private employers. Instead, the Department of Labor is authorized under Executive Order 12196 to conduct inspections of agency workplaces ''when the Secretary [of Labor] determines necessary if an agency does not have occupational safety and health committees; or in response to reports of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions, upon request of occupational safety and health committees . . .; or, in the case of a report of an imminent danger, when such a committee has not responded to an employee who has alleged to it that the agency has not adequately responded to a report.'' In such cases, the Department of Labor is required to follow up its inspection with a report to the head of the agency. In addition, under the executive order, the Secretary of Labor submits an annual report to the President on each federal agency's workplace safety and health performance. However, neither the Department of Labor nor the state agencies which enforce OSHA requirements in 23 states have the legal authority to require the Postal Service to comply with OSHA requirements, or to issue citations or penalties against the Postal Service for violations of OSHA requirements.

As my colleagues may know, I have been working for some time on much needed reforms of the workers compensation system for federal employees, known as the Federal Employees Compensation Act, or FECA, which is also the workers compensation program which covers Postal Service employees. The present program is expensive, has not been updated for years, continues to be afflicted by cases of fraud and abuse, and in many cases discourages employees' return to work. Measured by either total compensation costs or numer of claims, Postal Service employees comprise one of the largest components of FECA.

During a hearing held on the FECA program on March 24 by the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, a representative of the American Postal Workers Union claimed that ''[in] our experience, the federal government's workplace safety and health program remains inadequate and deficient, and this is where the greatest savings could and should be achieved in the costs associated with workers injured on the job in the line of duty.''

While I certainly do not share the view that the only problem with the FECA program is the lack of effort by the Postal Service or federal agencies generally to seriously address workplace hazards in order to prevent workplace injuries, it does seem to me reasonable and appropriate to provide assurance that in addressing FECA we are not ignoring the issue of workplace safety. Nor does it seem unreasonable to me that the Postal Service, which increasing competes directly with private companies, should do so ''on a level playing field'' with regard to OSHA regulation and enforcement.

So for both of these reasons I am introducing legislation to treat the Postal Service the same as private employers for purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Under the bill, the Postal Service would be subject to inspection, citation, and penalty by OSHA and approved state OSHA programs. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in order to pass this legislation during this Congress.

W. STANLEY GARNER HONORED

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people the celebration of an individual in Connecticut's 5th Congressional District to be held this Saturday, April 25th, and the many accomplishments of Mr. W. Stanley Garner of New Fairfield, Connecticut. Family, friends and associates of Mr. Garner will gather at the new Fairfield Senior Center to honor him for his personal contributions to the Public Library and the community at large.

Born in New Fairfield on January 9, 1923, Mr. Garner involved himself in community affairs as a young man, and was an avid user of the New Fairfield Free Public Library when it was simply a corner room in the small town hall building before World War II. In 1967, Mr. Garner became Trustee of that library and served in that capacity for more than 20 years, a longer continuous tenure than anyone else.

During these twenty plus years, and since, Mr. Garner has been at the forefront of all the Library's construction projects and was primarily responsible for the establishment of the town's Children's Library. He served on the Building Committee for the present Town Library, built in 1975, as well as on the Building Committees for the addition to the New Fairfield Middle School, the Fire House and the town Police Station.

Mr. Garner's reputation as a builder in the area is outstanding, having been responsible for the construction of hundreds of homes in the area, as well as several public facilities including the Parish House of St. Edward's Church and its adjacent Sullivan Home. He was also a long time member of the Board of Directors of the Union Savings Bank in New Fairfield.

Throughout his life, Mr. Garner has given a level of public service that few achieve. He continues to serve today as an example of the type of service and dedication that all of us should follow. Despite his level of involvement, however, Mr. Garner has never allowed his outside activities to overshadow the importance of his family. This October 28th, Stan and Aileen Pulver Garner will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary with their two sons.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Connecticut's 5th Congressional District, and this House, I want to congratulate Mr. Stanley Garner on this lifelong achievements and thank him for his service and dedication to New Fairfield, its institutions and citizens.

RECOGNIZING COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE CONTINUUM OF CARE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a citizen coalition known as Colorado's Northern Front Range Continuum of Care, whom I recently met with in my Fort Collins office to learn of their assessment of the community's need for affordable housing, transitional housing, group homes and homeless services. The Continuum of Care is comprised of over 125 individuals representing various community organizations including Alternatives to Violence, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities-Northern, House of Neighborly Service, WIRS, A Woman's Place, Weld Food Bank, Greeley Interfaith, Right to Read, Cities of Greeley, Loveland, and Fort Collins, Neighbor to Neighbor, Fort Collins Authority, Larimer County Mental Health, Larimer County Department of Human Services, Loveland Housing Authority, Crossroads Safehouse, Crossroads Ministry, Colorado Division of Housing, Ft. Lupton Housing Authority, Greeley Housing Authority, Greeley Transitional House, United Way of Weld County, Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity, CARE Housing, and Funding Partners.

Continuum of Care was formed for the purpose of inventorying existing local resources in the community, and to identify gaps in housing and service delivery for special populations. The assessments were achieved through the participation of these representatives who developed this analysis bringing their particular community experiences to the table.

The following facts were established concerning the value of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit:

H.R. 2900 would increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to $1.75 per capita and index the cap to inflation.

The current cap is severely limiting the state's capacity to help the thousands of lower wage families from renting decent, safe and affordable housing.

In 1996, Colorado was allocated $4.5 million in housing tax credits but the demand far exceeded this allocation with requests totaling $15.3 million.

The Low-Income Tax Credit is a federal tax credit to investors for ten years for up to 9% of their cost of constructing or rehabilitating apartments dedicated to lower-wage working families at restricted rents.

Since 1987, the housing tax credit has helped develop over 7,692 units of affordable housing in 40 counties in Colorado.

During that same time period in Larimer and Weld Counties, funds totaling $4,525,677 were allocated, providing 1,183 new housing units.

Facts were also presented in support of Private Activity Bonds:

H.R. 979 increases the Private Activity Bond (PAB) cap from $50 to $75 per capita and index the cap to inflation.

This legislation will stimulate job creation, the production of affordable housing, industrial development, environmental cleanup and higher education in Colorado.

Currently the cap is the greater of $50 per capita or $150 million per state per year. This computes to about $200 million annually in Colorado.

Annually, this cap is used-up completely. Demand exceeds supply by four-to-one.

In the last two years, over $414 million of private activity bond authority yielded a significant positive economic impact for Colorado.

Over $336 million in tax exempt bond financing for affordable housing for our bluecollar work force funded new home ownership and rental opportunities.

$41 million of financing for industrial development (manufacturing facilities) and agricultural loans.

$37 million in student loans to college students.

Also brought to my attention is the fact that the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is spending less money on transitional housing and more on emergency shelters for the homeless. Transitional housing is designed to house women and children on a temporary basis when they leave an abusive environment and need a safe place to live while transitioning to a new home and life.

Statistics prove that affordable housing is very limited. For example, in Weld County, the median home price in 1990 was $68,118, climbing to $123,868 in 1996—an 84% increase. Rental rates climbed during the same period at 43%, going from $357 to $511, while vacancy rates remainded low. During the same time, job growth jumped up 31.7%, but most of the new jobs were created in low-paying service and retail sectors. With average median family income rising only by 35%, housing is unattainable for many.

It was my concern over the lack of afforable housing that inspired me to co-sponsor H.R. 2990, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of low-incomg housing credits which may be allocated to each State, and to index such amount for inflation; and H.R. 979 (Private Activity Bonds), which will increase the cap and help alleviate the pressure on our housing market. Sister Mary Alice Murphy described the housing assistance credit as having a positive impact on the community. Additionally, I remain firmly committed to eliminating the numerous federally mandated regulations which drive up the cost of building homes and those which dictate how a community administers their programs. I am pleased to carry the message for more affordable and available housing to my colleagues for this problem affects not only the people of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, but also people nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD SMITH, ESQ., ON THE DEDICATION OF THE CHESTERFIELD SMITH CENTER FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade's unsung heroes, Attorney Chesterfield Smith. The dedication of the Chesterfield Smith Center for Equal Justice on April 23, 1998 is a well-deserved honor.

Attorney Smith represents the best of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to making the justice system work on behalf of the less fortunate in Miami-Dade, he was relentless in his development of probono legal services program that responded to the crying needs of our community's poor. His was a crusade that maximized understanding and compassion for countless destitute who severely lack the financial wherewithal to have their cases move up through the maze of the legal system.

Under his leadership many lives have been saved and countless families have been rendered whole because of the poor's accessibility to pro-bono legal services. He was virtually the lone voice in the wilderness in exposing his righteous indignation over the hopelessness of countless individuals who through the various crises of poverty rendered them helpless before the legal system. At the same time, he has been forthright and forceful in advocating the tenets of equal treatment under the law for the poor who have been remanded to the complex proceedings of the court system. His sensitivity toward them knew no bounds, and he was likewise untiring in seeking the appropriate guidance and counseling strategies for them.

In an April 5, 1998 Miami Herald write-up, Attorney Smith was genuinely lauded as a community leader whose "* * * life serves as an example of how much difference each of us can make in behalf of the less fortunate." Singlehandledly he has championed a career-long commitment to free legal services to the poor.

In his stint on the prestigious Holland & Knight law firm, Attorney Smith truly represents an exemplary community servant who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted up by those who have been blessed with life's greater amenities. As a gadfly among South Florida's law firms, he is wont to prod his colleagues toward the support of the Legal Services of Greater Miami to provide a more hopeful life for our community's poor.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to those living in public housing projects, Attorney Smith thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. He sagely exercised them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his knowledge, focusing his energies to enhance the well-being of a community he learned to love and care for so deeply.

His undaunted efforts in the legal system through his tenure as President of the American Bar Association helped shape and form the agenda of many legal organizations. His word is his bond to those who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of the poor turn their lives around, but also in his resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse peoples converging together into this great experiment that is America.

Numerous accolades with which various organizations have honored him symbolize the unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoys from our community. Attorney Chesterfield Smith, lawyer par excellence, truly exemplifies a one-of-a-kind leadership whose courage and resilient spirit that genuinely dignifies the role of a community servant.

Today's dedication is genuinely deserved! I truly salute him on behalf of a grateful community.

TRIBUTE TO KATE MCLEAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to a woman who has made her mission in life to help our society's most vulnerable find some sort of warmth in a world that can often be so cold. Kate McLean of Ventura, California, is an extraordinary person who has touched the lives of thousands, leading the charge of a successful organization which has been the saving grace to many in her community.

It's easy to look into the eyes of those in need, and feel sympathy. But for many, it's even easier to look away and forget about the unexpected harsh realities life brings. But when Kate McLean saw a person in need, a living tragedy, she didn't look away, but instead helped them look towards their future. Kate did more than recognize the social ills that so often ruin lives. Instead of extending fleeting sympathy, Kate McLean actually made a difference—a difference in the lives of the abandoned and the abused. She has helped the homeless find shelter and runaways find refuge and understanding.

Kate has achieved these and countless other compassionate deed through an organization called Interface Children Family Services, a non-profit which she co-founded. To name just a few of their services, this organization offers assistance to families in crises, a 24-hour hotline for troubled teens, and shelters for battered women and their children. Under Kate McLean, hundreds of thousands of children and families have been helped at Interface from 1973 to 1990. Today, Interface Children Family Services continues to aid those in crisis situations, expanding on the foundation Kate McLean helped to start.

After Kate left Interface in 1990, she took her vast experiences to help the Ventura County Community Foundation, which under her supervision, increased Ventura County's endowed resources for charities from $300,000 to more than $16 million.

April 24, 1998 marks the 25th anniversary of the Interface Children Family Services. On this special occasion I want to recognize Kate McLean as a shining example, and to thank her for doing what others may have the yearning to do, but not the ambition. I want to thank Kate McLean for being such a vital part to the Ventura County Community, and for being our angel of hope.

EARTH DAY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this Earth Day to commend our nation on how we have left a legacy to our children by protecting the natural resources of our national parks, wildlife refuges and national forests. However, it is just as important for us to double our efforts to protect the habitat of our urban areas.

I feel strongly that the children of our cities also deserve to breathe cleaner air, and have green fields to play on as they mature under the blue skies of Alabama.

I am proud that our nation has made tremendous progress over the past 25 years in the area of environmental management. Our rivers and lakes in which our children fish, swim and boat are significantly cleaner; the air in which we breathe is improved and tremendous progress has been made in cleaning up