

or child who is either a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. It also established that the Attorney General may not cancel the removal and adjust the status and suspend the deportation of a total of more than 4,000 aliens in any fiscal year.

The Executive Office for Immigration Review [EOIR] has announced that immigration judges have already granted 4,000 applications in the current fiscal year and ordered immigration judges to discontinue approving more suspension of deportation cases. Many eligible applicants, including refugees, will now be deprived of a way to legalize their status. We must take action to correct this situation as soon as possible.

The original intention of this section of the law was never to arbitrarily deny this form of relief to eligible people. The original language, as approved by the Judiciary Committee, restored the Attorney General's discretion to grant relief to eligible aliens who had not been admitted with the condition that an annual ceiling be placed on the number of adjustments of status granted. Nevertheless, the original language was changed during the floor consideration of the bill and the Attorney General now may not cancel the removal and adjust the status to permanent residence of more than 4,000 aliens in any fiscal year.

This unfortunate change could result in the unnecessary deportation of thousands of immigrants who may have fled their homes seeking safety and protection in the United States.

Very simply, my bill would remove the existing 4,000 cap and allow the immigration courts to use their discretion in suspension of deportation—cancellation of removal—proceedings.

NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge National Arson Awareness Week and to support efforts to prevent arson such as the Target Arson project.

As a Member of Congress, I have supported fire prevention efforts on the floor of the House of Representatives and in West Virginia. Most of my work has been helping our children learn valuable fire safety lessons. Two years ago I worked with the Martinsburg Fire Department and the Berkeley County Office of Emergency Services to have a fire prevention video produced. The video, "House on Wheels Fire Education," was distributed to all elementary schools in West Virginia with the assistance of State Farm Insurance.

Arson is different from most other crimes. It is a cowardly criminal act. It is committed without regard to who might be hurt. Innocent victims, even firefighters can be harmed by an arsonist. Each year 1,000 people die from an estimated 332,000 arson fires. Direct property loss is in excess of \$1.6 billion. Since 1984 arson fire deaths have increased 33 percent.

Unfortunately, West Virginians were not spared from the scourge of arson. The United States Fire Administration's Annual Report to Congress states that in 1994, 18.4 percent of all reported fires in West Virginia were caused by arson, with losses exceeding \$1.6 million.

Earlier this week I participated in an arson investigation demonstration with Captain, West Virginia's only four-legged arson investigator. Captain is an arsonist's worst nightmare. He is a black labrador retriever who works for the State of West Virginia and is trained to locate the origins of arson incidents.

Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local firefighters, police officers and other members of the community are participating in Target Arson, a public awareness campaign that is part of National Arson Awareness Week. Target Arson is aimed at educating our children and the general public about the dangers of arson, its consequences and how to prevent it.

Let us pause, Mr. Speaker, during National Arson Awareness Week to honor all those men, women and four-footed allies dedicated to fighting the war against arson and urge all Americans to support their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall votes 92 through 97. If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 92, "aye" on rollcall 93, "aye" on rollcall 94, "aye" on rollcall 95, "aye" on rollcall 96, and "aye" on rollcall 97.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to illness, I was unable to be present on Thursday, May 1 for votes on amendments offered by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, and the gentleman from Florida, Mr. WELDON. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 100, "no" on rollcall No. 101, and "aye" on rollcall No. 102. I ask unanimous consent that this explanation appear in the permanent RECORD next to the votes.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. C.B.T. SMITH FOR 45 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE DALLAS COMMUNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the retirement of a great friend, the Reverend Dr. C.B.T. Smith, the minister of the Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church. C.B.T. Smith has played a prominent role in the African-American community during his 45 years of service at his church in the city of Dallas. The reverend demonstrated a life long commitment to the ministerial needs of our

community in Dallas, and his service is exemplified by his more than 50 years of service in the gospel ministry.

During his tenure, Dr. Smith has been a staunch supporter of education and has become well known for his work on the local, State, and national levels, promoting positive opportunity through education.

Dr. Smith's congregation gathered to commemorate his retirement in a weekend-long tribute which began April 11, 1997.

When Dr. Smith came to Dallas, he began to organize and create ministries which would give access to all who wished to attend church especially those who could not make it to Sunday worship.

He created a prison ministry and a bus ministry to continue to provide outreach to people who needed his service the most. He believed in feeding his flock first, through starting the First Christian Welfare and Storehouse Ministry, the Sunday School on Wheels Ministry, and a senior citizens ministry.

His most ambitious undertaking was when he launched the ARMS [Adult Rehabilitation Ministry], a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility for men.

All of these ministries which he set forth were to bring a sense of belonging to those who felt disenfranchised. He wanted to make sure that everyone who wanted to could feel a part of this community and attend his ministry.

Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues assembled here to join me in recognizing my good friend and the fine minister from the Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church, the Reverend Dr. C.B.T. Smith, for his many years of dedicated service to the city of Dallas. All of Dallas and the State of Texas are lucky to have such a fine minister, and I am sure that he will, in some way, continue to look after us in some capacity in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARGARET CAFFERTY, PBVM

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of sadness and deep gratitude that I rise today in tribute to an American woman who devoted her life to the causes of civil rights and social and economic justice.

Margaret Cafferty, a sister of the Presentation Sisters, is her name. And her death on April 20, 1997, at her motherhouse in San Francisco after a battle with bone cancer, leaves her native city, her country, and the global community a proud legacy of a staunch and persuasive defender of justice for all, especially the poor and oppressed.

Born in San Francisco on December 8, 1935, Sister Cafferty was the daughter of John Cafferty and Mildred Sinks. Sister Cafferty's sense of social justice was nourished from the cradle by her father, a coal miner, and her mother, who where both active in the struggle for labor rights.

In 1953, Margaret Cafferty entered the community of the Sisters of the Presentation. Her early assignments included teaching high school in San Francisco and in Los Angeles where she challenged her students to become