income will not cover the full cost of paying promised benefits soon after the baby-boomers begin retiring.

Today we must make clear to every American that as we determine the best way to save Social Security for our kids and grandkids, we will not place undue burdens on today's retirees and workers by reducing benefits or increasing taxes.

Social Security provides at least half of retirement income for over two-thirds of seniors and 100 percent of income for almost 1 in 5 seniors. Reducing Social Security benefits would have serious consequences for the majority of seniors and would increase their number in poverty, which is why we must find ways to strengthen Social Security without cutting benefits.

Social Security is also one of the largest financial obligations of many families. For over three-fourths of American families, the payroll tax is their largest tax liability. Increasing this tax burden would hit low- and middle-income families the hardest. In addition, it would reduce the already low rates of return on these contributions that workers may expect. So we must find ways to strengthen Social Security without increasing taxes.

As we debate how to strengthen Social Security, we must also keep in mind the obstacles women face in ensuring financial security for themselves and their families in the event of retirement, disability or death. Social Security plays an essential role in providing income security for women, without which over half would live in poverty. As we consider program improvements, we must not consider reducing the benefits or cost-of-living increases that are so important to women.