

saw a need to take their business in another direction. They expanded the store into carry-out, which featured traditional recipes by Filomena, the Baca brothers' mother. Also at this time freezers were becoming popular. The Baca brothers recalled the yearly family tradition popular throughout New Mexico for roasting fresh green chile over an open flame and freezing it for the winter months. They decided to take this home process into a commercial one and make this very special family tradition the focus of their restaurant and retail product lines. Food processing became their niche.

Under the leadership of Jacqueline Baca, President (the daughter of founder Joe Baca), Bueno Foods' sales have grown six-fold and the number of employees has tripled. She started in the business at the age of 16 making tamales. Jacqueline is joined by her siblings in the family business. Gene Baca is Senior Vice President, Catherine Baca, MD, is Vice President of Research and Development, Ana Baca is Communications Manager and Marijo Baca pioneered the distribution of Bueno's products in the Colorado market. Together, they make the company's slogan "From Our Family to Yours" a reality.

The Baca Family is committed to our community. From its start with 5 employees to more than 240, located in the Barelas Industrial Park, Bueno is one of the largest employers in this "Pocket of Poverty." Bueno contributes between 3 and 6 percent of after-tax profits to organizations that help people meet basic needs including housing, food and education. Among the many honors earned by Bueno Foods, in April 2000, they received the first annual New Mexico Ethics in Business Award recognizing the integrity, ethical conduct and the highest standards of civic and social responsibility that is part of daily operations within the company.

Please join me and other New Mexican's in honoring the Baca Family and Bueno Foods.

#### ALGERIA TRIP REPORT

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on February 24–26, 2001, accompanied by former Ambassador David Laux, I traveled to Algeria to meet with key officials and attend celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Sahrawi Republic in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria. The meetings and discussions with the President, Prime Minister and Cabinet Members in Algeria reflected officials who hold great concern for their nation and the development of their economy and society, as well as concern for North Africa and the whole of Africa.

Creative solutions were presented for problems facing the government as they seek to modernize the financial, security, and democracy aspects of Algeria. There were clear indications that the Algerian government desires to stabilize their economy to attract foreign, particularly U.S. investment (current U.S. investment is \$3.5 billion, projected to grow to \$6 billion in the next two years due to increased energy investment), and to cooperate in security/terrorism issues with the U.S. Government. A two and a half hour meeting with

President Bouteflicka revealed a statesman with great insight, leadership abilities and vision for his nation and the continent, exemplified in the President's key role in helping bring peace in the Ethiopia/Eritrea conflict and his leadership in the OAU in pursuing economic development in all of Africa. The impressive character and qualities of the President also are reflected in his Cabinet and the current Ambassador of Algeria serving in Washington, D.C. His Excellency Idriss Jazairi.

The Algerian people and government are also to be commended for their great hospitality towards the Sahrawi refugees. Many of the Sahrawi people fled their homeland of Western Sahara over 25 years ago due to the conflict over Western Sahara. The Algerian people have graciously allowed the Sahrawis to live in refugee camps in Tindouf and have been supportive of humanitarian aid to assist the refugees arriving from all over the world. Under the leadership of President Bouteflicka, Algeria has continued to extend hospitality to the refugees and not presented obstacles to the Sahrawis governing themselves in the Sahrawi Democratic Republic.

Upon my return to the United States, I shared my impressions about Algeria with a number of individuals, including Secretary of State Colin Powell. I suggested to Secretary Powell the idea of holding an Africa Summit with key African leaders, such as President Bouteflicka of Algeria, for President Bush to listen and learn from those leaders as he shapes his policies on Africa and for the African leaders to garner international support for their vision to help eliminate poverty, elevate standards of living, and bring hope to the people of Africa through a variety of measures.

In light of the various visions and solutions discussed in the meetings, there are several long term and short term practical actions the people of Pennsylvania and the U.S. government can take to support democratic, economic, and security developments in Algeria. My hope is to assist in building a strong relationship between the people of Algeria and United States and our governments through the following projects:

Encourage President Bush to hold an Africa Summit with the leaders of the OAU in which the President can learn about Africa and African leaders can share ways in which the international community can support their vision to help the people of Africa.

Assist the Algerian Minister of Agriculture on his visit to the U.S. by arranging meetings with leading agricultural companies and producers.

Interact with leading U.S. wheat producers regarding the potential opportunities for investment in Algeria.

Encourage the U.S. Department of State, Near East Division, about the need for increased counter-terrorism training and cooperation between Algeria and the United States.

Encourage the establishment of an Algerian-U.S. business council.

Assist in coordinating training seminars for Algerian Army regarding democracy and human rights.

Assist in coordinating police training seminars for Algerian police.

Assist in coordinating lecture, seminar series/academic exchanges at U.S. and Algerian universities.

Investigate water resource issues and possible expertise cooperation.

People to people exchanges and humanitarian projects, including medical equipment, police/forensics equipment, English textbooks, etc.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BETTY WARD FLETCHER

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Dr. Betty Ward Fletcher. Dr. Fletcher is a trail blazer, a persistent advocate, a remarkable woman and outstanding leader. She has proven time and time again that one person can make a difference.

Dr. Fletcher, a native of Rankin County, received her undergraduate degree in Sociology from Tougaloo College. She received her master and doctoral in Social Work from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

From 1975 through 2000, Dr. Fletcher dedicated her life to providing information and ideas on behaviors of societies to Jackson State University. She was the founding director of the Student Intervention and Information Program of Interdisciplinary Alcohol/Drug Studies Center. She has worked in various scholarly positions such as Associate Director of Graduate Program in Alcohol/Drug Studies, Instructor, Associate Professor, Acting Director, Acting Graduate Dean and Vice President for Research and Development of Sociology Department. In addition, she excelled her instructional focus on research and evaluation of sociology by serving as an adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, School of Social Work.

Dr. Fletcher's research focus has been the study of social and behavioral correlation of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. She has generated over \$17.5 million in externally funded initiatives, while simultaneously fulfilling her administrative duties.

In 1999, Dr. Fletcher was Jackson State's first-ever Vice President for Research and Development. During her leadership, the University garnered a \$2 million donation and a \$12.9 million research award. This award was to serve as the coordination center for the Jackson Heart Study, the largest study of cardiovascular disease ever undertaken in the nation.

In 1999, Dr. Fletcher was named Interim President of Jackson State University by unanimous consent of the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning. She was then labeled a "charismatic, courageous and visionary leader" for her success in launching the School of Engineering and building a strong support base with the business community for the University.

In 2000, she was appointed as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) and had oversight for a \$438 million budget and 4,168 employees. Dr. Fletcher made a positive difference and a goal was to build cooperative working relationships with other state agencies.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Fletcher is proudly recognized by the state of Mississippi and the United States of America as a visionary for all people. On behalf of the people of the 2nd Congressional district, I salute her.