

A TRIBUTE TO THE VARICK
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 20, 1996 the Varick Family Life Center will celebrate its official opening. The Center is a multi-service resource and support center for children and families in the Dixwell Avenue neighborhood of New Haven. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend this wonderful organization.

The Varick Family Life Center adheres to the Old African proverb "It takes a whole village to raise a child." The proverb encapsulates one of the main goals of the Center which is to make already existing services more available to the residents of the neighborhood. Parents will be guided through the use of family services and have an advocate as they seek the resources they need. Effectively bringing parents into contact with community resources will go a long way toward making parents feel connected to the community and neighborhood.

The second goal of the Center is to provide families with the tools to become self-sufficient. I believe that this dual focus of family and community will be the cornerstone of the Center's success. By integrating the many human services and programs available in New Haven neighborhoods, the Center hopes to insure that all the needs of the family are attended to and that no family slips through the cracks. By truly coordinating family services, the Center will make vital community resources more available to the families that need them.

The Center will maintain its focus on families by appointing four neighborhood residents and training them to act as Family Resource Specialists. These specialists will focus on the social, health and financial concerns of needy families. I believe that this is the most crucial aspect of the Center. The Family Resource Specialists will work with parents to help them become more proactive rather than reactive in situations that affect their lives and families. Economic and financial concerns are addressed by the Center through job training and educational programs in the areas of budgeting and money management. By providing parents and families with these valuable tools we are enabling them to become more self-reliant and independent. We are giving them a chance to make a difference in their own lives and to feel that they have some control over their life's course. This is ultimately the most important and best solution to the problems and challenges faced by the residents of the neighborhood.

I commend the congregation and leadership of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church for their amazing dedication to this worthwhile project. They have every reason to believe that their vision and hopes for the project will be realized. The Center is a wonderful community resource that should serve as a model for other cities and towns in Connecticut and in the Nation.

IN HONOR OF DR. HENRY PONDER

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute to one of Nashville's favorite citizens, Dr. Henry Ponder. Dr. Ponder is retiring from his position as President of Fisk University shortly, and he will be missed at that fine institution and in the Nashville community more than words can say.

I am certain, however, that we will not find Dr. Ponder resting on his laurels. In fact, he will be coming to Washington to head an organization whose mission is to further the cause of minority higher education. I look forward to having Henry and his lovely wife Eunice as neighbors in our Nation's Capitol. I am certain he will continue to make all of us very proud.

I have had the great pleasure over the years to interact professionally with Dr. Ponder on several occasions. Most recently, he came to Washington and we both testified in front of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands in support of legislation I introduced that would provide much-needed monetary support for the restoration of historic buildings on the campuses of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As a college president, Dr. Ponder has always attended to the needs of every aspect of university life. Not only was he responsible for eliminating a \$4 million debt at Fisk, he also staged an extremely successful 5-year, 25 million capital campaign that revitalized and re-energized the school.

By the same token, Dr. Ponder realized the importance of obtaining funds to restore badly deteriorating buildings, such as Administration Hall, whose history and significance are an embodiment of all that Fisk stands for. The health of the complete university—from fundraising to student recruitment to building maintenance to school spirit—is Dr. Ponder's mission. By all accounts, he is leaving Fisk University in a state of wonderful health.

Dr. Ponder is a native of Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor of Science from Langston University, his Masters Degree from Oklahoma State University and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Prior to becoming president of Fisk, Henry Ponder served in various academic and administrative positions at universities throughout the Southeastern United States: president of Benedict College in Columbia, SC; vice president and dean of the College of Alabama A&M University; chairman of the department of agribusiness and assistant professor of that department at Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA.

Henry Ponder is also an economist of national and international renown. He has served as a consultant for and on special assignment to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Philadelphia National Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, the Irving Trust Co. and Omaha National Bank. Dr. Ponder also serves on the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern Africa Refugee Scholarship Fund committee. In 1986, he was chosen as one of the "One Hundred Most Effective College Presidents in the United States."

On behalf of all Nashvillians, Dr. Ponder, thank you for all you have done to improve the

quality of life at Fisk and in the community. People with your dedication and energy are rare indeed, and those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you can only consider ourselves blessed for the lessons you have taught us and the example you have been. You have left an outstanding legacy of growth and achievement that will stand for decades to come. We wish you well in your new career. You will be missed.

SHERROD RAYBORN, LONGTIME
LAWRENCE COUNTY CHANCERY
CLERK, IS HONORED

HON. MIKE PARKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in the Halls of Congress to ask you to join me in paying tribute to the late Sherrod Rayborn, who died March 24, 1996, at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center following heart surgery.

Sherrod Rayborn was elected to his first term as Lawrence County chancery clerk in 1972, and he served in that position for 24 years. At the time of his death at age 60, he had recently begun serving his seventh term. A native of Walthall County, he attended school in Lawrence County and spent his adult life in Monticello. Mr. Rayborn was a member of Bethel Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He also was minister of music at the church for the last 26½ years.

In addition to his career in politics, he also was known for his musical talents, his sense of humor, and his positive outlook. Several friends describe Sherrod Rayborn and his service to the county and the church as "irreplaceable." But I was particularly moved by what his friend Carey Hedgepath told a local reporter: "He was a man of character. You could take for granted the accuracy of anything he told you."

These words are a fitting tribute to Sherrod Rayborn. Indeed, he is irreplaceable and truly an unforgettable friend to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Madeline; two sons, Mitch and Kevin; a daughter, Mali Rayborn Powell; a brother, W.T.; two sisters, Willene Alexander and Alyne Sumrall; and a grandson, Jerrod.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask you again to join me in honoring a man of character, Sherrod Rayborn, his willing sacrifice of his time and energy for the public good, and his representation of all that is good, true, and steadfast in our society.

CAMP TALL TURF MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to tell you about an extremely important and effective program for inner-city children and families in my district. Every summer since 1968, hundreds of

children, ages 8–16, have been given the opportunity to get away from it all by attending Camp Tall Turf. The camp is appropriately named for its location among very large trees in Walkerville, MI. At Camp Tall Turf campers learn that God is present and that there can be no taller turf than that. The camp was established in response to racial strife that was prevalent during the sixties in cities across the Nation. Since that first summer over 15,000 young people have benefited from the positive Christian activities and messages presented by the caring, committed, and dedicated staff of Camp Tall Turf.

When the founders of this camp first came together, little did they know that their ideas and visions would reach this level almost 30 years later. The camp, located on Lake Campbell, provides an environment conducive to growing both mentally and spiritually. Through daily chapel, cabin devotions, drama, and singing, each camper gains a new outlook on his or her life and is able to store away these lessons for the future. These valuable lessons have helped prepare hundreds of children, who might not have received the opportunity otherwise, for roles of service and leadership in their young adult and adult lives.

It is important to point out that Camp Tall Turf is not just a one day, week, or month gathering. Staff members work year round to continue relationships that have been established at the summer camp. These relationships are so very important for the young people who need Christian role models and friends. In addition to encouraging meaningful and positive social relationships, the interaction between the staff and the child helps promote cooperation, companionship, and respect. Camp Tall Turf also helps to provide opportunities and experiences that strengthen self confidence and build character in youths who are involved with the camp.

Mr. Speaker, far too often we read or hear negative stories involving children. Camp Tall Turf and its staff should be praised for their continuous effort to change the negatives that we read and hear about, and make them positive. Their work to enhance the quality of life and relationships of others should not go unnoticed and should serve as an example for others to follow. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to commend the founders, board and staff of Camp Tall Turf for their outstanding work.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a time to pause and pray for the day when mankind will value understanding over hate, respect over contempt, and life over death. Today we must take time to remember this event. We cannot let the day slip by without a solemn moment for remembrance.

I cannot know their names nor see their faces, but in my heart, in my mind, and in my prayers, I pause today to remember the millions of men, women, and children whose lives were taken in one of history's most heinous events—the Holocaust.

I ask my colleagues and the people of the world to do the same. Please pause for a moment today and recall the needless loss of mankind that was the Holocaust. While it must never be repeated, we must never forget its occurrence. Let the people of the world take time to recognize what happened and to recall those who perished. We owe them the time to remember.

IN MEMORY OF RUBY WORTHEN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime civic and political leader from east Texas—Ruby Irene Worthen of Terrell—who died recently at the age of 95. Mrs. Worthen was an outstanding citizen who devoted a lifetime to helping those in her community, and she will be missed by all those who knew her.

Born on Jan. 22, 1901, Mrs. Worthen served her community as a teacher, home demonstration agent for the Texas A&M Extension Service, real estate agent, and as a moving force in community activities in Terrell—especially in the development of services for senior citizens. On her 95th birthday this year, the Kaufman County Commissioners' Court recognized her life of dedication to others by proclaiming the day as Ruby M. Worthen Day in Kaufman County. The proclamation noted her many accomplishments and contributions to the community and stated that "she is perhaps most widely known and highly acclaimed as a loving and selfless caregiver to anyone in need, having provided meals and a place to live for many through the years."

Mrs. Worthen was active in the Democratic Party. She taught the senior adult ladies Sunday school class at the First Baptist Church for several years. She also was active in the AARP.

Mrs. Worthen was preceded in death by her husband, Don; a sister, Idella Coffman; and a brother, T.O. Mashburn. She is survived by a brother, Eugene Mashburn of Dallas, a sister, Thelma Mashburn of Terrell, and other relatives and friends. She was well-loved and well-respected in Terrell, and she will be missed by all those who knew her. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this outstanding community leader, Ruby Irene Worthen of Terrell, TX.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF APHIS EMPLOYEES

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, on April 19, 1995, 168 people were murdered in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The explosion killed scores of innocent children and adults, injured hundreds, and devastated thousands of lives. We remember and honor them all.

I took part in a ceremony in South Texas in which the Kika de la Garza Elementary School

in the La Joya school district planted a tree in memory of the children who died in the Oklahoma bombing to link themselves to the loss. I was particularly moved by this ceremony because although they did not know any of the children personally, they had a common bond in that they were children also.

I, too, have a common bond with some of the victims. In this case the bond is the agricultural community.

Among the victims were seven employees of the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—dedicated workers who left a legacy of service and believed that protecting American agriculture was a goal worth achieving.

These were people who were loved by their families and friends and respected by their colleagues. Today, we especially remember and honor these APHIS employees.

We honor as well the survivors and the many people who gave of themselves to aid in rescue efforts and reach out with helping hands and loving hearts. In their hope, we found hope: in their strength, we found strength; in their actions, we found the power to act. In adversity, America came together.

Robert Green Ingersoll said "in the night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing." We remember those who lost their lives in Oklahoma. We embrace those who were left behind, and we hope our caring helps soothe their grief.

Together, we all listen for the rustle of a wing that whispers of hope.

PROBLEMS WITH TRUTH IN BUDGETING

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House considered and passed H.R. 842, the so-called Truth in Budgeting Act. During my statements in opposition to this unwise bill, I made reference to a letter sent last year by the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, in opposition to this bill.

I would now like to enter this letter into the RECORD. I believe it makes a compelling case against enacting this bill into law.

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS AGAINST
GOVERNMENT WASTE,

Washington, DC, March 16, 1995.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We were intrigued when we learned of proposals to move the various transportation trust funds off-budget and out of the hands of the usual budgeting and appropriations process. Despite proponents' arguments for "truth in budgeting," we discovered that advocates of off-budget transportation trust funds seek not to increase fiscal accountability but to increase the ease of pork-barrel spending.

While the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not have a corner on congressional pork-barrel spending, the committee's record is seriously tarnished. The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), replete with such dubious pork as studying the use of zebra mussels as an infrastructure building material or building bicycle paths with highway funds, is as much evidence as we need to conclude that the off-budget trust funds proposal lacks credibility.

There is also alarming and vicious counter-attack from pork-barrelers to Rep. Bill