

Luzerne County Head Start opened in 1965 and was one of the first such programs in the nation.

The program has grown from initially serving 90 children in one community, Wilkes-Barre, to serving a total of 692 children today at 11 locations in Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Mr. Speaker, Luzerne County Head Start's accomplishments are truly impressive. Over the past 35 years, the program has prepared more than 12,000 children to enter kindergarten excited about learning and ready to succeed in school.

Further, four of Luzerne County Head Start's classrooms were accredited in 1999 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and other classrooms are being reviewed.

To put that in perspective, only 7 percent of early childhood programs nationwide have received this accreditation.

Head Start provides a high quality education program to children and their families. In addition, the program ensures that children receive nutrition and social services and needed medical services, including immunizations, health check-ups and preventive screenings.

Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that one-third more at-risk children who attended a quality early childhood program such as Head Start graduated from high school compared to those who did not attend.

Studies also show that at-risk children who have been enrolled in Head Start or other quality early childhood programs are 25 percent less likely to repeat a grade.

Since the current cost of public education averages \$5,200 per student, per year nationally, programs like Luzerne County Head Start save taxpayers a significant amount of money in the long run.

Head Start is a proven program that helps to give children a strong beginning in life. I am proud to support it and proud of the good work of the Head Start centers throughout my district.

Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, funding for Head Start has doubled and I strongly support President Clinton's goal of increasing the number of children served nationally by Head Start from 793,807 in 1997 to 1 million in 2002.

Lynn Evans Biga is the very capable director of Luzerne County Head Start. She is aided by the board, including the executive committee of President John Hogan, Vice President Carl Goeringer Jr., Secretary Joanne Coolbaugh and Treasurer Gene Caprio, all of whom volunteer their time for this fine program, as does every member of the board.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Luzerne County Head Start on the occasion of its 35th anniversary, and I send my best wishes for continued success to the employees and the many children and families whom they serve so well.

#### THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2000*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Immigration

and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000.

This bill would eliminate the present provisions of section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which requires the establishment of a new entry-exit data collection system at land, sea, and air borders to our country. The bill replaces the requirement for the implementation of a new data collection system with the implementation of an "integrated entry and exit data system" using currently available data.

I welcome this important change in the provisions of section 110. This is an issue of great concern to the people and businesses of Michigan and other border states. Studies have revealed that carrying out the mandate of section 110 to create a new entry-exit data collection system would cause massive traffic congestion along our borders, bringing personal and business travel at many border points to a halt. This would have a crippling effect on trade and tourism.

I also would like to note for the record my understanding of a technical issue. The bill includes an implementation deadline for high-traffic land border ports of entry. With regard to land border crossings, I have been assured that the implementation provision in the deadline only refers to the "Arrival-Departure Records" (Form I-94) that already are issued to some foreign nationals when they enter the United States and that the deadline provision does not in any way impose a requirement on the Attorney General to develop a new system for collecting exit data at land borders.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000 is a far preferable alternative to the onerous data collection requirements of the existing version of section 110 of IIRIRA. I look forward to working with Representative LAMAR SMITH in seeing that this important change is passed into law this Congress.

IN HONOR OF MRS. H. BERT  
(RUTH) MACK

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2000*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Mrs. H. Bert Mack, who will be honored by The Hillcrest Jewish Center at their 60th Anniversary dinner dance on Sunday, May 21st, 2000.

Ruth Mack has devoted over 50 years of her life to maintaining the high standards of excellence for which The Hillcrest Jewish Center is known throughout the Jewish communities of Queens County and New York. Ruth and her late husband, H. Bert Mack, have both been major benefactors to The Hillcrest Jewish Center. In fact, Mr. Mack was a guarantor of the original mortgage to construct The Hillcrest Jewish Center youth building. It comes as no surprise that The Hillcrest Jewish Center's main building has been named after H. Bert and Ruth Mack.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Mack continues to carry on the philanthropic legacy that she and her husband valued so greatly. She is a generous contributor to many Jewish organizations including: The Eldridge Street Synagogue and

the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. She is also a benefactor of the esteemed Long Island Jewish Hospital. In addition, Ruth Mack has given generously of her own time, and she has spent many years teaching Hebrew to adults.

Growing up in the community, I can personally attest to the high esteem in which Ruth and her entire family are held by the multitudes who know and love her. On this special day it is also a privilege to be able to acknowledge Ruth Mack's four children: William, David, Earle and Frederick, as well as her six grandchildren: Steven, Richard, Andrew, Beatrice, Jason and Haley.

During my eighteen years of service in the U.S. Congress, I have been honored to speak and attend services at The Hillcrest Jewish Center on numerous occasions. The friendly and spiritual environment that I associate with The Hillcrest Jewish Center could not be possible were it not for the charitable contributions provided unselfishly by Ruth Mack.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Mrs. H. Bert (Ruth) Mack for her loyalty and dedication to The Hillcrest Jewish Center.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOUSTON COUNTY LEGISLATOR JOSEPH SHERRILL STAFFORD

**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2000*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a great American and Georgian, Joseph Sherrill Stafford, who died Tuesday, May 9, 2000.

Mr. Stafford was an inspiration to all of us. As a leader and public servant, he believed strongly in doing what's right, and always gave 100 percent of himself to the people of Houston County, placing his faith in the Lord, his family, and his country. He will be greatly missed by the people of Georgia and his accomplishments will be long remembered.

Mr. Stafford was a graduate of Perry High School and married the former Ann Hallman of Bibb County, Georgia, in 1961. He served in the Army, from 1954-1956, and retired from Robins Air Force Base in 1989 after 30 years. He began his political career more than four decades ago as the mayor of Centerville, Georgia. Mr. Stafford was the first full-time chairman of the Houston County Commission, beginning in 1991, served as Chairman of the 21st Century Partnership, the community support group for Robins Air Force Base, taught Sunday school at First Baptist Church of Centerville, and just recently was named president of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I had the distinct pleasure of working very closely with Mr. Stafford on many projects. During his long and enduring career, Mr. Stafford always remembered the ones he represented in a smooth, soothing and effective manner. Mr. Stafford was proud of the new courthouse and jail under construction near Perry, Georgia and will long be remembered in my mind, and the people of Georgia as an honest, hard working, servant of his constituents and his country.