

have worked together. We all know that government programs have a lot of gaps and failures. Volunteers can fill some of those gaps but probably not all of them.

The overall statistics on volunteerism are impressive. 93 million Americans volunteer. They contributed a stunning 20 billion hours of their time in 1995—that's 220 hours per person. But a closer look at the figures raises some questions. Almost 5 billion of those hours are informal volunteering like baby sitting for a neighbor and baking cookies for a school fair, and many others are volunteer hours at theaters, museums, boards, and commissions. While extremely worthwhile, such efforts don't always address some of the core problems of our society. Less than 10% of those 93 million volunteers work in human services, and fewer than 4% are tutors or mentors. Much volunteer work is done for local churches, which is certainly valuable, but only about 10-15% of volunteering done through the churches goes into the community.

Volunteer effort can also be poorly organized and managed. I am told by people who organize volunteers that there are usually many when a disaster strikes or when help is needed for one-time events like a walk-a-thon or even building a home for a poor family. The real problems come with sustained efforts to deal with the problems of poor children, needy seniors, and the poor. Volunteer services—especially improving the lives of children through mentoring—needs to be performed one-on-one over a long period of time and often in very low-income neighborhoods. It is hard to get volunteers for those kinds of tasks. Most volunteering is done in a very tight circle of familiar friends, places, and activities.

CONCLUSION

The big question that emerges from the summit, of course, is its legacy. Will this unprecedented bipartisan celebration of volunteerism be an historic launching point to help children and decaying neighborhoods or will it be just another media extravaganza that will fade over time? The central challenge is aimed at the millions of at-risk children in this country. They come from poor families that are often dysfunctional. Many overcome steep odds to lead productive lives but many others do not, at a high cost to society over a lifetime.

The summit has given us a chance, just a chance, to do something really important. It certainly signals a fresh start, and it will inspire many Americans to volunteer. Those who have worked on our intractable social problems are probably entitled to a degree of skepticism about its impact and follow through, but the real task is how to make things different this time. Commitments have been made and the challenge is to see if the American people can be inspired and energized to enhance the future of the children.

HONORING ESTHER KELLER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in praise of Esther Keller for her work and dedication to the people of the 17th Congressional District. Esther retired last month after 20 years of service and while I wish her the best, I will truly miss her. In fact, she was one of my first staff members when I was first elected to public office 20 years ago.

She has worked hard and well and with little public recognition, except among the many

she has helped. She gave constituents what they want and deserve most from government: Help with a problem they cannot solve themselves. She initially worked out of a trailer in Co-op City before we moved indoors to an office which I still maintain.

Esther has been an integral part of my public life from the beginning. She worked long hours to help the people of the district, working with those who had difficulties with the Social Security system giving guidance when they could not find their way through the intricacies of the bureaucracy. She brought her own special kind of charm so that people who were receiving her help also felt comfortable.

All Members of Congress know the value of a staff member who wants to help those in need of help. In the time Esther worked for me I came to appreciate her willingness and her determination to give her all to the constituents. She treated them as her own, using all of her ability to assure them that someone did care and would help. I salute her and wish her the very best in her retirement. I and all the people of the 17th Congressional District will miss her.

BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues that today, May 7, 1997, the Alumni Association of the Buffalo General Hospital School of Nursing, in Buffalo, NY, is dedicating a permanent exhibit honoring the hospital's School of Nursing.

Buffalo General's School of Nursing was founded April 5, 1877 as the Training School for Nurses. It was the first such school west of New York City and is the second oldest hospital school of nursing in the United States. The school's nurse graduates have served our Nation in five wars: Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean war, and Vietnam war.

Among the school's many notable graduates was Lystra Gretter, class of 1888. She is best remembered for chairing the committee that wrote the Nightingale Pledge—later adopted as the official pledge of graduate nurses from accredited schools throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the Buffalo General Hospital School of Nursing for its 120 years of training nurses to care for our citizens.

COMING HOME: JAPANESE-AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF 1942-1945—A SPECIAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Japanese-Americans who re-

ceived honorary high school diplomas from the San Francisco Unified School District in a special graduation ceremony on May 6 at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco.

The honorees were denied the opportunity to graduate from high school in San Francisco during World War II. The issuance of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, set into motion the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans including the honorees and their families for the remainder of World War II. The internees were given only 48-hour notice to sell or store their belongings, and evacuate their homes before they were herded into 10 internment camps across this Nation. They were surrounded by barbed wire and watched over by armed military guards.

Most of the honorees were only 17 or 18 years old at the time. They were removed from school as security risks. Yet, they were American citizens, the American-born sons and daughters of parents who emigrated from Japan.

More than 50 years later, the honorees and their fellow internees are in the senior years of their lives. In the past decade or so, our Government has apologized and awarded reparations. The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund now supports efforts to educate others about the internment experience.

The honorees' experiences are living symbols of a shameful period in American history which we must not repeat. As one of the planners of the ceremony expressed, it is a privilege to be part of a program that will enlighten so many, especially the students in our school system.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the individuals involved and the San Francisco Unified School District in planning this event to acknowledge the legacy of the Japanese-American experiences. I am grateful to the honorees for coming forward and sharing of themselves. I am proud to salute them.

TRIBUTE TO JAMON CHARLES WILLIAMS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay special tribute to a remarkable individual who has distinguished himself by his exceptional accomplishments in both academics and athletics. Mr. Jamon Charles Williams passed away on Thursday, April 17, 1997.

Jamon attended Memorial High School in San Antonio, TX, and was in the top 15 percent of his senior class. He was a Presidential Classroom Scholar and had plans to pursue an Engineering career at one of the six colleges where he had already been accepted.

Jamon was co-captain of Memorial's basketball team and was named to the 27-AAAA District Basketball team. His athletic ability and his desire to build team morale allowed him to lead his high school basketball team to many victories. In addition, Jamon was the president of the Black Student Union.

Mr. Speaker, all of San Antonio grieves for the family and friends of Jamon Williams. Mr.