

were used on the breakers to sort coal. It was backbreaking work that paid pennies a day. Michael Tigue was one of these lads while attending school. He later went on to work at the Lehigh Valley Railroad and then as a pipe-fitter. He is a member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 524, the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Tigue has been married to his wife Joan for 56 years. They are the proud parents of four, Thomas, Mariclaire, Michael, and Kevin. Their son, State Representative Tom Tigue, is a longtime friend and colleague of mine.

The Tiges boast 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and are members of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hughestown.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud this year's choice for the Friendly Sons' "Man of the Year" award and send my sincere best wishes to Mr. Tigue and his family.

TAIWAN'S SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Taiwan's second presidential election there has been much talk about China's use of force against Taiwan. I am concerned that the voters of Taiwan may be intimidated in this election and their vote may be influenced. We should let the electoral process work itself through. The people of Taiwan deserve the right to exercise their judgment in this democratic election for one of the three candidates.

While we all agree that there is one China, reunification talks between Taiwan and Beijing should be conducted freely and the two sides should have equal footing in any negotiations. I urge all involved in this process to let the voters in Taiwan elect their new President on March 18. After all, peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits are in the best interests of everyone.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an increase in the minimum wage. Last year in my state of Florida, more than half a million people earned the minimum wage, a full 10% of the state's employees. Many of these workers are women, and most are adults who are trying to support a family. Don't be fooled by the claims that these workers are all teenagers. In fact, seventy-two percent of our nation's minimum wage workers are adults, and their family incomes are well below the national average. For a family of four to live above the poverty threshold, which is \$17,000 a year, the minimum wage would have to be increased to \$8.19 an hour!

Since the 1980s, real earnings for our nation's workers have declined by 12 percent,

while the wealthiest 20 percent swallowed up almost all of the increases. It's ironic that productivity, profits, executive pay and the stock market are rising, but the incomes of the poorest working families in our nation are not.

The last time we raised the minimum wage, 10 million American workers benefitted and no jobs were lost. The 1996 minimum wage increase provided a pay raise to 10 million workers, and since then the economy has continued to speed ahead, creating thousands of new jobs.

H.R. 3846 shortchanges minimum wage workers by stretching out a \$1 an hour increase over 3 years, making low wage workers wait as long as possible before receiving the full increase.

In addition, this bill is loaded down with tax breaks for big business, and by doing so it threatens Social Security and other invaluable programs! Not surprisingly, 73% of the beneficiaries of these tax breaks are the wealthiest 1% of our citizens! This is another case of Reverse Robin Hood—stealing from the poor and working people, and giving tax breaks to the wealthy.

The Joint Committee on Taxation reports that this will cost our country \$123 billion over the next ten years!

I urge my colleagues to vote for a fair minimum wage bill and support the Democratic substitute. Stand up for our country's hard working minimum wage earners and vote "no" on the Republican measures.

DALLAS STARS—1999 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the members of the North Texas Congressional Delegation honor today in Washington, DC, the 1999 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Champions—the Dallas Stars.

The Dallas Stars electrified all of Texas en route to winning the oldest trophy in North America and along the way these champs gave us some unforgettable performances on the ice. Whether it was the clutch play of center Mike Modano, the acrobatic saves of veteran goalie Eddie Belfour, the crushing defense of captain Derian Hatcher, the leadership of MVP Joe Nieuwendyk, or the stick handling of Brett Hull, who scored the Cup-winning goal—it seemed like every game a different Star player stepped up and inspired the team to victory.

Further, we would like to commend team owner Tom Hicks, President Jim Lites, General Manager Bob Gainey, and Coach Ken Hitchcock for giving all Texans a hockey team to be proud of and showing that hard work and perseverance do pay off. Many in this Nation scoffed when the Stars announced in 1993 that they were bringing professional hockey to Dallas, Texas. And now, just seven years later, Texas is the home to Stanley Cup Champions who have inspired many of our youth to participate in this team sport.

Again, on behalf of Congressmen DICK ARMEY, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, SAM JOHNSON, and PETE SESSIONS, congratulations from the North Texas Congressional Delegation

and a hearty Texas thank you to the mighty Dallas Stars, 1999 Stanley Cup Champions.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JUDITH KIRCHMAN

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend my warmest thanks and my most sincere best wishes to my District Director, Judith Kirchman, who will be retiring in June after 20 years of service to the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina.

Judith, a native of Fayetteville, NC, began work in June 1980, for my predecessor, the Honorable Charlie Rose. During the past 20 years, Judith has performed superbly in various positions and tasks. From assisting citizens in their dealings with Federal agencies to being that "point person" on natural disasters to strategic advice and counsel, Judith has been both resourceful and thoughtful.

When I think of Judith's commitment to the public good, the words "spirit, sacrifice, and service" come to mind. Judith's positive spirit has always been to do the task at hand—a spirit that inspires others to achieve. Judith's sacrifice in time and commitment has been to make southeastern North Carolina a better place to live and work—a sacrifice that meant doing the right thing and not being concerned with who gets the credit.

Pearl S. Buck once said, "To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and free mind." Judith, there is no question that your 20 years of service have been the epitome of this statement. Service to others has been the embodiment of your life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

As you enter this next stage of your life, I am confident that your talents and energy will continue to be of benefit to many. Through your commitment to your church, your family, and your community, a shining jewel you will continue to be.

Bart Giamatti, the former president of Yale University, said it well in 1987,

Be mindful of what we share and must share; not the least of which is that each of our hopes for a full and decent life depends upon others hoping the same and all of us sustaining each other's hopes . . . If there is no striving for the good life for any of us, there cannot be a good life for any of us.

Judith, on behalf of the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina, thank you so much for the good life you have given to so many. Now, you enjoy the same, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you always.

SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3843) to reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns and for other purposes:

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for the reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, which has provided essential assistance and guidance to our nation's entrepreneurs since its creation in 1953. Though the agency was originally intended as a temporary response to address the economic concerns of the postwar economy, it has grown significantly and has helped small businesses become a driving force in our nation's economy.

Small businesses play an integral role in sustaining our Nation's economic strength. Innovative, flexible, and resilient, independent businesses have had a significant impact on all sectors of industry, from service to high-technology. Enterprises with fewer than 500 workers employ 52 percent of the Nation's private sector workforce, produce 51 percent of private sector output, represent 96 percent of exporters of goods, and produce virtually all new jobs in our changing economy. The small firm embodies the American ideals of independence, innovation and adaptability, which is one reason why the small business thrives in the United States.

Not only have small businesses had a positive impact on our economy, they also undertake significant responsibilities in communities. The 1996 changes to the Nation's welfare system emphasized the transition from government assistance to the work force, and small firms have been instrumental in providing employment to former welfare recipients. By doing so, workers learn new skills in a small, manageable atmosphere and can become productive members of a business team. Furthermore, small businesses cooperate with local government, schools, and other organizations to cement the bonds of a strong community. Whether sponsoring a little league team or donating computers to an elementary school, the small business is an anchor of any town or city.

As a former small business owner, I know firsthand the challenges faced by our Nation's entrepreneurs. Embarking on a new venture is a period of excitement for entrepreneurs, though the task ahead appears daunting and formidable. Not only must a small business owner consider the financial implications of an endeavor, he or she must also master the Federal and State regulations pertaining to business owners. Luckily, the Small Business Administration is available to provide financial assistance and legal expertise to entrepreneurs. In fiscal year 1999, the SBA provided \$10.1 billion in loans to small businesses, with almost \$108 million in loans to businesses in my State of Rhode Island. Furthermore, the SBA excels at providing continued assistance to firms, sharing information about new technologies, trade and export opportunities, and pertinent federal laws and regulations. I applaud the SBA for its commitment to fostering creativity and entrepreneurship in the United States, as well as its assistance to small businesses in meeting the new challenges of our Nation's changing economy.

Today we have the opportunity to enact legislation to reauthorize the Small Business Administration and its programs through fiscal year 2003. Given all of the substantial benefits this organization has provided in its 47-year history, I strongly believe that we must give

this agency the opportunity to continue its mission for the next 3 years. I urge my colleagues to join me today in giving our nation's entrepreneurs the tools and resources needed to pursue their personal dreams. I urge them to vote in favor of SBA reauthorization.

APPLES FOR THREE MILLION TEACHERS ACT

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, last year Senator JON KYL and I introduced the K-12 Education Excellence Now (KEEN) Act to provide tax relief for all Americans, including our Nation's teachers. This year we are introducing another much-needed avenue for teacher relief: the Apples for Three Million Teachers Act. The bill will offer America's 3,107,000 public and private school educators a \$100 dollar-for-dollar tax credit for out-of-pocket classroom expenses. It also contains another provision—one included in the \$792 billion tax relief package vetoed by the President last year—that will permit educators to claim a tax deduction for expenses above \$100. I am pleased to report that the Apples for Teachers Act passed 98-0 in the Senate as an amendment offered by Senator KYL and Senator SUSAN COLLINS to the Education Savings Accounts Bill (S. 1134). The House would be wise to incorporate this amendment into the education tax incentive package currently being crafted. The President has shown his tendency to deprive parents and grandparents of a tax-free way to save for education expenses in twice vetoing legislation expanding Education Savings Accounts to elementary and secondary educational expenses. He might hesitate if faced with the prospect of denying every K-12 teacher in America partial from classroom expenses

Education funding tends to be rigid, with money distributed on a categorical basis leaving teachers with little flexibility to direct funds. The Apples for Teachers Act is desperately needed because teachers often have to dip into their own resources to provide their students with the resources they need when, as so often is the case, the provided materials are inadequate. The National Education Association estimates that teachers spend an average of \$408 annually on out-of-pocket, non-reimbursable materials for their classrooms. A seven year veteran teacher who now serves on my staff reports that this estimate may be very low. While teaching in inner city schools, she spent \$900 to \$1,200 annually to subsidize her classroom. She believes this is below or within the norm of her colleagues.

Further, in a letter endorsing the teacher tax relief contained in my broader KEEN Act, 53,000 educators of the National Science Teachers Association and 110,000 members of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics commented that the KEEN tax credit bill "would alleviate a teacher's financial burden in getting needed materials for his or her classroom." Apples for Teachers furthers this same goal.

Certainly, one of the most important factors in the academic success of a student is teacher quality. But to achieve quality, teachers need more than praise: They need the re-

sources necessary to provide our children with the learning materials teaching requires. It's time for Congress to assist the men and women in American who not only dedicate their careers to educating our children, but continue to sacrifice financially for them as well. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Apples for Teachers Act and believe that this legislation should be included in any tax package devoted to improving K-12 education.

NELSON MANDELA

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at the suggestion of the distinguished former Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Honorable Charles Percy, I am pleased to request that the following two part series on Nelson Mandela, recently published in *The Christian Science Monitor*, be submitted into the RECORD.

[From *The Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 10, 2000]

MANDELA

(By John Battersby)

Ten years after Nelson Mandela walked out of prison on Robben Island, and seven months after stepping down as president of South Africa, he reflects, in an interview with the *Monitor*, on his legacy and the lasting influence his 27 years in prison had on him.

"Whatever my wishes may be, I cannot bind future generations to remember me in the particular way I would like," Nelson Mandela says.

Despite peace missions, a blistering schedule of overseas travel and stepped-up philanthropic activities, Mr. Mandela has begun to reflect on how he wants to be remembered both in an interview and at functions to pay tribute to him.

And despite his reluctance to be singled out and discuss his personal qualities, there is consensus in South Africa that without Mandela's personal commitment to reconciliation, his moral authority, integrity, and intense compassion, the country's transition to democracy might not have gone as smoothly.

Mandela is at pains to ensure that he is remembered as an ordinary mortal with qualities that are within the reach of ordinary people. "What always worried me in prison was [that I could acquire] the image of someone who is always 100 percent correct and can never do any wrong," he told one audience of 500. "People expect me to perform far beyond my ability."

He expanded on these reflections for the first time in a recent interview with the *Monitor*, which probed his philosophy of reconciliation, the origins of his moral integrity, and the experiences and influences that forged the qualities which have made him one of the heroes of the 20th century.

He also spoke about the importance of religion in his life and the crucial role of reflection and "the time to think" during his 27 years in jail.

History will remember Mandela for having the strength of conviction to risk engaging his jailers—and thereby humanizing them—from inside prison and eventually setting the stage for the ANC to negotiate them out of power. Mandela sees the success of the ANC in mobilizing both domestic and international opinion against the apartheid government as the key factor.