

guardians, and 5 by recruited families. The center also assisted more than 900 juvenile delinquents through counseling, mentoring and reintegration services. The center had operating revenues of approximately \$12 million in 2002, and over 85 cents of every dollar received was spent on program services. Currently the center employs 200 people.

The center was founded in Flint, Michigan, in 1978. The founder is child advocate Robert E. Ennis. Mr. Ennis started the center with \$6,000, which he borrowed from a friend, and a responsibility to 33 foster children. Today the center is operating in four locations, 20100 Greenfield Rd., Detroit; 2921 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit; 3650 Dixie Highway, Waterford; and 129 E. Third Avenue, Flint, Michigan. Ennis Center for Children has been noted as one of Michigan's largest minority-led non-profit organizations of its kind.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask that my colleagues in the 108th Congress join me in recognizing Ennis Center for Children on their 25th anniversary for dedication and service to the children and families of Southeast Michigan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to introduce the "Holocaust Victims Insurance Fairness Act"—legislation to provide states with the authority to assist survivors of the Holocaust.

Before and during the Holocaust, millions of European Jews purchased life insurance policies with certain European insurance companies as a form of savings and investment for the future. After World War II, however, insurance companies rejected many claims presented by Holocaust survivors or heirs of Holocaust victims because the claimants lacked the requisite documentation such as death certificates that had been confiscated by the Nazi regime.

Some families have tried for years to obtain promised benefits, but insurance companies continue to demand that the survivors produce non-existent documents. In 1998, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) was established to address the issue of unpaid insurance policies and to expedite payouts to Holocaust victims.

ICHEIC has received over 90,000 claims, but has only made a few thousand settlement offers. This shortfall has forced disillusioned claimants to turn to the states for assistance in obtaining the swift justice they deserve. To continue to deny these claims would be a further injustice to these survivors and would only serve to perpetuate the horrible acts that occurred years ago.

In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court in *ALA v. Garamendi* recently struck down a California law aimed at assisting thousands of Holocaust survivors and their families in collecting on millions of dollars of outstanding Holocaust-era insurance policies. The court narrowly rejected the right of states to require insurance companies doing business in their

state to disclose information about Holocaust survivor insurance policies.

The court in *Garamendi* maintained that the president's preference is for Holocaust-era insurance claims to be handled by the International Commission of Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims—an approach that has wholly failed Holocaust victims.

I believe that states should have the authority to assist survivors of the Holocaust to recover benefits from policies lost or stolen before and during these tragic events. Therefore, I am introducing legislation to specifically allow states to collect insurance information for victims of the Holocaust. Unlike similar pieces of legislation that have been introduced, the "Holocaust Victims Insurance Fairness Act" also explicitly expresses Congressional disapproval of any Executive branch policy or agreement that preempts State efforts to collect insurance information for victims of the Holocaust to resolve outstanding claims. Please join me in this effort to finally provide justice to those who have been denied it for so long.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Speaker, as an educator and avid reader, it's always a special pleasure for me to visit a library or a museum. Libraries and museums safeguard our freedom and keep democracy healthy. They preserve the past and offer brighter futures to all of us, and their resources surely benefit every community member. That is why I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 13, the Museum and Library Services Act.

Libraries are often referred to as the "People's University." It is a fitting name. Libraries provide all of us with free access to a fabulous wealth of information. In this increasingly technology-driven society, they speak directly to what we call the Digital Divide. A recent survey by the Department of Commerce found that our libraries are the number one point of access for those who do not have Internet access at home or at work. Today, 90 percent of public libraries have some kind of Internet connection.

Research also shows us that Americans visit libraries 3.5 billion times each year; 1.6 billion items are borrowed annually from public libraries; and research librarians answer 7 million questions every week. Clearly libraries are responding not only to the daunting challenges of the Information Age and to the changing needs of our communities, but they are continuing to serve all of their traditional roles as well.

Libraries are also true community centers. They create environments where students can do their homework, townspeople can gather, families can interact, seniors can learn new skills, and job seekers can find advice. They are forums building partnerships, linking with everyone from garden clubs to Head Start programs to extend their reach throughout our communities.

Throughout our country, libraries serve as the catalyst for economic revitalization, bring-

ing together our communities civic and social leaders. They provide reading material for people of all ages by sending books into maternity wards, setting up reading stations in pediatrician's offices, developing teen centers, and establishing mobile book carts in nursing homes and senior centers.

At my own public library in Princeton, I can see improvements that are traceable to this authorization bill. The library is in the process of constructing a state of the art library security, inventory, and circulation system that will allow library users to automatically check in and check out books. Because of the Museum and Library Services Act, New Jersey residents will gain greater access to the resources available at their local public library.

Similarly, our nation's museums serve as community centers that offer people of every age access to our nation's cultural and natural heritage. Museums' special role in public education fixes on their unique capacity to provide the public with an interactive environment in which to better understand our communities, our nation, and our world.

From local art museums to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., museums are gathering places for people to meet and spend meaningful time with families and friends.

The educational role of museums is at the core of their service to the public. People of all ages and backgrounds come to learn from the collections, exhibits and programs created by museums through their research and scholarship. Museums across the nation provide more than 18 million instructional hours of educational programs, including professional development for our nation's teachers, guided field trips to our students, staff visits to local schools, and traveling exhibits in our communities. Annually, they spend more than \$1 billion to share these activities with us.

Museums also have forged a deeply-rooted connection to the local communities that have created and cherished them. Americans from all income and education ranges visit museums, and each visit provides a wealth of information about our nation's heritage and our opportunities for the future. Across the country, there are 2.3 million museum visits each, adding up to 865 million visits per year. There are more than 15,000 museums in the United States and 90 percent of counties in America have at least one museum—75% of them considered to be small and 43% located in rural areas.

The 12th District of New Jersey is home to the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, which was recently awarded a Museum Assessment Grant. This grant will provide the museum with technical assistance that will be invaluable in fulfilling its goal to educate the public. The New Jersey State Museum was one of the first state museums founded with this educational mission, and today it is home to a large collection of artifacts detailing archaeological, cultural, and artistic history. For all residents of central New Jersey, this museum offers exciting opportunities to learn about local history, to explore the far reaches of outer space at its planetarium, and to share time with family members at educational workshops. This museum—and the numerous others in the 12th District of New Jersey—enrich the lives of thousands of residents each year.

Mr. Speaker, Carl Rowan, a noted journalist, once said, "The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people

than all the wars in history." With the passage of H.R. 13, the Museum and Library Services Act, future generations of Americans can enjoy the rich cultural and educational opportunities available to them through our nation's museums and libraries.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK, 2003

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia Union University during National Historically Black Colleges and Universities week. Historically Black Colleges and Universities have played an integral role in the higher education of students all across America.

Virginia Union University of Richmond, Virginia has been an institution of higher learning since 1870. Virginia Union University continually works hard to provide its students with a first-class education and stay competitive with larger, public schools.

During the last four years, Virginia Union University has achieved accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, established a campus-wide wireless infrastructure, renovated residence and dining halls, added a forensic-science program, and expanded the school of theology.

America values the legacy and the contributions Historically Black Colleges and University graduates make to our country. The viability of Virginia Union University and all institutions of higher learning is of paramount importance to the future security of America.

I look forward to a strong and continued working relationship with Virginia Union University faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the days ahead. I also want to thank Virginia Union University Provost and Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Weldon Hill, for his valued service to the University since 1982. Without his involvement, the completion of the Lombardy Street project would not be possible.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND CHU

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond Chu of Boulder. Mr. Chu died in Colorado on May 24th of this year at Rocky Mountain National Park at the age of 78. Throughout his life, he demonstrated his dedication to the earth, all people, and animals.

Raymond Chu was born Oct. 10, 1924 in Shanghai, China. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Antioch College in Ohio. A few years later, in 1959, he married Janet Pattee in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Mr. Chu proudly served as a B-52 pilot in the Chinese National Air Force and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy.

During his life, Raymond Chu made countless contributions to our Colorado community. Those who had the good fortune to work with

him at the National Center for Atmospheric Research will not soon forget his long and distinguished career. Nor will he be forgotten by the people who benefited from the many respiratory appliances that he created and patented. Raymond was known for his translations from Chinese script to English for his fellow high school graduates, and he was a noted speaker on the subject of the China-Burma theater of World War II.

We will remember Mr. Chu as an environmentalist, an inventor, and most importantly, a loving father and husband. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Raymond Chu and the outstanding contributions of his life.

HONORING DR. DONALD CAPPS AND HIS WIFE, BETTY FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Donald Capps and his wife, Betty for their leadership and 50 years of service to the blind in South Carolina.

Dr. Donald C. Capps, a lifelong resident of South Carolina, became legally blind in 1953. Capps, a fighter for social change for the underprivileged, attended the South Carolina School for the Blind and the public schools of this state. Upon graduation from high school, Capps received his diploma from Draughton's Business College.

He excelled after college in the vocational arena as a staff manager at Colonial life and Accident Insurance Company. Capps is married and has two children. He began his struggle for the blind with the movement to create the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina (NFB of SC).

The NFB was originally known as the Aurora Club. Capps served several two-year terms as president of this organization—a position he currently holds.

Under Capps' leadership, his state organization has been responsible for the success of many initiatives to improve programs and services for the blind in this state. During his tenure as president of the state organization, 19 pieces of legislation affecting the blind have been passed in South Carolina, including the model White Cane Law.

A major accomplishment of the South Carolina affiliate under Capps' leadership was the 1966 establishment of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, an independent state agency. Among his many activities, Capps is editor of the Palmetto Blind, the quarterly publication of the NFB of SC. In 1960 he directed a campaign which led to the construction of the Columbia Chapter's education and training center, which was expanded in 1970 and again in 1978.

Even though Capps has worked for the blind community, he has not been selfish in his endeavors to assist all the state's disabled population. Named to the Governor's committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped in 1963, Capps also was honored in 1964 as Handicapped Citizen of the Year by the City of Columbia and by the State.

Capps, an active member of the Kilbourne Baptist Church, serves as a deacon and member of the church personnel committee.

His honors in working with the blind continue to cross any avenues. He was the recipient of the prestigious Jacobus tenBroek Award, presented to the blind American considered to have made dedicated and outstanding contributions to the blind. In the many years of its existence, the award has only been presented three times.

Donald C. Capps Fellowship Hall at the Federation Center of the Blind was named in his honor for his lifetime service.

In 1981 Donald Capps was appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. He is the first blind member to be appointed to the policy-making board. In May 2001, Capps was given an honorary Doctorate of Public Service degree during commencement exercises at the University of South Carolina Spartanburg.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOANNE STOCKDALE, IOWA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Joanne Stockdale on the great honor of being named Iowa Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration. It is because of the excellent reputation that she established since purchasing Northern Iowa Die Casting, Inc. in 1984, that she deserves this recognition. Small businesses are the backbone of Iowa's economy, and it takes true entrepreneurial spirit and determination to ride economic waves in order to remain successful. It is to her credit that Northern Iowa Die Casting, Inc. has grown from six to 100 employees, with sales soaring from \$225,000 to \$10 million. She is to be commended for bringing jobs and commerce to Lake Park, Iowa.

I also recognize her for the great honor of representing Iowa small business at the National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo held this week in Washington, D.C., while competing for the national Small Business Person of the Year Award.

As a small business owner for 28 years, I have great personal appreciation for both the struggles she faces and the joys of seeing the fruits of her labor. Since arriving at the U.S. Congress in January, I have made small business a legislative priority, and my work on the Small Business Committee has already enabled me to assist in creating legislation that will help small business leaders like Joanne Stockdale.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 10, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R.