

In 1974, Donald co-founded Vector Real Estate Corporation. As President, he guided the firm in development, acquisitions, and joint-ventures on residential, commercial, and retail properties. In 1989, Donald began a tenure as director of the New York Federal Savings Bank; three years later, he became its CEO. Last year, he negotiated the sale of New York Federal Savings Bank to Flushing Savings Bank and became a Senior Vice President.

It should also be noted that Donald Shapiro has helped guide several other enterprises in the New York area. He is a former board member of the Community Bankers Association of New York State and is currently a director of the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York.

But, Mr. Speaker, Donald Shapiro has done so much more. Religion, education, and family have played significant roles in his life. I particularly respect and admire his religious commitment. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia and Chair of the West End Synagogue. His leadership has helped these institutions thrive. I also commend him for his loyalty to the educational institutions that helped him grow. He recently completed a term as an Alumni Trustee of the Phillips Academy, and is currently Chair of the Academy's Campus Design Review Committee.

Donald Shapiro has embraced life. In addition to his business and volunteer ventures, he enjoys swimming and playing squash, and is an aficionado of theater and music. The New York Giants and New York Mets can count him as one of their biggest fans. He has three adult children—a rabbi, a poet, and an actor. He is married to Arlene, a real estate broker, and they reside in New York City.

From 1993 to 1996, Donald Shapiro served as President of the Harvard Club of New York City. Next week, the Club will dedicate his portrait. On this joyous occasion, I want to acknowledge his achievements and wish him happiness and success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW CASTLE AREA HONOR GUARD

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the New Castle Area Honor Guard. This group of dedicated Veterans provides an invaluable service to all those individuals who risked their lives in defense of our freedoms. I would like to take this opportunity to commend these volunteers for their years of service to the Veterans of Lawrence County.

The New Castle Area Honor Guard was formed in October 1992 when a group of concerned Veterans became aware of a terrible disservice that had recently occurred. A fellow Veteran had passed away in the New Castle area, leaving no survivors to attend his funeral service or honor his memory. The concerned men enlisted the aid of their fellow Veterans and committed themselves to honoring their comrades in an appropriate fashion. Hence, the honor guard was formed to provide military funeral services for honorably discharged Veterans of the area.

Since performing their first military funeral in 1993 the membership of the New Castle Area

Honor Guard has grown to nearly 40 dedicated individuals. In addition to funeral services, they have extended their operation to perform services in which our national flag is honored. The honor guard has performed more than 500 funerals in and around the Lawrence County area and has traveled as far as Ohio to provide their services.

Mr. Speaker, let us commend the efforts of this loyal group of American Veterans. These citizens have proven their commitment to our nation time and time again. They once served with valor in our armed forces and they continue to serve with honor in our community. I ask you and all members to join me in a special salute to the New Castle Area Honor Guard.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST RESERVE FUND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. RANGEL, Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to establish a "Save Social Security First Reserve Fund." I am joined by Representative BARBARA KENNELLY, Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Social Security, and Democratic Members of the Committee on Ways and Means. I hope that others, both Democrats and Republicans, will join us in this effort.

The bill would implement the President's call to reserve 100 percent of the budget surplus until we have taken all the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. It would ensure that budget surpluses are set aside pending Social Security reform.

Social Security is a strong reflection of who we are as a nation. Through it, we recognize our duties to our parents and grandparents and our shared responsibility to one another. Social Security protects all of us in good times and in bad.

Without Social Security, nearly half of all older Americans would live in poverty. That is because Social Security provides most of the income of two-thirds of the people over the age of 65.

Social Security protects young and old alike from the unforeseen circumstances of death or disability. Over 7 million widows and children receive benefits due to the death of a breadwinner.

This legislation reflects our determination to save Social Security first—before we talk about tax cuts or spending priorities. Thus, the bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to deposit any budget surplus into the Save Social Security First Reserve Fund which would be invested in U.S. government securities. The budget deficit would be zero. This would leave no doubt that we intend to save any budget surplus which materializes until we have taken action to strengthen the Social Security system.

DAYCARE FAIRNESS FOR STAY- AT-HOME PARENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, passage of H. Con. Res. 202, the Equitable Child Care Resolution, is an important step Congress must take to address the child care needs of American families.

The Equitable Child Care Resolution will ensure that the child care discussions by Congress include consideration of the needs of at-home parents. Unfortunately, the President's child care proposal fails to recognize that almost 70 percent of American families do not pay for child care because at-home parents or relatives care for the children. These families—many of which are low to middle income—have devised creative solutions to meet their child care needs, because they would rather have a parent, relative, or friend care for their children than an institution. However, their solutions often entail a sizeable sacrifice of family income. The President's proposal simply ignores this 70 percent of families with children and instead focuses on the remaining 30 percent.

During consideration of child care policy, it is also important that Congress not create another large federal bureaucracy. Such a bureaucracy, coupled with a subsidy for child care, would create the incentive for increased dependence on, and control by, Washington bureaucrats. The effect would be to move more children into institutionalized day care. Parents have the right to determine what kind of child care that is best for them, whether parent-based, church-based, community-based, neighborhood-based, or institution-based. They should not be pushed into one type of care through social engineering subsidies. Moreover, the President's plan would unequally distribute benefits, tilting them toward families where both parents choose to work, while taxing those who decide to stay at home.

A more effective solution would be to provide an across-the-board tax reduction—such as expanding the \$500 per child tax credit recently enacted by Congress. We should expand the range of choices available to parents, not the government's control over child care. Parents should be equipped with the resources, responsibility, and personal control to raise their children.

The federal government currently sponsors numerous programs to help families with children. Since 1995, Republicans in Congress have enacted major reforms to help families afford child care. The welfare reform law has merged four programs into the better and more effective Child Care Development Block Grant. This block grant allows localities to respond to the different needs of our families, giving parents choices through vouchers. Overall, welfare reform has increased child care funds for our country's neediest families by \$4 billion. In addition, the Child Development Tax Credit provides \$14 billion over the next five years to families with child care expenses.

My goal is to help restore the central role of families in society while addressing the specific needs of our children. A child care plan,

such as the one offered by the President, that punishes parent care and encourages government controlled institutionalized care does not strengthen the family. Rather, it weakens families while increasing the role of Washington bureaucrats in the lives of our children.

INTRODUCTION OF HOME CARE
LEGISLATION

HON. MERRILL COOK

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman MCGOVERN as an original cosponsor of legislation to address some serious problems caused by certain provisions included in the Balanced Budget Act.

There were several provisions included in the Act intended to address alleged Medicare waste and fraud occurring in the home care industry. However, some of these provisions are causing a great deal of hardship and heartbreak for seniors in Utah, Massachusetts, and across the nation.

Why is this happening?

First, the provisions in the Balanced Budget Act put the cart before the horse. They have forced home care providers to cut costs at least six months before the federal government tells the providers how much they have to cut.

Second, the provisions create a Rube Goldberg system where home care providers are rewarded or punished depending on what kind of fiscal year they use. I would need a one hour special order to try to explain this one.

The bill that Congressman MCGOVERN and I are introducing will address these problems. I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF A. LEROY
WARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mr. A. Leroy Ward, the former police chief of Neptune Township, NJ, who passed away earlier this week at the age of 83.

Mr. Ward served 35 years on the Neptune police force, beginning as a patrolman in 1944 and rising through the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant and captain before appointed chief on February 1, 1964. He retired in 1979. A loving husband and father, he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Dorothea, two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His son James A. Ward currently serves as the Neptune Township Police Chief.

Mr. Ward was born in Newark, NJ, and lived for more than 50 years in the Ocean Grove area of Neptune. He was past president of the Monmouth County Chiefs of Police Association and a member of the New Jersey International Chiefs of Police Association. He was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocean Grove, the Wall-Spring Lake

Lodge 73 of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Washington Fire Company 1 of Ocean Grove and the New Jersey Exempt Firemen's Association.

The obituary for Mr. Ward that was published in the Asbury Park Press of New Jersey quoted political and law enforcement leaders praising the former chief for his consummate professionalism. Mr. Ward served during a time of explosive growth in Neptune Township, and he responded very well to the challenges and opportunities posed by these changes. He reached out to all parts of the community, from young people to senior citizens, and fostered a strong sense of respect between the police and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this great public servant and fine man, Chief A. Leroy Ward. I extend my condolences to his family, and hope that the many tributes pouring in for Mr. Ward will be a source of comfort to them.

“REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT,
ENHANCE THE LINE ITEM VETO”

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, I stood on this floor for the first time as a Member of Congress and spoke in support of the balanced budget agreement. In my comments, I praised all those who worked diligently to secure our Nation's immediate future by tackling the deficit. However, I also recognized that another, more ominous problem awaited us on the horizon; and that problem could only be addressed once we got a handle on our deficit. That problem, Mr. Speaker, is our national debt.

We all know the numbers—the federal debt now stands at over \$5.3 trillion, which amounts to roughly \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in the country. According to the President's budget, we must allocate roughly 14 percent of our budget this year simply to pay the net interest on the debt.

Mr. Speaker, I know all of you share my enthusiasm over the continued expansion of the economy and the economic forecasts predicting a balanced budget as early as fiscal year 1999. In addition, we are all aware of the debate currently being waged with respect to what our priorities should be if we experience a budget surplus; however, now is not the time to abandon our fiscal belt-tightening. Rather, the tools we now have in place to ward against pork-barrel spending need to be preserved and enhanced.

An example of this is the President's line item veto authority. As you recall, the impetus behind the line item veto was, in part, to ward against wasteful spending—a concern that I believe is paramount regardless of whether a budget deficit or surplus exists. Mr. Speaker, it is with this particular concern in mind that I come to the floor today. For without legislative action, the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 and the fiscal responsibility if represents will be endangered due to a technicality.

Under current law, the President may enroll this authority only in the event of a budget deficit. Regardless of our opinion over how the President recently used this authority, if we

support the ideal behind the legislation, we must remain vigilant against wasteful spending and provide this continued authority in the event of a budget surplus.

Today, I dropped a bill to remedy this problem and I urge my colleagues' serious consideration and support in moving his fiscally prudent legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, my proposal would preserve the continuation of the line item veto by adding language to the Act clarifying its applicability during a budget surplus and directly the savings to be used to reduce the national debt. This not only provides clear congressional intent, but also strengthens the constitutionality of the Act by limiting the delegation of authority between the Legislative and Executive branches to times of a deficit or a surplus.

Again, I believe that this is a great, fiscally responsible issue for all in Congress to champion during the 2d session and I welcome your comments and cosponsorship. Please join me in supporting this legislation.

PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS
ACT

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, three days from today, one hundred years ago, history was made. On the night of February 15, 1898 at exactly 9:40 p.m. the United States battleship USS Maine exploded in Cuba's Havana Harbor.

To this day the cause of the explosion, which killed 266 naval officers and crewmen, remains a mystery. Yet despite the unknown source of the attack, it was the spark that fueled the Spanish American War in 1898.

A war that Americans proudly entered as a crusade to free Cuba from Spanish rule.

A war that also liberated Puerto Rico from Spanish rule, but turned Puerto Rico into a U.S. territory.

We have now been a territory of the United States for 100 years and disenfranchised U.S. citizens for 81 years. But a century has passed us by and we remain disenfranchised and a colony, at a time when colonies are not only unfashionable but embarrassing to a Nation that preaches democracy throughout the world and calls for a plebiscite in Cuba.

Puerto Ricans are part of the great American family. Puerto Ricans are United States citizens who have proudly fought in numerous conflicts for our Nation. They have shed their blood and they have defended democracy like any other soldier living in the 50 states.

The U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico deserve much more than the continued postponements for consideration of their case. Congress has procrastinated our political dilemma for too long. The Legislature of Puerto Rico has enacted joint resolutions which it has sent to three consecutive Congresses, the 103rd, the 104th, the 105th—asking for Congress to take the necessary steps to resolve the Puerto Rico political status. This Congress, the 105th Congress, has the authority and the moral responsibility to approve H.R. 856—the US-Puerto Rico Political Status Act, a bill for self-determination—a bill which will pave the road to enfranchisement and equality.