years she has worked at the board of education in Public School 87 in the Bronx where she was a school lunch aide. But it was the personality and charm she brought to the kitchen which made it distinct. Mrs. DiMeo turned this into an area where teachers would come to relax, to talk about work and themselves, to take that vital time which reinvigorates us. That kitchen was such a center of the school that the principals would drop in to become a closer part of that small community. Mrs. DiMeo personifies the person we all remember who made school more like home than an institution, the one we always speak foundly of. As a former teacher I can appreciate the atmosphere created by such a person. I have also had the opportunity to witness first hand the warmth and charm of this caring individual. She is the mother-in-law of my administrative assistant, John Calvelli.

On the evening of Friday, April 11, 1997, members and friends of PS 87 will be hosting a dinner to celebrate a new chapter in Mrs. DiMeo's life: her retirement. I salute her and thank her for all she has given to the school, its teachers and its students, and consequently to our community. I look forward to sharing many special events in the coming years with her and the entire DiMeo family.

IN HONOR OF REV. THOMAS BOYD OF THE SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROOKLYN, NY

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I congratulate today an exemplary community and religious leader, Rev. Thomas Boyd of the Salem Missionary Baptist Church. He has devoted 50 years of his life to the church, 37 of those to the Salem Missionary Baptist Church alone.

Reverend Boyd has been an invaluable spiritual leader. He plays a vitally important role in the community to the many who over the years have come to depend on his warm heart and kind words. His dedication and service to the church is testament to what a commitment, in this case to the faith, requires of us all. His leadership is inspirational and extends well beyond the reaches of his congregation. As public servants we should draw from his example and strive to emulate this level of commitment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending a hearty congratulations to Reverend Boyd for his 50 years of religious service. And also to the Salem Missionary Baptist Church, for providing him a base from which to build a spiritual home for the people of Brooklyn.

TENNESSEE CLASS A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, may it be known that the Vikings of Perry County High School in Perry County, TN, are Class A basketball champions. The feat gave Perry County High School its sixth State Championship Trophy for basketball since 1955.

Twenty-eight times during their regular season, these Vikings took to the hardwood floors of Tennessee's high school gymnasiums to measure their metal. And those 28 competitions brought upon them the inspiring thrill of success and victory. Indeed, their numerous regular season achievements, coupled with a sheer desire to win, would carry them to victory throughout the district, regional, sub-State, and the pinnacle of high school basketball, the State Tournament.

Coach Bruce Slatten is to be commended for such a fine year of coaching. Without his unwavering guidance and devotion to his players, this team would likely not have been the same. Seniors Phillip Carroll, Kirk Haston, Chris Jones, and Chad Marrs undoubtedly showed team leadership throughout the year. Other players who made this team a success include Cory Brown, Nick Coble, Shannon Hamm, Ben Mercer, Mitchell Rhodes, Blake Warren, Barton Coble, Clay Pope, Josh Warren, Dan McEwen, and Josh Walker. Team managers Kenny Tohn, Adam Trull, and Ryan Parnell lent helping hands, as did statisticians Jeremy Hester and Troy Himes, and cameraman Michael Jones.

Four Vikings would go on to earn All-State Tournament honors—Cory Brown, Kirk Haston, Chris Jones, and Mitchell Rhodes. Mr. Haston was named the Single A State Tournament's ''Most Valuable Player,'' and for the second year in a row, was named ''Mr. Basketball'' in Tennessee Single A basketball.

I am proud to see Perry County High School uphold its winning and championship tradition in high school basketball, and wish this team the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FARMER

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 55 years ago this month, the first sit-in took place. It was at the Jack Spratt Coffee Shop in Chicago, IL. It was conceived, organized, and led by James Farmer.

Fifty years ago, in 1947, in followup to the 1946 Supreme Court ruling that blacks could not be forced to sit in the back of buses traveling interstate, Farmer led CORE members in a challenge to the practice of segregated seating. On what he called the journey of reconciliation, they traveled through Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Some members of that group, including Bayard Rustin, were arrested and served 30 days on a chain gang in North Carolina for having violated local segregation laws.

These are among the little known but critical events on the road to equal rights and equal protection under the law in the United States. Better known are the Freedom Rides. James Farmer orchestrated them, too.

Tireless and committed, Jim Farmer led 13 of us—an interracial group of young men and women whom he had helped train in the Ghandian principles of direct action and nonviolence—on a journey toward freedom, through the deep South. There was violence all around. Our buses were burned. We were beaten. But, we never turned back.

The Freedom Rides catapulted Birmingham police commissioner, Bull Connor, onto the front page of major newspapers around the world. The Freedom Rides opened Bobby Kennedy's eyes to the intransigence of Southern segregationists and the need for the Federal Government to intervene in the struggle for civil rights. And the Freedom Rides brought down the white only and colored signs that had been hung over every bus seat, terminal bench, toilet, and water fountain in the South.

Although he was one of the ''Big Six'' leaders of the civil rights movement, a planner of the 1963 march on Washington and scheduled to speak at the march, Jim Farmer didn't make it to the march. He was in jail in Louisiana at the time; and, while he could have been released, he chose to stay with the 200 others who had marched in Plaquemine earlier in the week protesting the inhumane treatment of black people in that parish.

Almost a month later, the Plaquemine protesters were released. However, the only way Farmer was able to escape Louisiana was in a coffin in the back of a hearse. The State troopers had vowed to find him and kill.

Referred to as a ''young negro aristocrat,'' Farmer was born in Texas, where his father was the first black person to earn a Ph.D. degree. Today, he is 77 years old. He is blind. He has lost the use of both of his legs. He is not in good health.

He is still teaching at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA, where is he Distinguished Professor of History and American Studies. He continues to inspire his students and all those who come in contact with him to set goals, direct their actions, lead, be creative, have vision and keep the faith.

I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to James Farmer, one of our Nation's greatest heros, his work, his legacy, and his life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY ACT OF 1997

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the Fair Pay Act [FPA], a bill that would require employers to pay equal wages to employees in comparable jobs in an effort to remedy the pay inequities which women continue to endure. I introduce the bill today, the day before Pay Inequity Day, because that is the day on which women finally earn what men earned in the previous calendar year. I have introduced this legislation each Congress with increasing support in both the House and the Senate, and I hope to have even more support in the 105th Congress. The bill already has 25 original cosponsors.

American families are becoming more and more dependent on women's wages. Today, 40 percent of all working women have children under 18. In two-parent families, 66 percent of the women work, and the number of female-headed households has more than doubled since 1970.

Although most American families today must rely heavily on women's wages, women continue to earn less than their male counterparts