

Come back here and give me a kiss. You never know if I'm gonna be here when you get back."

Well, Doris left us all in friendship, in love, and in peace.

She'll be missed, and she was a blessing to all who knew her.

And as the Irish Blessing goes, "Until we meet again, my old friend, may God hold you in the palm of his hand."

TRIBUTE TO FAIRHOPE MAYOR
JIM NIX

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine gentleman, an outstanding public servant and a friend for more years than I can count, Mayor James P. Nix, of the city of Fairhope, Alabama.

As many of my colleagues know, Fairhope is one of the best-kept secrets in America. Situated along scenic Mobile Bay, Fairhope has a captivating charm and beauty that few communities—anywhere—can rival.

Moreover, because of the outstanding leadership provided by Mayor Nix over the past 30-plus years, Fairhope is one of the best managed cities in the entire United States.

This month, Jim's tenure as Mayor comes to an end. Despite pleas from hundreds of townspeople, he decided to not seek reelection in the recent municipal elections. For the first time in more than 32 years, Jim Nix's name was not on the ballot.

However, if anyone has deserved a rest from the call of duty, it is Mayor Nix. First elected to a 4-year term on the city council, Mayor Nix has presided over what is, without question, the 28 most prosperous years in the history of Fairhope.

While it is true that Baldwin County as a whole has experienced a tremendous amount of growth during the past several decades, Fairhope has certainly been a major part of this change. Under Jim Nix's leadership, Fairhope has become an important part of south Alabama's economic and cultural base. In addition, Fairhope draws tens of thousands of tourists each year to numerous festivals and shows. Quite frankly, this exposure has helped put the national spotlight on Fairhope, earning for it a positive reputation. Fairhope is, without question, a shining example of the best Alabama has to offer.

In addition to his numerous official duties, Mayor Nix has been actively involved in several professional and civic organizations and has served as president of both the Alabama League of Municipalities and the Baldwin County Mayor's Association. He is currently serving on the boards for several area banks and is a trustee for the University of South Alabama.

In the midst of his significant professional and civic involvement, Mayor Nix also found time to be a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Married to the former Anne Delorme Peele, Jim and Anne Nix are the proud parents of three, and the proud grandparents of nine. Speaking of Anne, I would be remiss if I did not salute her as well. She leaves behind a gracious, lasting legacy as a

true ambassador for Fairhope in her role as First Lady.

While Mayor Nix has certainly earned his retirement following so many years of dedicated service, he will certainly be missed by the many friends and colleagues he has made during his years in the city government.

On a personal note, while I will no longer have the privilege of working with Jim and Anne professionally, I look forward to the continuation of our friendship in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire First Congressional District, I would like to express my appreciation to Mayor Jim Nix and my congratulations on his retirement.

HONORING BUSINESS TECH-
NOLOGIES AND SOLUTIONS, INC.

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Business Technologies and Solutions, Inc.'s (BTAS) of Beavercreek, Ohio, which is being honored at the Annual National Minority Enterprise Development Week in Arlington, Virginia.

As Representative of Ohio's 7th Congressional District, I am pleased to recognize Ms. Angela Vlahos, President of Business Technologies and Solutions, as her company receives the award for the Region V Minority Small Business Firm of the Year. BTAS has demonstrated outstanding success since it was established in 1992. Ms. Vlahos' commitment to providing quality business and enterprise solutions has allowed her company to experience rapid growth and enjoy more extensive contract opportunities with public and private companies, including Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

BTAS has trademarked its Right Solution Model which provides a framework for consistent delivery of high performance for each individual contract. This dedication to quality now is officially recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency.

Additionally, I wish to thank BTAS for its participation in our local community. The firm's contributions to the area, including information technology training for students of the Dayton School System and recreational activities for children at St. Joseph's Treatment Center, serve as a positive model for other local companies.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency in recognizing the achievements of Ms. Angela Vlahos and Business Technologies and Solutions, Inc.

REMARKS OF KEVIN GOVER, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Gover for extending a formal apology on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to Native Americans for the historical treatment by that agency. Mr. Gover recently delivered his remarks at the 175th Anniversary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In his remarks, Mr. Gover recounted the role of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in implementing the policies of the United States. For many years, the policies of the United States were designed to terminate tribal nations and their culture. Mr. Speaker, we share the responsibility for the historical treatment of Native Americans since the Bureau of Indian Affairs bears the responsibility of implementing the laws and policies of Congress.

While we cannot erase the deplorable history of Indian policy in the United States, I want to acknowledge that today the Bureau of Indian Affairs and its 10,000 employees are striving to be advocates for Indian people. I believe that Assistant Secretary Gover's profound and wise remarks will become an important document in the annals of American history. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share Mr. Gover's remarks with my colleagues.

REMARKS OF KEVIN GOVER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY—INDIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AT THE CEREMONY ACKNOWLEDGING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS—SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

In March of 1824, President James Monroe established the Office of Indian Affairs in the Department of War. Its mission was to conduct the nation's business with regard to Indian affairs. We have come together today to mark the first 175 years of the institution now known as the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It is appropriate that we do so in the first year of a new century and a new millennium, a time when our leaders are reflecting on what lies ahead and preparing for those challenges. Before looking ahead, though, this institution must first look back and reflect on what it has wrought and, by doing so, come to know that this is no occasion for celebration; rather it is time for reflection and contemplation, a time for sorrowful truths to be spoken, a time for contrition.

We must first reconcile ourselves to the fact that the works of this agency have at various times profoundly harmed the communities it was meant to serve. From the very beginning, the Office of Indian Affairs was an instrument by which the United States enforced its ambition against the Indian nations and Indian people who stood in its path. And so, the first mission of this institution was to execute the removal of the southeastern tribal nations. By threat, deceit, and force, these great tribal nations were made to march 1,000 miles to the west, leaving thousands of their old, their young and their infirm in hasty graves along the Trail of Tears.

As the nation looked to the West for more land, this agency participated in the ethnic cleansing that befell the western tribes. War

necessarily begets tragedy; the war for the West was no exception. Yet in these more enlightened times, it must be acknowledged that the deliberate spread of disease, the decimation of the mighty bison herds, the use of the poison alcohol to destroy mind and body, and the cowardly killing of women and children made for tragedy on a scale so ghastly that it cannot be dismissed as merely the inevitable consequence of the clash of competing ways of life. This agency and the good people in it failed in the mission to prevent the devastation. And so great nations of patriot warriors fell. We will never push aside the memory of unnecessary and violent death at places such as Sand Creek, the banks of the Washita River, and Wounded Knee.

Nor did the consequences of war have to include the futile and destructive efforts to annihilate Indian cultures. After the devastation of tribal economies and the deliberate creation of tribal dependence on the services provided by this agency, this agency set out to destroy all things Indian.

This agency forbade the speaking of Indian languages, prohibited the conduct of traditional religious activities, outlawed traditional government, and made Indian people ashamed of who they were. Worst of all, the Bureau of Indian Affairs committed these acts against the children entrusted to its boarding schools, brutalizing them emotionally, psychologically, physically, and spiritually. Even in this era of self-determination, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs is at long last serving as an advocate for Indian people in an atmosphere of mutual respect, the legacy of these misdeeds haunts us. The trauma of shame, fear and anger has passed from one generation to the next, and manifests itself in the rampant alcoholism, drug abuse, and domestic violence that plague Indian country. Many of our people live lives of unrelenting tragedy as Indian families suffer the ruin of lives by alcoholism, suicides made of shame and despair, and violent death at the hands of one another. So many of the maladies suffered today in Indian country result from the failures of this agency. Poverty, ignorance, and disease have been the product of this agency's work.

And so today I stand before you as the leader of an institution that in the past has committed acts so terrible that they infect, diminish, and destroy the lives of Indian people decades later, generations later. These things occurred despite the efforts of many good people with good hearts who sought to prevent them. These wrongs must be acknowledged if the healing is to begin.

I do not speak today for the United States. That is the province of the nation's elected leaders, and I would not presume to speak on their behalf. I am empowered, however, to speak on behalf of this agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I am quite certain that the words that follow reflect the hearts of its 10,000 employees.

Let us begin by expressing our profound sorrow for what this agency has done in the past. Just like you, when we think of these misdeeds and their tragic consequences, our hearts break and our grief is as pure and complete as yours. We desperately wish that we could change this history, but of course we cannot. On behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I extend this formal apology to Indian people for the historical conduct of this agency.

And while the BIA employees of today did not commit these wrongs, we acknowledge that the institution we serve did. We accept this inheritance, this legacy of racism and inhumanity. And by accepting this legacy, we accept also the moral responsibility of putting things right.

We therefore begin this important work anew, and make a new commitment to the

people and communities that we serve, a commitment born of the dedication we share with you to the cause of renewed hope and prosperity for Indian country. Never again will this agency stand silent when hate and violence are committed against Indians. Never again will we allow policy to proceed from the assumption that Indians possess less human genius than the other races. Never again will we be complicit in the theft of Indian property. Never again will we appoint false leaders who serve purposes other than those of the tribes. Never again will we allow unflattering and stereotypical images of Indian people to deface the halls of government or lead the American people to shallow and ignorant beliefs about Indians. Never again will we attack your religions, your languages, your rituals, or any of your tribal ways. Never again will we seize your children, nor teach them to be ashamed of who they are. Never again.

We cannot yet ask your forgiveness, not while the burdens of this agency's history weigh so heavily on tribal communities. What we do ask is that, together, we allow the healing to begin: As you return to your homes, and as you talk with your people, please tell them that time of dying is at its end. Tell your children that the time of shame and fear is over. Tell your young men and women to replace their anger with hope and love for their people. Together, we must wipe the tears of seven generations. Together, we must allow our broken hearts to mend. Together, we will face a challenging world with confidence and trust. Together, let us resolve that when our future leaders gather to discuss the history of this institution, it will be time to celebrate the rebirth of joy, freedom, and progress for the Indian Nations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was born in 1824 in a time of war on Indian people. May it live in the year 2000 and beyond as an instrument of their prosperity.

H-1B VISA ISSUE

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for my colleagues an article that recently appeared in the *New York Times*. With all the recent discussion about the H-1B visa issue, I thought this article was not only timely, but quite effective at unveiling the truth behind all the rhetoric I've heard. In fact, I believe this article succinctly captures the reasons why Congress should not raise the H-1B visa limit.

[From the *New York Times*, Sept. 6, 2000]

QUESTIONING THE LABOR SHORTAGE

(By Richard Rothstein)

To alleviate apparent shortages of computer programmers, President Clinton and Congress have agreed to raise a quota on H-1B's, the temporary visas for skilled foreigners. The annual limit will go to 200,000 next year, up from 65,000 only three years ago.

The imported workers, most of whom come from India, are said to be needed because American schools do not graduate enough young people with science and math skills. Microsoft's chairman, William H. Gates, and Intel's chairman, Andrew S. Grove, told Congress in June that more visas were only a stopgap until education improved.

But the crisis is a mirage. High-tech companies portray a shortage, yet it is our

memories that are short: only yesterday there was a glut of science and math graduates.

The computer industry took advantage of that glut by reducing wages. This discouraged youths from entering the field, creating the temporary shortages of today. Now, taking advantage of a public preconception that school failures have created the problem, industry finds a ready audience for its demands to import workers.

This newspaper covered the earlier surplus extensively. In 1992, it reported that 1 in 5 college graduates had a job not requiring a college degree. A 1995 article headlined "Supply Exceeds Demand for Ph.D.'s in Many Science Fields" cited nationwide unemployment of engineers, mathematicians and scientists. "Overproduction of Ph.D. degrees," it noted, "seems to be highest in computer science."

Michael S. Teitelbaum, a demographer who served as vice chairman of the Commission on Immigration Reform, said in 1996 that there was "an employer's market" for technology workers, partly because of post-cold-war downsizing in aerospace.

In fields with real labor scarcity, wages rise. Yet despite accounts of dot-com entrepreneurs' becoming millionaires, trends in computer technology pay do not confirm a need to import legions of programmers.

Salary offers to new college graduates in computer science averaged \$39,000 in 1986 and had declined by 1994 to \$33,000 (in constant dollars). The trend reversed only in the late 1990's.

The West Coast median salary for experienced software engineers was \$71,000 in 1999, up only 10 percent (in constant dollars) from 1990. This pay growth of about 1 percent a year suggests no labor shortage.

Norman Matloff, a computer science professor at the University of California, contends that high-tech companies create artificial shortages by refusing to hire experienced programmers. Many with technology degrees no longer work in the field. By age 50, fewer than half are still in the industry. Luring them back requires higher pay.

Industry spokesmen say older programmers with outdated skills would take too long to retrain. But Dr. Matloff counters by saying that when they urge more H-1B visas, lobbyists demonstrate a shortage by pointing to vacancies lasting many months. Companies could train older programmers in less time than it takes to process visas for cheaper foreign workers.

Dr. Matloff says that in addition to the pay issue, the industry rejects older workers because they will not work the long hours typical at Silicon Valley companies with youthful "singles" styles. Imported labor, he argues, is only a way to avoid offering better conditions to experienced programmers. H-1B workers, in contrast, cannot demand higher pay: visas are revoked if workers leave their sponsoring companies.

As for young computer workers, the labor market has recently tightened, with rising wages, because college students saw earlier wage declines and stopped majoring in math and science. In 1996, American colleges awarded 25,000 bachelor's degrees in computer science, down from 42,000 in 1985.

The reason is not that students suddenly lacked preparation. On the contrary, high school course-taking in math and science, including advanced placement, had climbed. Further, math scores have risen; last year 24 percent of seniors who took the SAT scored over 600 in math. But only 6 percent planned to major in computer science, and many of these cannot get into college programs.

The reason: colleges themselves have not yet adjusted to new demand. In some places, computer science courses are so oversubscribed that students must get on waiting lists as high school juniors.