

States. In light of the act that we are honoring Hispanic heritage and culture, I am choosing to make this tribute in my native language Spanish.

Hace exactamente setenta y siete años en Berkeley, California, se creó una asociación honoraria para reunir estudiantes universitarios sobresalientes en literatura y cultura tanto española como hispanoamericana para formar parte de esta cofradía dedicada a promover el pasado y presente glorioso del mundo hispánico: lo español, lo indígena y lo africano. A partir de ese momento, su propósito ha sido preparar nuevas generaciones para que se sientan orgullosos de sus raíces e iniciar a estudiantes de otras culturas a apreciar lo maravilloso de lo nuestro.

Es muy importante tomar en consideración los ataques en contra de comunidades étnicas como la nuestra, que quieren preservar su identidad a través del lenguaje y cultura. Me estoy refiriendo a la legislación que comunmente es reconocida como "English Only", que fue presentada en la Cámara de este Congreso para establecer el inglés como idioma oficial de este país. Si esta legislación hubiese sido aprobada, nos habría prohibido hablar nuestra lengua en esta Cámara de Representantes o en cualquier sitio público. Es importante que organizaciones como Sigma Delta Pi continúen con su esfuerzo en preservar la cultura hispana y, de esta manera, complementen a la cultura general de este país.

Successful organizations like this cannot promote themselves alone. They need the guidance and vision of talented leaders like Professor Marie-Lise Gazarian-Gautier, a renovate scholar in literature at St. John's University, Coordinator of the Graduate Spanish Program and Moderator of Epsilon Kappa. St. John's Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. Dr. Gazarian is affiliate with universities in Paris-France, Moscow-Russia, and Santiago the 1945 Chilean Nobel Prize Laureate. She is also author of several books, among them: "Gabriela Mistral: La maestra de Elqui". In addition, she serves as Foreign Correspondent for several literary journals abroad and has hosted a nationwide series on "Contemporary Hispanic Fiction" produced by WCBS-TV and St. John's Television Center. In 1996 she was appointed Judge of the Selection Committee for the Poet Laureate from Queens. She currently serves as Vice President for the Northeast of Sigma Delta Pi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me today in honor of the seventy-seventh anniversary of Sigma Delta Pi and the invaluable contribution its chapters are making throughout the Hispanic Culture and society throughout the United States. We wish Sigma Delta Pi continued success and recognize St. John's University's Chapter, Epsilon Kappa, for its outstanding work in promoting Hispanic culture in America.

HONORING MISS ERNA ELDER ON  
HER RETIREMENT

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great teacher, Miss Erna Elder, on

her retirement from St. Mark's Lutheran School in Steeleville, Illinois.

She has shared her many talents with her community for the past 42 years. Miss Elder joined the St. Mark's staff in the fall of 1957 and taught both the first and second grade classes. For twenty-four of the past forty-two years she also served as the school's secretary during the summer months. In 1979, Miss Elder also served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Illinois District Teacher's Conference. During the 1986 school term she served as the acting Principal.

Miss Elder served St. Mark's in many other capacities over the years, such as Walther League Counselor, basketball scorekeeper and several committees benefiting the St. Mark's community. She has also had the pleasure of watching St. Mark's grow from having just five class room teachers for grades 1-8 to eleven teachers for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8.

Miss Elder is an alumnus of St. Mark's having attended grades 4-8. She is a graduate of Sparta High School. From there she went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where she majored in Elementary Education.

In 1992, Miss Elder received the honor of being named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Over the years, Miss Elder has taught 846 students. As the first grade teacher for the majority of her 42 years of dedicated service to St. Marks she has influenced many young lives.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Miss Erna Elder on her retirement after many devoted years of service to the children of St. Marks and the entire community.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT  
APRIL 22, 1998

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to vote on a piece of legislation which will make it more difficult for the government to raise taxes. The Tax Limitation Amendment is good for American taxpayers because, ultimately, it will allow hard-earned wages to stay where they belong—in the hands of those who earn them.

If this amendment to the Constitution is passed, a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate will be necessary before any tax increase is imposed on the American public. Mr. Speaker, isn't this exactly what our forefathers intended when they included the concept of "no taxation without representation" in the Declaration of Independence?

Fourteen states already require a supermajority in order for their state legislatures to raise taxes. These states have proved that tax limitation does work—when taxes are limited, big government spending remains low and economies and the job base flourish.

Tax limitation already exists in the House of Representatives, but only through the end of this Congress. Let's preserve this statute, which works for government and works for taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues

to listen to the American public, to regulate taxes and to support the Tax Limitation Amendment.

WORKING TOWARD ECONOMIC  
SELF DETERMINATION: A NEW  
AGENDA FOR AFRICA

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues and concerned citizens of an important event taking place in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan. On Friday, April 24, 1998, I will join the Constituency for Africa, Africa World Expo Inc. and the Detroit Minority Business Opportunity Committee in hosting "A New Agenda for Africa: Augmenting Business Opportunities with Africa," a conference designed to help build successful trading partnerships between small and medium-sized American businesses and Africa. The conference, to be held in Detroit, Michigan, follows two monumental events in the history of this country's relationship with Africa: this body's passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and President Clinton's groundbreaking visit to six African nations.

On March 11, 1998, Congress voted 233 to 186 to support the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This bill sets forth a much-needed new U.S. economic and trade policy toward the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, encourages closer economic cooperation with this region, and supports debt reduction for the poorest African countries. This legislation was developed on a bi-partisan basis with the 48 Presidents and ambassadors of the sub-Saharan African nations themselves. Last December, I had the honor and privilege of participating in a Presidential mission on economic cooperation to six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This bill complements, rather than supplants, continued, effective aid to Africa. Aid to Africa has been cut by 25 percent; the passage of this bill is but beginning toward establishing economic self-determination and self-sufficiency for sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference will feature a number of experts on African trade issues, and will spotlight American business operators who have successful ventures in sub-Saharan Africa. Conference participants will hear first-hand accounts of the trade environment in sub-Saharan Africa from Mamadou Seck, Senegalese Ambassador to the United States; Koby Koomson, Ghanaian Ambassador to the United States; Mr. Banji Milambo, an economist with the Republic of Zambia; The Honorable Ackim Nkole, Deputy Minister of the Republic of Zambia, Dr. Ng'andu Bwalya, Director General of the Zambia Investment Center and Mr. Gerry Munyama, commercial officer for Namibia. It is my honor and privilege that these ambassadors and experts have taken the time to educate all Americans about trade and business opportunities in Africa.

I warmly welcome these and all of the participants for this important conference and encourage American business owners to consider Africa as they enter our increasingly global economy. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to enter these remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.