

CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGIA  
WARE**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, anyone who has been an employer can tell you the difference great employees can make on behalf of a business or organization. Exceptional employees are the foundation of exceptional endeavors, happy clients or customers, successful businesses and extremely pleased bosses. It's true—great employees make their bosses look good!

When Georgia Ware retires from her job as Peter Herschend's Administrative Assistant at Silver Dollar City this October, Peter is going to have to work harder to keep up his image. Georgia has made him and Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri look really good for almost twenty years.

Many people only know Georgia Ware by telephone. When people call Peter Herschend, the Vice Chairman of Silver Dollar City, Inc.—the internationally-known family-oriented attraction in Branson—Georgia is who they talk to first and first impressions are important.

Georgia is more than an assistant. Her voice has the ultimate sound of hospitality blended with just the right amount of authority needed to represent a very busy and very sought after boss, as he tends to this unique family-owned business. She knows how to respond to CEO's, family friends, local business leaders, Governors, and even Congressmen—with just the right touch. Georgia is the perfect diplomat, ambassador and empathizer. Even "no" sound pretty good when she says it.

Georgia will be leaving Southwest Missouri to move closer to her only son, Jerry, his wife, Debbie and their daughter, Mindy. We know they look forward to her arrival and she surely is ready to be closer to them.

Silver Dollar City and all of us who work with them will sorely miss her contributions to their every day efforts. My best wishes and many thanks to Georgia—she is exceptional.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM RYUN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote no. 426 on S. 2206, the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT KENNETH  
R. HOBSON, II**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of one of our Nation's brave young soldiers who gave his life in service to this

country. Sergeant Kenneth R. Hobson, II lost his life in the tragic bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

This 27-year-old hero from Nevada, MO, was assigned to the U.S. Army Defense Attache, Kenya, in April 1998 as an administrative specialist. He dedicated almost ten years of his life to serving our country in the U.S. Army, enlisting in July 1989. Sergeant Hobson was a soldier whose bravery and skill were tested during the Persian Gulf War. As a result of his commitment to duty and freedom in that conflict, he was awarded the Southwest Asia Medal with two bronze service stars and two Kuwait Liberation Medals. He also served our Nation proudly in Germany during two previous tours there.

Sergeant Hobson was an accomplished soldier—the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, three Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Air Assault Badge, and the Expert Marksmanship Badge.

Sergeant Hobson loved his country and believed in our Nation's tenets and principles. His beliefs were manifested in his dedication to the duties he was charged with and the commitment he displayed in service to our Nation, half a world away. Although his life was cut short by a terrorist's cruel attack, it is my sincere hope that his values and beliefs, instilled in him by his parents, Kenneth and Bonnie Sue, will be carried on by his wife, Deborah and daughter, Megan.

I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering Sergeant Kenneth R. Hobson, II and his family. I pray that we all let his courage and selfless commitment guide our public service and that we ensure his memory will never be forgotten.

## TRIBUTE TO ORLANDO COONS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Mr. Orlando Coons who passed away on September 7, 1998. Mr. Coons was born in Clark County, Ohio on November 1, 1915 to Grace and Blaine Coons. He moved to Los Angeles at an early age, where he attended and later graduated from Jefferson High School. While at Jefferson High School, Orlando ran track, played football, and taught himself gymnastics.

After graduating from high school, Orlando joined the Civilian Conservation Corps which eventually brought him to San Diego where he met and married Nellie Margaret Cheaves. In 1936, Orlando enrolled into San Diego State College, and majored in Engineering. He eventually transferred to the University of California at Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. Orlando Coon's lifelong occupation was as an Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineer for the Federal government at the North Island Naval Station in San Diego for 37 years.

While at San Diego State College, Orlando competed in track and field and gymnastics. He was very successful as a gymnast, earning honors including the California College Athletic Association Championship in 1939 when he

won an astounding six individual events. Orlando was the CCAA "All-Around" gymnastic champion in 1939 and 1940. In four gymnastic meets, Orlando Coons amassed the amazing total of ten firsts, two seconds, and two thirds, all attained against top competition.

As a reward for his performance, San Diego State College Dean C.E. Peterson appointed Orlando Coons as the Head Coach of the Gymnastics Team, making him the first African-American coach at San Diego State College. His team went on to win hundreds of awards. He won a 6th place medal at the United States Gymnastic Championships which automatically made him a member of the prestigious United States Gymnastic Team—thus becoming the first African-American ever on the United States team. Orlando Coons was invited to participate in the Pan American Games and was later appointed as an alternate on the United States Olympic Team.

For over a decade, Orlando Coons was considered the best gymnast on the West Coast. He was honored by the National YMCA for more than 50 years of community service as a gymnastics coach.

Orlando provided a tremendous amount of love and caring, discipline and love to his family and community. Orlando and wife Nellie had four children, and all received college and university degrees in higher education. He will be truly missed by family, friends and a grateful community.

A BIPARTISAN PROCESS SHOULD  
BE FUNDAMENTALLY FAIR TO  
ALL PARTIES**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, there was much discussion, in the media and in the halls of Congress, about how Congress would handle Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's report on President Clinton. While members on both sides of the aisle agreed to work on a bipartisan basis, there remained an important area of contention. The failure to resolve that issue resulted in a process that is fundamentally unfair to the subject of the report, the President.

The President's private attorney, David Kendall, requested from Mr. Starr that he allow the President's legal team to see a copy of the report before transmitting it to Congress. Mr. Starr denied Mr. Kendall's request and delivered the report to Congress without including the President's views. There was, however, another opportunity for the President to be given a chance to read the report and submit any additional views. Speaker GINGRICH claimed repeatedly that there was no precedent for letting the President review the report even before it is released to the public. I respectfully disagree. There are several precedents for granting the targets such a period of review.

First, in August of 1993, the judges who supervised Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh's Iran-Contra investigation gave the targets of the investigation 30 days to read the report and submit comments. After releasing to the public in unclassified portions of the report and the subjects' comments, the court

sent the classified portions of the report and the comments to Congress. The subjects' rebuttals to the allegations in Mr. Walsh's report were, in fact, twice as long as the report itself.

Second, when the Speaker was charged with filing inaccurate and misleading information that resulted in his paying a fine of \$300,000, he received an advance copy of the statement of allegations. In addition, the Speaker was quoted as saying that Investigator Cole's report should be made public only after the Speaker had time to review it.

Also, in 1985, during the Judiciary Committee's investigation into the Justice Department's withholding of EPA agency documents from Congress, the Committee permitted the persons whose conduct was being investigated to review the draft and submit rebuttal information.

Even in Watergate the Judiciary Committee received grand jury evidence in closed-door hearings for seven weeks with the President's lawyer in the same room. The materials received by the Committee were not released to the public until the conclusion of this evidentiary presentation, well after the White House had full knowledge of the material being considered by the Committee.

Three of the examples above concerned matters of a magnitude far less than an impeachment inquiry. Even in those instances, the subjects were given the opportunity to include their comments in the report before the report went to Congress. I find it highly objectionable that the President would not be given rights that were given to other targets in less historic investigations. I urge my colleagues to be fundamentally fair to all of the parties involved in this matter, including the target.

#### REMARKS ON THE NOISE PROBLEM AT DIA

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a persistent problem that has plagued many of my constituents, namely, the 24-hour a day noise from Denver International Airport (DIA). Since the airport opened in 1995, the hard-working people of Colorado's Eastern Plains have been subjected to daily intrusions by the noise of arriving and departing aircraft. Compounding this problem is the fact that Denver city officials, and bureaucrats at Federal Aviation Administration, have failed to adequately address the noise problem. My constituents have been caught in a bureaucratic catch-22. The city of Denver claims only the FAA has the power to adjust take-off and landing patterns, while the FAA maintains any changes must be done at the behest of the city and airport officials. Sadly, my constituents are the ones caught in the middle.

Beginning in 1996, Congress placed a prohibition on federal funds for the construction of a sixth runway at DIA. This prohibition was the direct result of the city of Denver's and the FAA's unwillingness to address the noise issue. The hope was withholding funds would compel serious solutions for those affected by airport operations. It is unfortunate this step

was necessary, and I would have preferred an amiable discussion, but after trying to work with the FAA and Denver officials, it became clear a confrontational approach was the only way to secure results.

Last spring, a study was released on the noise from aircraft operations at DIA, Buckley Air National Guard Base, and Centennial Airport. This study was commissioned by several front range counties, and relied on computer modeling to predict the possible impact of various air routes, and the possible addition of a sixth runway. While some have argued this justifies the lifting of the funding ban on the sixth runway, the report itself makes it clear further work is needed. Quoting from the report, "This study should be viewed as but a first step in analysis of possible aircraft-route modifications in the Denver area."

Lifting the ban on funding the sixth runway took off of the table the one tool that has proven effective in forcing the city of Denver to straightforwardly face the noise issue. This problem has lingered for too long, and the only positive strides that have been made are the direct result of the funding prohibition on the sixth runway. Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Congress, the FAA and the city of Denver to vigorously pursue solutions to DIA noise suitable to the residents of Colorado's Eastern Plains.

#### HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS' COMMIT- MENT TO TRIBAL SELF-GOVERN- ANCE AND PROSPEROUS TRIBAL ECONOMIES

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the extraordinary leadership of Chief Philip Martin and commending the successes of the Choctaw Tribe.

As a member of both the Congressional Native American Caucus and the Resources Committee, I have dedicated many hours to the promotion of tribal sovereignty and have met with numerous tribal leaders across the country to determine ways to jump start tribal economies. The Choctaw achievements and record in these two areas is truly exceptional.

Chief Martin's commitment to tribal self-determination, tribal sovereignty and the development of tribal economies has brought about enormous positive change to the Choctaw Reservation and the surrounding communities in Southeastern Mississippi.

By rebuilding the tribal government, educating its tribal members and constructing the basic infrastructure to maintain a very modest manufacture-based economy, the Choctaws were able to carve out a place for the tribe in the mainstream economy in the late 1970's. Over the last twenty years, Chief Martin has been able to expand the economy and create manufacturing jobs for members and the surrounding communities. This progress has allowed the tribe to improve the reservation infrastructure, construct single family homes for tribal members, and strengthen education and training among Choctaw citizens.

This diversified economy has also enabled the tribe to become entirely self-governing.

Revenues from the Choctaw enterprises are used to operate their own courts, fire departments, police force, reservation school system, housing authority, utility commission and health care system.

The resurrection of the Choctaw Tribe is a remarkable story. It is a model from which our Nation's Indian tribes can learn from and try to replicate. It is also a story lawmakers should look toward when considering legislation that affects native Americans. The Choctaws are indeed a tribe worth emulating, and their experiences exemplify what strong tribal governments can achieve.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVER- SARY OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, from universities to elementary schools, I am proud of the educational excellence that is represented in my home state of Michigan. The citizens of Michigan have a long history of defending quality schools and programs. On September 19, 1998, the residents of St. Clair County will celebrate the founding of St. Clair County Community College.

In the early 1920's, Michigan state law stated that only cities with a population of at least 30,000 people were permitted to have Junior Colleges. According to the 1920 census, the City of Port Huron only had 25,000 people. But thanks to the commitment of local officials, the Port Huron Parent-Teacher Association, Superintendent H.A. Davis and State Senator John Smith, the law was changed and in 1923 Port Huron Junior College became a reality.

Since 1923, Port Huron Junior College has grown from thirty-four students into St. Clair County Community College serving 9,200 students annually. For seventy-five years, the College has been a place where students have had the opportunity to pursue a career and extracurricular activities. Drama, music, art and sports are just a few of the areas where students have enhanced their educational experience.

Throughout the past seven and a half decades, St. Clair Community College has been a stepping stone for students throughout St. Clair County. It has been a place where students have the opportunity to enrich and improve their lives through education. I applaud the staff and faculty of St. Clair County Community College for their seventy-five years of dedicated service to the education of their students.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT L. "LARRY" DAVIS

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Colonel Robert L. "Larry" Davis who is leaving the Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers, and will be taking