

we will also for the first time since 1962 observe Emancipation Day as a public holiday. The celebration commemorates the abolition of slavery in Jamaica 159 years ago. Its reinstatement is intended to recognize the significance of the struggle for and the achievement of emancipation by our ancestors and to preserve this in the collective memory of the Jamaican people.

Emancipation Day was one of the most significant transformative moments in the history of Jamaica, a central historical point of departure which forms part of the foundation upon which we build our nation. Our progression as a country from emancipation to independence and beyond demonstrates that indomitable Jamaican spirit engendered in the struggle for emancipation.

Jamaica continues to make progress towards economic development although confronted by internal and international problems. Despite the obstacles, the economy has been stabilized with encouraging growth in tourism, bauxite and agriculture. A stable exchange rate and careful monetary and fiscal management has dramatically reduced inflation and alleviated the pressures of the cost of living.

For the fourth consecutive year, Jamaica was voted the top Caribbean destination at the prestigious World Travel Awards. The introduction of the Air Jamaica hub in Montego Bay will help to promote significant economic activity in western Jamaica and broaden air transport options in the Caribbean. Our national airline is also expanding its North American routes to better serve overseas Jamaicans and to promote the tourist industry.

Jamaica continues to play a leadership role in international affairs. Prime Minister P.J. Patterson chaired the historic meeting between the CARICOM Heads of Government and President Bill Clinton in Barbados in May. This meeting was a positive step towards strengthening US-Caribbean relations by establishing the framework for continued intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation in matters of mutual interest. We reinforced our campaign against drug trafficking by concluding an Agreement to Suppress Illicit Maritime Drug Trafficking ("shiprider") with the United States in a manner which did not infringe on Jamaica's sovereignty.

In collaboration with our Caribbean neighbors, we continue to dialogue with the United States on NAFTA parity and seek a resolution to the banana dispute. In this co-operative spirit, I urge Jamaicans to join forces with other Caribbean peoples to address the implications of the new immigration legislation in the United States.

We have learnt from our historical experiences that we are stronger through collective action. In this regard Jamaicans in the United States continue to play a significant role in nation building. Your investments, remittances and contributions to social institutions have made a tangible impact on the lives of all Jamaicans at home. It is this kind of patriotism and initiative which creates the oneness which is Jamaica, a nation without borders. On this independence anniversary let us move forward with confidence, fortified by past achievements, and infused with hope. Together we can realize the enormous potential of our small but exceptional nation.

DR. RICHARD L. BERNAL,
Ambassador.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DENNIS LAMBERT AFTER 20 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and bid farewell to a valued member of my staff, Mr. Dennis Lambert, who after 20 years of distinguished service in the legislative branch of our Federal Government, has decided to retire. Dennis has served as my chief of staff since January 1995 when I first took office and has proven to be an outstanding administrator, a trusted friend, and faithful ally.

Dennis grew up in Kansas City, MO, and attended school in the Hickman Mills School District. He holds an A.B. in history from William Jewell College, a masters in public administration from New York University and a masters in liberal arts from Georgetown University. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Germany and the United States, specializing in communications. Dennis also taught school in Center School District in Kansas City, MO. He served in key staff positions for former Member of Congress, Tom Coleman [R-MO] from 1976 to 1992, initially as chief of staff and later as minority staff director on the House Agriculture Committee. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of the city of Washington, DC, and has worked closely with the Truman Foundation. Dennis is an experienced leader and team player; a fantastic negotiator and strategist; he is a master at innovative consensus building and I always marvel at his ability to remain so calm in the midst of any storm.

In my 3 years in Congress, I have come to rely heavily on Dennis' counsel and infinite wisdom. He has been a very loyal friend to me and to the rest of our staff, and we will miss him.

TRIBUTE TO STERLING DOWLING

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young person from the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina.

Sterling Dowling, an Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School rising senior, has just been elected president of Boys' Nation, a week-long government and leadership training program that combines lectures and forums with visits to Federal agencies, institutions, memorials, and historical spots, held at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. At Orangeburg-Wilkinson, Sterling serves as corps commander of the Air Force Junior ROTC, is on the executive board of his student council, and serves on the student advisory board. He participates on the debate team, serves as an HIV/AIDS peer educator and is a member of Palmetto Project Operation HOPE for better race relations.

Sterling Dowling's success is not a recent occurrence. Before being elected as president

of Boys' Nation, Sterling served as governor of Palmetto [South Carolina] Boys' State. Sterling will return to Palmetto Boys' State next summer to serve as a youth counselor. Boys' State and Boys' Nation are both sponsored by the American Legion.

After graduating from high school, Sterling plans to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta or South Carolina State University in his hometown to major in English education. He intends to seek a degree at the North Carolina Central School of Law. In his last year in high school, Dowling said he plans to go forth armed with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sterling Dowling for his outstanding accomplishments and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LATE SENATOR
BOB WILSON

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to praise one of the finest men ever to serve in the State senate of the State of Alabama, Senator Robert Terry Wilson, Sr. Senator Wilson was born in a mining camp in Dora, AL, on April 23, 1922. He was the third of seven children. Senator Wilson was raised in Jasper and then attended the public schools, as well as the University of Alabama, where he also graduated from law school.

During World War II, Senator Wilson was a brave man who served as a tail gunner in a B-26 bomber. He flew 65 missions over Italy and France during the hardest years of the war. For his heroism, he was decorated with many medals, including the coveted French, Croix De Guerre.

Although he fought many battles during the war, he also fought many more in the political arena, some great and some small. In the Alabama senate, he represented the poor, the downtrodden, and the forgotten of society. He always was an effective voice for the under-represented of our land, and did so with principle.

One of the few battles Senator Bob Wilson ever lost occurred last week when many years of cancer finally overcame him. I send my heartfelt wishes to his widow Ruth, and his children, Bob, Sue, Sally, and Alice. We will all miss Senator Wilson, and the arena of politics will be just a little bit less bright without him.

I am glad that I had the privilege and pleasure to serve with him in the Alabama Legislature.

JERUSALEM BOMBING ABHORRENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am in shock over the terrorist suicide bombings that abruptly shattered the lives of over 150 innocent people and murdered 13 unsuspecting shoppers in a Jerusalem market