

in history, American women and women of color who throughout history have proudly served in shaping the spirit of our Nation and shaping our lives, individually and collectively.

Today, empowered by this great legacy, American women serve in every aspect of American life, from social services to space exploration. The opportunities for American women are growing, and their efforts as mothers and volunteers, corporate executives and Members of Congress, law enforcement officers and administrators, construction workers and soldiers, educators and scientists, enrich all of us and make our country great.

□ 2000

Women continue to strengthen our Nation's social fabric as leaders in the home, the community, the workplace, and the government.

The challenges facing women in the next century are many. They are increasingly called upon to serve as caregivers to children and elderly relatives and must bear the weight of providing economically for their families. However, through their endeavors, women are producing a heightened national consciousness to meet the needs of our people.

As we honor the courageous legacy of our Nation's women of color and celebrate the diversity of their backgrounds, talents and contributions, I reflect upon one great woman that has placed her stamp on public service and who played an important role in my life, the Honorable Lena K. Lee, former Maryland House of Delegates member.

A coal miner's daughter, Delegate Lee earned her prominence in Maryland through her indomitable intellect, compassion and character. Ms. Lee was the third woman to receive a law degree from the University of Maryland Law School, a founder of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, and a member of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Teacher, principal, union leader, lawyer and legislator, Delegate Lee created a new vision of what African-American women could hope to achieve in Maryland and across this Nation. However, her impact would be much broader. She has touched the lives of many. Her leadership and noteworthy contributions in the fields of education, law and politics are well known in our State.

In the summer of 1982, I received a call from this woman known only to me by reputation. She praised my work in assisting young African-American law graduates in their efforts to pass the bar exam, as well as my community involvement. I had been working in my small law practice wondering how my career would proceed when this renaissance woman and legend in our community was calling to compliment me. As the one that influenced my decision to begin a political career in the Maryland House of Delegates,

Lena K. Lee was my teacher in public life.

"Mentor" is defined as a wise and trusted guide. I can proudly say that Lena K. Lee is a mentor. I have served the citizens of the 44th District in Maryland as a member of the House of Delegates and then as Speaker Pro Tem of the Maryland General Assembly and now I stand on the floor of the United States Congress today as a Member of this body.

She exemplifies the very idea that no matter what your background or circumstances, one can achieve great success. However, upon arrival, she believes that one is a public servant, with a first and fundamental responsibility to those who are unknown, unseen, unappreciated and unapplauded. Her life is a model of the old adage that "to whom much is given, much is required."

She is a champion of justice and dynamic legislator that was instrumental in getting Morgan State College changed to Morgan State University and saving the Orchard Street Church, a site of the underground railroad, from destruction. When we needed a black caucus and a women's caucus in the Maryland legislature, a new Provident Hospital or any other improvement in our community, it was her unselfish public service that was at the creation. Whether the cause was the health of Maryland prisoners or rebuilding of Orchard Street Church or Morgan State's university status, it was public service that was at the forefront of her agenda.

Martin Luther King Sr. said, "You cannot lead where you do not go and you cannot teach what you do not know." She may not have known her influence on other people's lives but Delegate Lee has led and taught a countless number of Baltimoreans how to stand and fight for justice. And so tonight I publicly thank her for all that she has done not only to touch my life but to touch the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BUDGET BLUEPRINT KEEPS FAITH WITH ALL GENERATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln said, "You may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time." That observation is still true today. As complicated as our Federal budget is, most Americans know that the budget is not truly balanced until we take all of those extra Social Security taxes and no longer use them to make the deficit look smaller. The Republican budget which we will announce tomorrow and debate on this floor stops the practice of cooking the books with Social Security money and it does a lot more. I would like to present some of the highlights:

First, our budget blueprint ensures that every penny of Social Security taxes will be spent only for Social Security. For years, the conventional wisdom in Washington was that Social Security money in excess of current benefit payments could be used to finance deficit spending. So, while the baby boomers inched closer to retirement, folks in Washington were spending dollars borrowed from Social Security on other programs. And, worse, they were still running up big deficits, even counting Social Security money.

This has to stop. Under the Republican budget plan, it would. The President has promised to reserve 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security. This means that for a time, Social Security money would be spent on things other than Social Security. For example, the President's 30 new programs. In contrast, the Republican budget seals away every bit of the Social Security surplus.

Second, our budget blueprint keeps faith with the spending caps set in the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997. When I came to Congress, forecasters were predicting \$200 billion deficits growing to \$600 billion by the year 2009. Now, strong economic growth and spending discipline mandated by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 are projected to create ever-increasing surpluses, at least under the old way of keeping the books. But this is no time to let up. We must protect those surpluses by restraining the growth of Washington spending. The administration has been talking lately about a new virtuous cycle of surpluses and declining interest rates. There is no quicker way to return to a vicious cycle of deficit spending and higher interest rates than to abandon the hard-won spending caps from 1997. The Republican budget maintains our commitment to fiscal restraint.