

to tell you about a church that has been part of its community for an entire century. Memorial Baptist, and many other small churches like it, have been quietly going about their work of teaching and strengthening families and communities so long that we hardly realize, until we stop and think about it, to what great extent they form the backbone of our country. A 100-year anniversary gives us this opportunity.

Memorial Baptist Church has been a source of strength to its members and neighbors through many hard times. The church has provided spiritual support through two World Wars, the Great Depression, two more wars, times of social upheaval that tore many communities apart across our country, and the family struggles that come with many years of high unemployment. Dilltown is a very small, close-knit rural community located in southwestern Pennsylvania, a region hard-hit economically by the downsizing of the steel industry some years ago. Were it not for the good works of the small community churches like Memorial Baptist, many families might have been torn apart—many people might have lost their faith and their hope.

But the Memorial Baptist Church has continued on, continued to be there to serve the people of Dilltown, and for that, we should all be humbly grateful.

So again, I congratulate the pastor and members of Memorial Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary of service to God and community. Keep up the good work, and may you be there for 1,000 more years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently missed rollcall vote No. 458 on September 26, 1997. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the Bartlett amendment to strike funding for payments to U.N. international organization arrearages and U.N. international peacekeeping arrearages.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE W. CHERRY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose years of service to South Brunswick, NJ, has made him an icon of the community. Ted Cherry, a former mayor and committeeman of South Brunswick Township was recently honored during a regular meeting of the township committee.

State representatives and members of the committee joined together in honoring Mr. Cherry, South Brunswick's first African-American mayor. Mr. Cherry, the town's mayor in 1979, 1980, and 1982, received a standing ovation while being honored with a resolution passed by both houses of the New Jersey State Legislature. The State honored Mr. Cherry for exemplifying the "true meaning of selfless public service."

Mr. Speaker, Ted Cherry's years of unselfish, dedication to the people of South Brunswick is an example of strong, objective leadership in public service.

"We are here tonight to say we admire you and we feel indebted to you," said State Senator Peter Inverso. This was only one of many kind words that were said about Mr. Cherry. Ted Cherry is an inspiration to us all by the fair and personable way he conducted himself during his tenure as a public official.

As a former local official, I am well aware of the countless hours of hard work that all local officials endure for their fellow residents. I am pleased to join with my fellow elected officials in New Jersey in recognizing the efforts of Ted Cherry.

EQUITY FOR IMMIGRANTS ACT

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am introducing today, the Equity for Immigrants Act, will pay to restore benefits to legal immigrants by cutting corporate subsidies the Federal Government provides to arms merchants for sale of weapons systems to other countries. I am very pleased that 15 other Members are joining me as original cosponsors.

When the welfare reform bill was passed in the summer of last year, I pledged to restore benefits that were denied to legal immigrants. Before then, legal immigrants were eligible for a wide variety of public assistance. I am a legal immigrant and I felt it was extremely unfair to place nearly half the burden of welfare reform squarely on the backs of taxpaying legal immigrants.

Federal spending is all about choices. Earlier this year, this House easily added \$27 billion for B-2 bombers that no one wanted. We can provide benefits for legal immigrants who play by the rules, pay taxes, and carry the same responsibilities as citizens.

The Balanced Budget Act that became law in August restored over half of the benefits that had been denied to legal immigrants. My legislation, the Equity for Immigrants Act, restores the remainder of those benefits at a cost of \$9.5 billion over 5 years and pays for them by eliminating \$9.5 billion in wasteful subsidies provided to U.S. defense contractors.***HD***welfare reform bills

Last year's welfare reform bill established comprehensive new restrictions on the eligibility of legal immigrants for means-tested public assistance. The savings derived from denying benefits to legal immigrants were estimated at \$21 billion over 5 years, accounting for nearly half the savings in the entire welfare reform bill.

The welfare reform bill denied Supplemental Security Income [SSI] and food stamps to most legal immigrants. In addition, it gave States the option of providing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] and Medicaid to legal immigrants. It also barred most legal immigrants arriving after August 22 of last year from receiving Federal means-tested public benefits—TANF, food stamps, Medicaid, and SSI—for 5 years after arrival.***HD***balanced budget act

The Balanced Budget Act was signed into law August 5, 1997. It restored SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants who were here before August 22, 1996. It allowed SSI for those who were here on that date who later become disabled. The Balanced Budget Act also extends the exemption from SSI and Medicaid restrictions for refugees from 5 years to 7 years after entry.

The Balanced Budget Act provided \$11.5 billion in restored benefits for legal immigrants for the period 1998–2002.

BENEFITS RESTORATION TITLE

Title I of my bill restores legal immigrants' eligibility for benefits by repealing title IV of the welfare reform bill. Title IV was the part of last year's welfare bill which eliminated legal immigrants' eligibility for benefits.

The cost over 5 years of restoring those benefits that were not included in the Balanced Budget Act is \$9.5 billion.

Repealing the remainder of title IV as my bill does would accomplish the following:

Food stamp benefits would be restored for legal immigrants who were here August 22, 1996 as well as for future immigrants.

SSI and Medicaid would be provided to all future immigrants regardless of date of entry.

Repealing title IV would also eliminate the State option for providing TANF and Medicaid to legal immigrants. This has a potential magnet effect with differing benefits among States.

Repealing title IV would also eliminate the 5-year bar on assistance for new arrivals before they can receive Federal means-tested public benefits.

WELFARE FOR WEAPONS DEALERS

Title II of my bill reduces arms export subsidies to fund the cost of providing these remaining benefits to legal immigrants. Taxpayers spend billions of dollars annually for Federal subsidies devoted to helping major defense companies market their wares around the world—plying everything from ammunition to high-technology fighter jets, all at a time when the United States is already the world's leading arms exporter.

Uncle Sam is the world's largest arms dealer, employing nearly 6,500 full-time personnel to promote foreign arms sales by U.S. companies. For the sixth consecutive year, the United States led the world in arms deliveries in 1996.

We are militarizing foreign aid. In 1995, subsidies for arms exports accounted for over 50 percent of U.S. bilateral aid.

Major weapons manufacturing firms buy influence by contributing to congressional candidates—\$14.8 million between 1990 and 1994. These firms include Lockheed-Martin, Northrup Grumman, and others.

We are backing losers. The U.S. Government ranks first in the world in subsidizing arms exports. Meanwhile we spend only \$150 million a year to help U.S. firms get a foothold in the expanding international market for environmental technologies. That market is expected to reach \$190 to \$240 billion by the end of this decade. This is at a time that by DOD's own reckoning, the international arms market will likely continue to shrink from its current level of \$32 billion.

There is a boomerang effect to our arms sales. Subsidized arms sales have caused more security problems than they have solved. The last five times the United States has sent troops into conflict situations—in Panama,