some of the most restrictive gun control laws in America, yet leads the Nation in per capita murders. My own State of Illinois has some very tough standards before its citizens can legally possess firearms, yet since those laws went into effect, the crime and murder rates have dramatically increased.

I find it necessary, therefore, to remind my colleagues that our Nation's crime problems cannot be solved by infringing upon the rights of peaceful law-abiding Americans to own arms. Instead of an attack on guns, our laws should focus on keeping behind bars the small percentage of criminals who are responsible for committing the vast majority of crimes in the United States. Law abiding gun owners are not a threat to peace in America, rather criminals threaten the peace and security of our families.

We must demonstrate to Americans that we are resolved to protecting this right by supporting this resolution to reaffirm the second amendment and the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, and I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this resolution.

MARIAN ANDERSON—100TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the great American opera singer, Marian Anderson, Carnegie Hall will resound with a tribute in her honor. On Thursday, February 27, 1997, Robert Shaw will conduct the orchestra of St. Luke's and the Morgan State University choir in the Marian Anderson 100th Birthday Tribute. The program will feature a range of music from operatic arias to spirituals reflecting the broad artistic reach of Ms. Anderson's repertoire. Celebrated guests, friend, and family will gather to remember this amazing woman with song, photographs, letters, and personal reminiscences. From her first performance at Carnegie Hall in 1920 until her last in 1989, Ms. Anderson performed over 50 times on the Carnegie Hall stage—more than any other venue in her career.

Born to Anna and John Anderson on February 27, 1897, in Philadelphia, PA, Marian Anderson became an internationally renowned contralto and an aspiring symbol to all who strive to achieve against tremendous odds. Ms. Anderson began her singing career like so many African-Americans, by singing in the church choir of Union Baptist Church where funds were raised to help pay for her voice lessons.

In 1925, she won first prize at a contest held by the New York Philharmonic at Lewisohn Stadium. In 1930, she toured Europe, winning from Toscanini the tribute, ''the voice that comes once in a 100 years.'' In 1939, Ms. Anderson became the center of national attention when the Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR], barred her from singing at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC and the subsequent refusal of the Washington, DC School Board to grant her use of Central High School's auditorium. Resulting publicity and DAR's public snub of Ms. Anderson, led the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to resign from DAR and Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes to invite Ms. Anderson to sing at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, which she did, to a huge crowd of supporters.

In 1955, Ms. Anderson became the first African-American artist to perform at the Metropolitan Opera and was named as a delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations by President Eisenhower. She earned many distinctions during her lifetime which included more than 24 honorary degrees from various colleges and universities, medals from the Governments of Sweden, Finland, and Japan, America's 1986 National Medal of Arts and the first recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

It is fitting, Mr. Speaker that we pause to create an official record in the annals of Congress in honor of this great American.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization in my district celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The Republican Women of Anne Arundel County was formed in 1937 as the Federation of Republican Women of Anne Arundel County. Its founder was Edna Payne of Annapolis.

It is the oldest and largest Republican organization in Anne Arundel County and the fourth largest in Maryland. Its current membership stands over 130 members and increases—both men and women—yearly.

This group of civic-minded people is much more than a partisan organization. It is a compassionate group which contributes countless hours and energy toward serving the people of Anne Arundel County. It is a prime supporter for a local domestic abuse shelter, makes contributions to the Salvation Army, the local food bank, and other important charities.

Mr. Speaker, this organization is a living example of the spirit of citizenship envisioned by the founders of this great Nation. Political and charitable participation are the duties of everyone in a true democracy. The Republican Women of Anne Arundel County regularly prove that actions speak louder than words. I want to congratulate them on reaching this 60th anniversary milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 1996 HAMPTON HIGH CRABBERS FOOTBALL TEAM—VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman HERB BATEMAN and myself, it is with honor and great pride that I rise today to recognize a group of young men from my district who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Hampton High School Crabbers Football team had an awesome season this past year and I believe that the Crabbers deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. They are the 1996 group AAA Virginia State Champions with a remarkable 14–0 record.

The Hampton Crabbers have now won a total of 14 State championships and 5 over the last 11 years.

And when the Crabbers win, they don't just win. This year, they set a national record by outscoring their opponents 819 to 83. This year's team won their 14th State championship game by final score of 51–0.

The Hampton Crabbers also broke the record for most touchdown passes in a season—36—breaking the old record of 30; and most touchdowns scored in a season—40—breaking the old record of 36. The team just didn't make headlines in the Tidewater area. This season the team was ranked No. 2 in the Nation by USA Today; and ranked No. 1 by the Sporting News, The Dick Butkus Football Network, The National Prep Football Poll and the National Sporting News Service and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Over the last 26 seasons, the Hampton High Crabbers, led by Coach Mike Smith, have amassed a record of 271 wins, 41 losses and 2 ties. During that period the Crabbers have broken several State and national records. In recognition of this remarkable season, Coach Smith has been named coach of the year by the National Sports News Service and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

OHIO STATE TREASURER KEN BLACKWELL MAKES THE CASE FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to insert into the RECORD today an excellent article written by my friend, Ohio State Treasurer Ken Blackwell. Ken has become one of the Nation's leading voices for tax and budgetary reform, community empowerment and economic growth—positions he articulated as a colleague of mine on the Cincinnati City Council, later as Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and now as Ohio treasurer.

Earlier this week, I had an opportunity to participate in a Cincinnati event with Treasurer Blackwell in which he made a very strong case for immediate adoption of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. He elaborates on that message in his excellent op-ed piece, published recently in the Washington Times. I agree with him wholeheartedly and I commend the column to my colleagues.

[From the Washington Times, Jan. 21, 1997]

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TIMING

(By Kenneth Blackwell)

Every generation or so, an idea that requires amendment or reinterpretation of the Constitution comes along.