

Professor Mandelker from Washington University in St. Louis reported to Congress last session that 81 percent of the federal constitutional takings cases taken to federal court for claims against a local or state government are dismissed on procedural grounds. In his testimony he cites another study that reports a whopping 94 percent dismissal rate. Of the small percentage of cases not dismissed, those same studies show it takes property owners almost a full decade to have their cases heard on the merits in federal court. According to Professor Mandelker, the current ripeness rules "are an open invitation for some local governments to do mischief." He confirmed that "land use agencies across the country have applied the ripeness requirement to frustrate as-applied takings claims in federal court."

While H.R. 2372 goes a long way toward preventing abuses of the current ripeness requirements, it does not guarantee property owners a win once they are in court. H.R. 2372 still requires property owners to meet the strict burden of proof needed to win their cases on the merits. Nor does H.R. 2372 amend any land use laws or any environmental protection statutes, or require compensation at some designated level. In short, the bill does not change substantive "takings" law or the ease the burden of winning a case for a property owner. It simply makes the litigation process fairer and less expensive.

The constitutional right to just compensation for the taking of property rights is so important to Americans that many people refer to it as the linchpin of liberty. By clearing out the underbrush in the procedures for litigating takings claims in federal court, Congress can take a crucial first step in achieving protection for this critical constitutional right.

ROTARY OF RIVERSIDE 80TH  
ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Riverside's 80th anniversary. From their very conception on April 20, 1920, when they received their charter from Rotary International, the Club has enriched the Riverside community by observing the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Members of the club include community leaders in business, trade, professions and government.

The Rotary Club of Riverside has given to the local community by sponsoring projects to aid Riverside youth through the sponsorship of Bryant Elementary School; through an annual awarding of scholarships to deserving Riverside high school seniors, from the \$200,000 John Cote Scholarship Fund; through the establishment of a vibrant Interact Club at Riverside Poly High School; and through contributions to the establishment of the Riverside Youth Museum.

On an international basis the Rotary Club of Riverside has contributed and supported the Rotary International Polio Plus program to eradicate polio in developing countries and regions worldwide; and a little closer to home, through materials, gifts and caring to the children of orphanages in Tijuana, Mexico, in partnership with the Rotarian of Centenario Rotary Club of Tijuana.

The Rotary Club of Riverside will officially observe its anniversary with a Picnic Celebration on April 2, 2000, in Riverside, CA. It will be attended by the club's members and their families, guests and dignitaries, including: the Honorable Ronald Loveridge, the mayor of Riverside; the Honorable Tom Mullen, chairman of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors representing the 5th county district; and the Honorable Rod Pacheco, California Assemblyman representing the 64th assembly district.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Rotary Club of Riverside on its 80th anniversary and commend its local community and international service.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, it's fitting to recall the words of a writer and historian from Georgia named Octavia Albert, who said: "I believe we should not only treasure our history, but should transmit it to our children's children as the Lord commanded Israel to do in reference to their deliverance from Egyptian bondage." The stories of our history, she explained, can inspire our own generation and the generations that follow to fulfill the country's promise of freedom and opportunity for all.

Octavia Albert's story is certainly inspirational. She was born into slavery in Oglethorpe, GA, in the area of the state that I have the privilege of representing. After becoming a teacher in the county where she was born and raised, she published a book based on interviews with former slaves that was widely read at the turn of the century. Her book eventually helped improve conditions for a newly emancipated people and, in late years, provided a wealth of information for historians.

More than a century later, another Georgian named Susan Still Kilrain is inspiring young people in our state and across the nation. A graduate of Georgia Tech, she became a U.S. Navy pilot in 1987, who served as a flight instructor and later as a test pilot who eventually logged more than 2,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

In 1994, Susan Kilrain was accepted into the country's space program as an astronaut. Her first space mission came in 1997 as part of the crew of the Microgravity Science Laboratory-1, making 63 orbits of Earth and traveling more than 1.5 million miles in space. Three months later, the Microgravity Science Lab went back into space, and she was on it. This time, she spent 16 days in space, making 251 orbits and traveling 6.3 million miles.

Marguerite Neel Williams of Thomasville, GA, which is also located in my area of Georgia, who passed away not long ago, is certainly an inspiration. Just this month, she was formally recognized by the Georgia Women's History Committee and the Georgia Commission on Women as one of the greatest historic preservationists in our State and, in fact, in the country.

During her years as president and director of Landmarks of Thomasville, she was instru-

mental in saving the community's historic district and in saving and restoring many homes, churches, and other beautiful buildings. She salvaged the city's old post office, which now houses a Welcome Center, a fine Arts Library, and the offices for the Antique Show and Sale in Thomasville, which she founded and which has become one of the most outstanding events of its kind in the country. She devoted her life to civic improvements, and helped raise the quality of life for many thousands of her fellow Georgians.

To one former President, and to all of her neighbors in Plains, GA, Maxine Reese is certainly an inspiration. She served as Jimmy Carter's campaign manager in Plains, where the Presidential campaign headquarters was officially located. Maxine Reese later played a big part in persuading Congress to designate Plains as a National Historic Site, which has promoted tourism in this area and a better quality of life for many families. The people of Plains recently rededicated the city park as the Maxine Reese Park in recognition of her service to her community, State and country.

When inspiration is the topic of discussion, another person who qualifies is Harriett Riggs McGhee, a native of Lee County in the heart of Georgia's Second District. Surrounded by scores of friends and family members, she recently celebrated her 116th birthday at the Union Missionary Baptist Church, where she has been a member for more than 80 years. Mrs. McGhee spent many of her earlier years picking cotton and peanuts to support her family. Throughout those years, she was always active in her church and ready to help others in need. Even in hard times, recalls her great-grandnephew Eddie Holsey, she has always been "the sweetest woman on God's earth."

These are women with extraordinary courage and commitment, whose exemplary lives have helped the country fulfill its promise. They are exceptional people. But they are certainly not alone. There are countless examples of women from my State of Georgia, and from throughout the country, who have made heroic contributions in public service; civic leadership; business; religion; the military; the arts; sports; entertainment, and in every endeavor that has made our country what she has been and what she is.

Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month gives us an opportunity to treasure our history—and, in so doing, to inspire us to strive even harder to fulfill our country's great promise for ourselves and future generations.

IN HONOR OF JANE SCOTT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane Scott of Cleveland, Ohio. A Cleveland native, Jane has covered the rock 'n' roll scene since September 15, 1964.

Born in Mt Sinai Hospital April 30, 1919, Jane graduated from Lakewood high school in the Class of 1937. After which she attended the University of Michigan where she studied English & Speech and received a teacher's certificate she admits to never having used. During World War II, Jane served in the Navy