

the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. A letter from the selection committee would go on to explain this high honor to Mr. Doucet's family in the following manner: "The statewide selection committee bases its selection on the impact that an individual has had on the politics of Louisiana; a distinction for which your Father certainly qualifies for."

Mr. Speaker, in a state where colorful and savvy politicians are probably the highest density per square mile than any where in the land, Cat Doucet will indeed be remembered as a legend. He will long be remembered for his gifted political skills and remarkable zest for campaigning. One story that I would like to briefly share with you I believe illustrates this legendary talent.

Upon one of his re-election bids, Sheriff Doucet came up with the clever idea to place a P.A. speaker on a crop duster and paid a pilot to fly the crop duster around the various farms of St. Landry Parish the weekend before the election. The pilot, yelling "Vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff," hit almost every farmer that clear day. The following weekend a massive turnout was reported for the election and a young reporter was anxious to know why so many citizens turned out to support the legendary Sheriff. The reporter quickly grabbed a farmer exiting the voting booth and asked him point blank, "Sir, could you explain what appears to be a massive turn out for Sheriff Doucet?" The farmer replied to the reporter: "Well sir, all I can tell you is this. I was working in the sugar cane fields last weekend and all of a sudden I saw the clouds open up and voice from the sky say 'vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff' and I said to myself, anybody that can get God to come down and campaign for you, has got to be good!" While Cat went on to win this race, he would sometimes lose others. However, his gracious demeanor did not leave him even on these rare occasions. Upon losing one of these elections in 1940, Cat was quoted in the newspapers as stating: "Before the election I was a friend of the newly elected sheriff and I am sure he knows that I'll always be his friend. I hold no malice towards anyone." I share these stories with my colleagues today as they help to describe this extraordinary figure who meant so much to so many in our state.

Most important, Mr. Speaker, his love for public service so often manifested itself through his common acts of human kindness. Whether it was buying needed medicines for the impoverished, chauffeuring the critically ill to charity hospitals, or paying the funeral expenses for the poor, he stood ready to help his fellow man in times of crisis. His recent induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame along with four other deserving public servants: Former Lt. Gov. James Fitzmorris, the late Commissioner of Elections Douglas Fowler Sr., the political pollster Ed Renwick, and Iris Kelso, veteran reporter for the Times-Picayune, stands as a true testament to his dedicated career he loved so dearly. It is a fitting tribute that his inscription eternally reads "for outstanding accomplishments and service to the citizens of the state of Louisiana."

Mr. Speaker, with his death in 1975, Cat Doucet's storied past lives on far beyond the famous bayous of our state. His acts of goodness and great sacrifices have inspired many in St. Landry Parish to serve in the public body. His legacy will now forever survive in their hearts and in the hearts of those who knew him best.

REV. FRANKLIN A. DORMAN'S
"TWENTY FAMILIES OF COLOR",
PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF
AFRICAN-AMERICANS WHO
FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special appreciation to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the civil rights movement. Through the recent publication of his book entitled, "Twenty Families of Color", Rev. Franklin A. Dorman continues to ensure that the legacy of all of those African-Americans who generously gave of their time, energy and spirit by serving in the Civil War is acknowledged and preserved in perpetuity.

During his 22-year ministry with the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Franklin A. Dorman, now retired, was greatly concerned with the struggle for civil rights. He participated in hundreds of marches, vigils and non-violent demonstrations, some of which led to his imprisonment. Dorman has had a longtime interest in history and genealogy. In 1994, after retiring, he published a two-volume book about his family's history. Among other things, he discovered that 36 members of his family fought in the Civil War.

After seeing the movie, "Glory", starring Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman, about a regiment of black soldiers who also fought in the Civil War, "Something clicked in me," Dorman recalled. "I said, 'Who are these guys?' They didn't just come from nowhere—they had parents and grandparents, wives, children and grandchildren."

That interest, according to the September 1998 issue of "United Church News", led Dorman to write *Twenty Families of Color* in Massachusetts, published in 1998 by the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Cambridge, MA. Dorman hopes the book will help establish for the record the important roles African-Americans have played in American society during the last 250 years.

Twenty Families of Color traces the ancestors and more than 1,000 descendants of a group of African-American Civil War soldiers and sailors who fought in the Massachusetts 54th and 55th Colored Infantries, the 5th Cavalry, and the Union Navy. The descendants live throughout the United States. Several live in the Oakland, CA area and will attend an event in Oakland on Saturday, February 13, 1999 during which Dorman will speak about his work and his experiences.

The engagement, "Finding Your Roots: African American Family History Research", will take place from 3-5 p.m., at the Interfaith Center of the Oakland Mormon Temple on Temple Hill in Oakland. Dorman will explain how he did the research for his book and how others can research and write their own family histories.

Temple Hill houses a Family History Center, which provides access to the largest genealogical records library in the world. During the program, C. Malcolm Warner, president of the Oakland Mormon Mission, will invite residents of the Oakland area, including African-American residents, to become acquainted with the Center in order to research their family histories. Warner traced his own roots back to Canada, where during the 18th Century, his family provided a stop on the "Underground

Railroad" for African Americans who escaped from slavery and made their way to safety across the international border.

"Rarely do compiled genealogies make interesting reading," wrote Henry B. Hoff in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. *Twenty Families of Color*, however, "is an exception. . . . Many descendants [of the black Civil War soldiers and sailors] have taken an active role in bettering their communities."

As we enter the 21st Century, African-Americans are still struggling to gain equal opportunity in American life. Yet the individuals portrayed in his book "are not movie stars, presidents or generals. They are the kind of people who made history in a most concrete sense—they built this country, farmed it, gave [it] birth. I call them "real people."

I am proud that many of the subjects of this history live in and around the City of Oakland and the 9th Congressional District of California. On behalf of the citizens of Oakland and my district, I welcome Reverend Dorman to the district and commend him for the significant work he has done.

MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes:

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to voice my support for the Mandates Information Act. We are a government by, for and of the people. This legislation simply informs the America people of the costs of their government.

There are many ways the federal government spends the hard-earned money of American families. The most notorious of course is direct taxation. But just as burdensome are unfunded mandates pushed on businesses and state and local governments—and right now there is no consistent accounting for how much these cost.

Unlike most bills that create and then hide expenses, this one simply satisfies the right to know what the government is forcing others to spend. This bill exposes all the hidden taxes of government. It is purely informational. There is no language in the bill that affects environmental laws, or health and safety standards. In short, it says to each and every Member of Congress: think before you spend.

It has become somewhat unfashionable for congressmen to be spend-crazy. But rather than changing their ways, many simply vote to dump the cost on others. This bill makes congressmen think twice about voting for hidden government costs because it will chronicle those costs.

Everyone likes to say that less control should be wielded by Washington and more work should be done on the private and local level. Even Bill Clinton claimed the era of big government is over. Now we need to do something about it. We need to get the federal government off the backs of businesses and state and local governments. I urge my colleagues to pass the Mandates Information Act without amendment.