

over 25 years, Reverend Schaefer has served as Minister for the Park Slope United Methodist Church. Through his tireless efforts and the highest dedication to his religion, Reverend Schaefer has worked to create the most solid form of bond between all those within his congregation. The example of his high standard of commitment to the people within his church and to the people touched by his religious message is an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing Reverend Schaefer all the best in his retirement from the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Even as Reverend Shaefer leaves the formal church behind him, there can be no doubt as to the joyous life which lies ahead for him and all those who cross his path.

TRIBUTE TO THE PERFORMANCE
CLUSTER CHOIR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Performance Cluster Choir and their 72nd observance of Black History Month.

The Chicago Post Office Choir reorganized in September 1994 under the direction of Carolyn Y. McQuarter. During this period of reconstruction, the choir was renamed the Performance Cluster Choir. The choir represents employees from all crafts, and includes a husband and wife, four sisters, and numerous cousins and friends.

The talent and tremendous sound of this choir has enabled them to perform at the installation of Rufus F. Porter, the District Manager/Postmaster in Chicago, and for Etta J. Williams, Postmaster in Oak Forest, IL. This gifted choir has also performed at the Annual Picnics of Alderman John O. Steele, and for the 1st anniversary of the Million Man March, celebrated at DuSable Museum.

Mr. Speaker, this choir has truly been a blessing to the Chicago District Post Office, and to the African-American community in the city of Chicago as well. I am proud to enter these words of recognition into the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO VALDEMAR DELGADO
AND BEN HOWARD FOR THEIR
BRAVERY OF SERVICE TO THE
CICERO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Valdemar Delgado and Ben Howard, two outstanding individuals from my district. It was on January 8, 1997, that two Cicero police officers, Andre Van Vegten and Matthew Koman, were in need of immediate assistance and Mr. Delgado and Mr. Howard stopped to aid in rescuing the two officers from a burning vehicle.

While responding to a call of a man with a gun at 44th Street near Cicero Avenue, the officers were involved in an accident that

caused flames which protruded through the hood of the patrol vehicle. At the time, Delgado and Howard were passing by and saw the flames. Without any hesitation or regard for their own safety, they immediately attended to the two officers inside the burning vehicle.

With much bravery and commendation, Delgado and Howard attempted to pry open the door of the patrol vehicle with a crowbar without success. After many attempts Delgado was able to break the window and pull Officer Koman out to safety. At the same time, Howard was able to remove Officer Van Vegten from the vehicle.

Because of their quick response and thinking, Delgado and Howard were successfully able to remove both Officers Van Vegten and Koman from fatal harm. Both officers were then taken to area hospitals for life-saving treatment. Valdemar Delgado and Ben Howard were congratulated and honored on January 14, 1997, for their heroism and bravery by the mayor and City of Chicago Council.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and commend these two fine individuals for their bravery and selfless act. I am very proud and honored to have people like Valdemar Delgado and Ben Howard who give so much to help with the safety of our community.

TRIBUTE TO RAUL A. BESTEIRO,
JR.

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Raul A. Besteiro, Jr., an adjunct professor with the alternative certification program at the University of Texas-Brownsville, for his recent election to the presidency of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [SACS]. He was elected to this position at SACS' annual gathering in Nashville, TN, in December, after 38 years of membership.

SACS is a voluntary agency, one of six regional accrediting organizations in the United States. It boasts a membership of more than 11,000 accredited public and private educational institutions, from colleges and universities to elementary schools. The organization was founded in 1895, and works with schools across the South from Virginia to Texas.

As president of this prestigious organization, Mr. Besteiro will lead the formulation of policy for accreditation of the region's member schools and colleges. He was chosen to lead this association by virtue of his hard work on behalf of schools, children, and education over the years. He has been actively involved with the association's process of ensuring that member institutions meet established standards.

There is no one who can do a better job with this great responsibility than Raul Besteiro. Mr. B., as he is affectionately known throughout south Texas, has spent his adult life dedicated to the excellence of schools in Brownsville and to the cause of education in general. Mr. B. was an integral part of the Brownville Independent School District from 1958 to 1989, as a teacher, an administrator, and a superintendent.

He has proven himself to be a unique educator for the community of Brownsville with the example of his life's work. That dedication to education continues within the realm of his new position. In the 101 year history of SACS, Raul Besteiro is both the first Texan—and the first Hispanic—to lead the organization.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Raul for his life's work in the field of education. I hope you will join me in wishing him well as he furthers the cause of education as the president of SACS.

AMERICAN SAMOA DEVELOPMENT
ACT OF 1997

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the American Samoa Development Act of 1997.

Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to discuss with American Samoa's new Governor, the Honorable Tauese P.F. Sunia, the current economic status of American Samoa, and the direction he would like to move the territory's economy.

It is no secret that of all the U.S. insular areas, American Samoa has the weakest economy. The growing population coupled with its limited industrial base has hastened an economic downward spiral which if not checked, could result in the financial collapse of the local government. This would not be in the interests of the residents of American Samoa, the local government, or the United States.

American Samoa currently receives annual Federal assistance for both the operations of its government and for the construction of capital assets. Every elected Governor of American Samoa has attempted to develop a larger and broader economy for Samoa, but each has met with limited or no success because of Samoa's remote location, its limited transportation, and its devastating hurricanes.

To his credit, former Gov. A.P. Lutali negotiated a mutually beneficial agreement with an apparel company during his most recent term in office, and that company is now in operation and employing hundreds of American Samoans. The addition of this company gives American Samoa a total of three major businesses operating in the territory. I am concerned that with the termination of section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code, the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the phase out of tariffs under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the few trade incentives the United States has given American Samoa and the other insular areas are rapidly losing their value.

As of today, no new businesses in American Samoa, or any other insular area for that matter, can obtain the benefits of section 936. Should Federal law concerning the importation of canned tuna into the United States under the dolphin safe label be amended as proposed, I do not believe the two tuna canning plants in American Samoa will remain in Samoa beyond the end of this century. Should they leave, and I expect them to be forced to do so because of changes in the economics of international production of canned tuna,