

States can give a higher priority to microcredit internationally, and work toward the goal of the 1997 Microcredit Summit—to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and financial and business services by 2005.

Our bill builds upon the successes of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, which was started by Mohammed Yunus in 1983. I'd recommend that each of my colleagues read the book "Give Us Credit," by Alex Counts, which eloquently tells the story of how Mr. Yunus brought so many of his fellow citizens out of poverty through microlending.

The U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID], under the able leadership of Brian Atwood, has also been involved in microenterprise for awhile now, and has been doing a good job at it. Also, groups such as Results, a grass roots support group headed up by Sam Daley-Harris, has worked tirelessly in promoting the ideals of microcredit, culminating in their successful Microcredit Summit, which was held here in Washington last month.

Mr. Speaker, this bill calls for no new funds. Rather, we're calling for more of our existing funds to be used to support microcredit programs. Specifically, the bill asks for \$170 million for fiscal year 1998 and \$180 million for fiscal year 1999 to be allocated to USAID for microcredit assistance. Half these resources, at least \$85 million for fiscal year 1998, and \$90 million for fiscal 1999, would go to institutions serving the poorest 50 percent of those living below the poverty line, especially women, with loans under \$300.

In addition, we'd like to provide \$20 million for special initiative within the International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD] to support community based micro-finance institutions that serve the very poor in rural areas.

Why Microcredit? Well, the World Health Organization reports that poverty is the leading cause of death worldwide. Over 1 billion people—or one-fifth the world's population—live in extreme poverty. Microcredit is one of the most effective antipoverty tools in existence, allowing people to eradicate poverty and hunger in their own lives.

The microcredit program enjoys broad bipartisan support. These programs not only help millions work their own way out of poverty, but also recycle foreign aid dollars through loan repayments. Microcredit loans are self-sustainable. They are easily replicable and powerful vehicles for social development.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me in support of the Microcredit for Self Reliance Act of 1997.

HONORING CELINA HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR
AN OUTSTANDING SEASON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young women who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the Celina High School Lady Bulldogs basketball team of Celina, TN, and

that goal was making it to the State Class A championship game. Although they were not victorious, the hardwork and dedication they demonstrated throughout the year will not be without notice. After all, they were honored as: 1997 Tri-Lakes Conference Champions, 1997 District 5 Champions, 1997 Region 3 Champions, and 1997 State Runner-up.

These women of Celina High School trained vigorously, played tirelessly, and deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each member of the team, their head coach, Joe Sims, and all the assistant coaches, managers, school administrators, and all other support staff. I know they won't soon forget this milestone, and those that are still to come.

The players are true champions: Nicole Davis, Jennifer Davenport, Kaylin Walker, Amanda Kendall, Tara Ashlock, Michelle Chambers, Crystal Price, Amber Isenberg, Andrea McLerran, Trinity Weddle, Amanda Thompson, Erica Melton, Janet Barlow, Courtney Cross, Dana Key, Cera Burnette, and Claudia Bailey.

TRIBUTE ASBURY PARK ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to represent the city of Asbury Park, NJ, which this week is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

If you mention Asbury Park to anyone in this country under the age of 45, they will often recognize it as the city Bruce Springsteen put on the map.

I am a great fan of Bruce Springsteen whom I consider a true musical talent and whose album "Greetings from Asbury Park," did indeed familiarize millions with our city. But I am quick to point out that Asbury Park was a famous seashore resort for almost a century before Bruce Springsteen entered the musical scene.

In fact, Asbury Park was attracting great musical talent starting perhaps in 1904 when Arthur Pryer, a member of the John Philip Sousa band, began a series of concerts on the boardwalk. According to a history compiled by Florence Moss, "Men in white straw hats and women in white-linen bustled dresses, carrying lace-trimmed umbrellas, would promenade the length of the mile long boardwalk."

Founded decades earlier by James A. Bradley, a developer with great foresight, and named after Francis Asbury, the father of Methodism in the United States, Asbury Park changed from sand dunes and forests to an exclusive seashore resort during the latter part of the 1800's. Until the rail line was extended farther south, wealthy residents of Newark and New York would take the train to Long Branch and then be picked up by horse and carriage and transported to Asbury Park.

The twenties was a rip-roaring era at the Jersey Shore featuring a rather booming and lucrative prohibition period. This in turn was followed some years later by the big bands and the likes of Count Basie and Frank Sinatra and other music greats.

During World War II, the British Navy took residence in the Monterey and Berkeley

Carteret hotels and the British Army inhabited the Kingsley Arms Hotel. This presence enabled local residents to survive gas rationing and other wartime shortages.

On the nearby boardwalk, the Casino and Convention Hall were utilized for other purposes. Since the twenties, entertainers performed and trade shows and folk festivals were held in these massive structures which were designed by architects Warren and Wetmore, who also designed New York's Grand Central Station.

Asbury Park can also claim the distinction of being the first seaside resort in the country to adopt a sanitary sewer system and its trolley system was only the second electric system built in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, while Asbury Park has suffered from a loss of revenues in recent years and the relocation of many stores to the shopping malls, it still boasts wonderful beaches, a great boardwalk, wide streets, historic architecture and a corps of dedicated citizens and public officials dedicated to its rebirth. In my mind, the restoration of Asbury Park to its position as a premier vacation and cultural center is well within our grasp and I pledge to work hard to see that this dream of ours is realized.

THE INDONESIA MILITARY AS-
SISTANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I am very concerned about conditions in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. Particularly, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the debate because I am one of the few Members of Congress to have visited the good people of East Timor. As a legislator, I have been privy to the debate in Congress over the responsibility of the United States to fight for human rights world wide.

Up until 21 years ago, East Timor was a colony of Portugal. In 1975, the small, emerging nation of East Timor was brutally invaded by the nation of Indonesia. Over the past 21 years, the people of East Timor have been subjected to some of the worst abuses of human rights in the world. The Indonesian government has been a cruel and repressive dictatorship.

More than 200,000 East Timorese—almost one-third of the population—have been killed or have died from starvation after being forced from their villages. All attempts at peaceful protest have been met with violent oppression. This attack cannot be countenanced and this violence must end.

Abduction, torture, suppression of dissent, and disappearances are common occurrences under the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Suppression of the East Timorese independence movement includes arbitrary detention, use of secret detention facilities, rape, torture frequently resulting in death. These abuses occur in large part due to the free hand given to the military to suppress the independence movement.

In December of last year, I visited the Indonesian-occupied land of East Timor. One of