

served on the Banking and Financial Services and Small Business committees.

His record reflects a dedication of addressing the needs of his district while balancing those with the needs of the Nation. His hard work and legislative ability have earned him the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Representative MFUME's outspoken support of civil rights and other traditional minority concerns lead to his election as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1992, where he elevated the level of influence for the caucus to a new level.

I wish Congressman MFUME good luck as he assumes his new responsibilities as chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, where he will have a new platform to fight for the causes he believes in. This is an exciting opportunity for him and I know I am joined by my colleagues in wishing him continued success.

LET'S REEXAMINE THE CUBAN EMBARGO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a recent event in California.

On Wednesday, a caravan of 30 vehicles was stopped at the United States-Mexico border by United States Customs officers. The caravan was carrying approximately 300 used personal computers and modems for medical and educational purposes in Cuba.

Why was the delivery stopped? Because the United States imposes a comprehensive trade and travel embargo against Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, the equipment these people were trying to deliver to Cuba was not high technology. It was not a threat to our national security. The equipment—outdated 286 personal computers and used modems—was for schools and hospitals in Cuba.

This recent event demonstrates the problems with our embargo against Cuba. How could the Cuban Government oppress the Cuban people with obsolete computers? How could these computers be used to threaten the security of the United States, a country where many individuals have personal computers that are many times more powerful?

We need to face the fact that the best way to help the Cuban people is to work with Cuba, not against it. How better could we bring our values to Cuba than help improve the health and welfare of the Cuban people? How better could we help Cubans learn about American philanthropy and goodwill than support private donations by Americans?

Mr. Speaker, we need to reexamine our approach to Cuba. We are the only nation left that imposes such severe restrictions on trade with Cuba. Let us help the Cuban people by letting Americans help Cubans.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA E. THOMAS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 10, a retirement ceremony for a remarkable woman will be held. On that date, at the Fort Monmouth Officers Club, the friends and colleagues of Sylvia E. Thomas will pay tribute to Ms. Thomas' 35-year career as an educator, school administrator and a perfectionist who has always strived to give the most for her students.

A resident of Neptune Township, NJ, Ms. Thomas retired on January 1 as the principal of Neptune Middle School. The career that Sylvia Thomas is now concluding is not only a great testimony to her own talent, courage and determination, but it is a true indication of what public education in this country is all about: dedicated professionals, often working under adverse conditions, without lavish salaries, to shape future generations. Sylvia Thomas, like so many unsung heroes working in public education, has earned the respect and gratitude of her former students, their parents and our entire community.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Thomas was born in Georgia and raised in Alabama, the daughter of educators Royal and Lilian Hope Dunham. She earned her bachelor of science degree in secondary education from Tuskegee University in Alabama in 1958, and received her masters degree from Columbia University in New York in 1959. She earned her principal's and supervisor's certificates from Monmouth College—now University—in West Long Branch, NJ, between 1974 and 1976.

Ms. Thomas began her career as a ninth grade teacher in Augusta, GA., in 1959. She taught math and science throughout the country wherever her husband, Govan, a former Army serviceman, was stationed at the time. She has also taught GI's. In 1973, the Thomases settled in Neptune, on the Jersey Shore. She taught math to eighth graders at Asbury Park Middle School, in the neighboring community. From 1978 to 1981, she served as coordinator of the math program and the compensatory education program. For the next three years, she chaired the math/science department for kindergarten through eighth grade in Asbury Park. In 1984, Ms. Thomas moved into the administrative side, becoming principal of Green Grove Elementary School in Neptune. She was transferred to the Middle School as vice principal, and subsequently became principal six years ago. During her tenure at Neptune Middle School, the school increased its emphasis on math and science, acquired additional computer equipment and made many capital improvements.

In a recent profile of Ms. Thomas by staff writer Travis R. Moore in *The Asbury Park Press*, one of the major newspapers in our area, Mr. Michael T. Lake, superintendent of Neptune public schools, who has worked with Ms. Thomas for the past 11 years, described her as "a consummate professional." Ms. Peola Smith-Smith, chairperson of the counseling/guidance department at Neptune High School, said Ms. Thomas has been an "inspiration" and an "exemplary administrator." In the article, Ms. Thomas herself described the key to success for the men and women who

run our public schools. While she stressed her reluctance to compromise on her high expectations, she nonetheless recognized the need for flexibility: "You do whatever has to be done to get the job done."

In addition to her distinguished career as a teacher and administrator, Ms. Thomas has been a leader in numerous community organizations, including the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Asbury Park, and Lambda Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She has also maintained a long-time association with Drifters, Inc., a nonprofit civic organization of black women with 30 chapters nationwide dedicated to serving the community and enhancing the universal image of womanhood. Ms. Thomas served as national president of Drifters from 1989 to 1993, is a charter member of the Ocean Chapter of Drifters, and has also coordinated public relations and edited the organization's newsletter. She was the recipient of the 1993 Now Black Woman Award given by the national Drifters, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and privilege for me to join the friends and colleagues of Sylvia Thomas in saluting a great educator and community leader.

REMOVAL OF RUSSIAN MILITARY FORCES FROM MOLDOVA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in October 1994 the Prime Minister of Russia and the Prime Minister of Moldova signed an agreement according to which Russian military forces would leave Moldovan territory by October 1997. Last April, the Russian Duma approved a resolution opposing the 3-year withdrawal agreement.

The Russian Government has stated its intention to live up to the agreement but little progress has been made. At present about 4,000–4,500 Russian troops stationed in as many as eight garrisons in eastern Moldova, known as Transnistria. These are the vestiges of the former Soviet 14th Army which once had troops stationed throughout Moldova and the Odessa Military Region in Ukraine. The Russian Army has essentially maintained its force strength in the region, and troops have even been sent to Moldova to replace those that have been demobilized. Mr. Speaker, Moldova is the only former Soviet Republic upon which Russian troops are still stationed without permission of the host government, and Moldovan officials have raised this issue at several international meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that the administration has consistently supported the withdrawal of Russian forces from Moldova. During his meeting with Moldovan President Snegur last year, President Clinton made clear that the United States expects the 1994 agreement to be implemented on time.

With respect to the international community, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations have passed resolutions calling for the removal of