

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA J. SMITH

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent, Barbara J. Smith, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA's highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the state of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Ms. Smith my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

Barbara Smith is currently a shareholder of McDonald, Hopkins, Burke & Haber Co., L.P.A. in Cleveland. She attended Old Dominion College (B.A., 1968); Pepperdine University (M.B.A. 1974, magna cum laude); and Case Western Reserve University (J.D. 1977, magna cum laude).

She is a former President of the OWB (1994–1995) and is one of its original members. The OWBA was initially formed in 1991 and is the only statewide bar association within Ohio solely dedicated toward advancing the interests of women attorneys while encouraging networking and the creation of a statewide mentor program for women attorneys. The 2001–2002 membership year celebrates the OWBA's 10th Anniversary.

Barb has also served as President of the Cleveland Bar Association. At the time she served, she was only the third female president in its 125-year history.

At the same time, Ms. Smith has been active in the community on issues affecting women and minorities, including Ohio Attorney's Assault on Domestic Violence, a Charter Fellow and member of the Cleveland Bar Foundation Board of Trustees and a member of The Federated Church—Multi-racial, Multi-cultural Task Force.

Ms. Smith has been recognized for excellence in her legal work including Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in America and The Best Lawyers in America for Health Law.

On May 21, 2001, OWBA President Helen Mac Murray will be presenting Ms. Smith with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and join the OWBA in congratulating Barbara Smith and wishing her continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF DUTY
DRAWBACK LEGISLATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to change the drawback and other trade laws in order to make their interpretation, administration and implementation less cumbersome for the U.S. Customs Service. More importantly, the provisions

of this legislation will ease the regulatory and administrative burdens imposed by the current regulatory structure on U.S. companies by making them more competitive in the global marketplace when competing against foreign exports of similar or like products.

Since this issue is very technical Mr. Speaker, let me briefly describe what duty drawback is and how this legislation will help. Specifically, duty drawback is the refund of 99% of the duty paid to Customs on an imported product when the imported product, or a product that is substantially similar or commercially interchangeable with the imported product, is later exported from the U.S.

For example, a manufacturer of widgets may import a widget into the West Coast of the U.S., paying a duty of US \$10. The same company then produces the same type or quality of widget in Texas and exports it to Mexico. The company may claim a refund of US \$9 of the duty paid on the West Coast import as it is substantially similar to or commercially interchangeable with the exported widget.

Therefore, drawback levels the playing field and allows U.S. companies to remain competitive in the international market when competing against foreign companies for export sales and in export markets.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see it enacted into law.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLACK
FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Black Farmers Fairness Act. This legislation will bring to closure a series of injustices our government has committed to a large number of black farmers throughout the country. For many years, this group of dedicated farmers experienced various acts of discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In 1997, three brave farmers entered into a lawsuit with USDA to correct injustices they had experienced. Two months later they were joined by 11 additional farmers. As more and more black farmers learned of and joined this lawsuit, the suit was changed to a class action suit. For months, government attorneys blocked settlement of their complaint due to a "statute of limitation" argument.

In 1998, the House extended the "statute of limitations" for the black farmer lawsuit—allowing justice to run its full course. Without this provision, many of these farmers would have not been legally permitted to receive consideration for the civil rights complaints. Before this provision, government attorneys argued that they could not settle complaints beyond the two-year period of each complaint.

Finally, it appeared that justice would prevail. On April 14, 1999, a court ruled in a class action suit that the black farmers would be awarded \$50,000 each in a cash settlement as well as forgiveness for debts resulting from discrimination for the past injustices.

I discovered, however, that a significant portion of this settlement could potentially end up

right back here in Washington through various taxes. That's an outrage! These farmers were discriminated against; no part of their settlement should be taken by the government. That is why I am introducing this bill.

This legislation does two things. First, it lifts the tax burden (income tax as well as estate tax) associated with both the cash payment and debt forgiveness aspects of the settlement. Second, it releases class members from having to include settlement benefits in determining eligibility for federal assistance programs.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has an obligation to finish what it started in 1998. We have the opportunity and responsibility to give back every cent to those who were denied the opportunity to pursue the American Dream. I encourage my colleagues to join me by supporting the Black Farmers Fairness Act.

TRIBUTE TO RUBEN SIVERLING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ruben Siverling, the recipient of the Clay/Platte Development Corporation's Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Siverling is a full-time business consultant serving on the staff at the Rockhurst University Small Business Development Center. During his years as a consultant to the Small Business Community in the Kansas City region, he has helped start or expand over 1,700 small businesses.

Mr. Siverling was instrumental in opening a satellite Small Business Development Center in the Missouri 6th District. Being a resident of the district, he saw firsthand the growth in the Northland region of Kansas City and understood the importance of a guiding presence to help the area's burgeoning entrepreneurs. His dedication to this cause is proven in the early mornings, long days and late evenings that he endures to help each and every one of his clients achieve success. Success to him does not only involve just having a client receive a loan, but all facets of learning the start-up process. Whether it is revising a loan package that was not approved on the first submittal, or following through with revision and follow-up meetings, he ensures that the small business client is getting a first-class education that will help their business flourish.

I commend the Clay/Platte Development Corporation on choosing Mr. Ruben Siverling as their Small Business Advocate of the Year, and once again congratulate and thank Mr. Siverling for his years of hard work and dedication to the Small Business Community.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who are part of the blue line that keep our

homes, our families, and our neighborhoods safe and secure.

Every day, they put themselves in the line of fire, confronting crime and those who engage in it, to make our communities a better place to live.

Our nation's law enforcement officers put their lives on the line, just like the men and women of our armed forces, to protect Americans. For that reason, I have introduced legislation that would provide a Capitol-flown flag for deceased law enforcement officers. H.R. 94 would be a step toward this deserved recognition.

I encourage other Members to join me in passing this legislation, to properly show our appreciation for the risk that our nation's law enforcement officers take just by showing up at work every day.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD E. LEWIS, JR.

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, with sadness and regret, I rise to pay tribute to Lloyd E. Lewis, Jr., a city commissioner of Dayton, Ohio, who recently passed away at the age of 74. Throughout his life, Lloyd was a model civic leader who dedicated himself to the community he loved so dearly.

Lloyd's record of service to Dayton goes back almost half a century and includes serving two terms in the Ohio House of Representatives and working as a Dayton assistant city manager. He also served two terms as chairman of the Dayton Plan Board.

Lloyd was a member of the Dayton Foundation board, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, the State Board of Housing, the United Way of Greater Dayton, City Wide Development Corporation, and the St. Elizabeth Medical Center board.

No one worked more tirelessly on behalf of Dayton. When he was assistant city manager, he even went on runs with the fire crews. During one particularly rough season of blizzards, the Dayton Daily News reported he was "all but sleeping at city hall."

The son of a small businessman and the grandson of a shoe shiner, Lloyd was a champion of the average man and woman. His family was one of the first black families to move into his West Side neighborhood. He knew racial discrimination but that only increased his desire to improve his community for all citizens.

Lloyd was a thorough gentleman in all his actions, public and private. He was admired and respected by all who knew him—an extraordinary achievement for someone in public life and a testament to his leadership.

Dayton has lost a great citizen and I have lost a friend.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES ITS PRESIDENT'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, our friend in the Pacific, the Republic of China on Taiwan,

is a small island nation that has maintained excellent relations with us throughout the years. Although we do not have formal diplomatic relations with the Island, our informal relations with Taiwan in areas such as trade and investment, science and technology, culture and security, and education have been growing steadily year after year.

In addition, Taiwan and the United States share many values in common. Both countries have an abiding attachment to freedom, democracy and human rights. As Taiwan gets ready to celebrate its President's first anniversary in office, I wish to assure President Chen Shui-bian and his people that the American people will always stand behind Taiwan and make sure that it continues to thrive and prosper in the Pacific.

Good Luck and Good Fortune to Taiwan!

GLENDALE HIGH SCHOOL 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Glendale High School, which celebrates 100 years of academic excellence on May 19, 2001. This was the first high school in the city of Glendale and famous alumni include actors John Wayne and Madeline Stowe, athletes, Brooklyn Dodger Babe Herman and 3 time track Olympian Frank Wykoff, and entrepreneur Bob Wian, founder of Bob's Big Boy restaurants.

Glendale High has grown from an initial enrollment in 1901 of 23 students, but today hosts 3500 students, each of whom receives a comprehensive educational experience designed to prepare them with the skills, knowledge and training necessary to achieve individual goals and to participate as a productive and responsible member of our ever-changing society and in our own multi-cultural environment.

One of the keys to the success of Glendale High School are the independently-organized parent groups that are committed to continued involvement with the school. Another innovation is the unique grade-level student support services, which counsel and follow students from the time they enter until the time they graduate from Glendale High School.

Please help me in congratulating co-principals Mrs. Gloria Vasquez and Mike Livingston, as well as all students, alumni, friends and family of Glendale High School on their 100 anniversary.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 581) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds appro-

propriated for the wildland fire management in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to facilitate the interagency cooperation required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in connection with wildland fire management:

Mr. CANNON. Madam Chairman, in the last eight years my home and the homes of my neighbors have been threatened by fire on the mountain behind our town in Mapleton. I want to thank the heroic, hard working Federal firefighters for how they fought those infernos. My home is in the mouth of a canyon that has a strong and regular evening wind. Had the fire reached the canyon it would have been like a huge blowtorch. Many Utahns have shared the same concerns. We have a lot of homes located along the hundreds of miles of the urban/public lands interface.

Our ways of thinking about fire have shifted in recent years. We understand the benefits of fires in the natural cycles of our public lands. The beautiful areas where we live, the parks and forests that we enjoy, can benefit from reducing the fire risk by reducing fuel loads, prescribed burns, and educating people on fire safety.

To undertake these prevention measures, the Forest Service must first consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, ensuring that there will be no adverse effects to animals and especially endangered species. Unfortunately, the USFWS lacks the money to do what is needed.

H.R. 581 will allow the Forest Service to reimburse the Fish and Wildlife Service for their consultations.

Last year, many of the western states, including Utah, experienced some of the worst forest fires in history. Utah's current fire conditions look similar to last year's. According to the National Forest Service, most of the state is at high and very high risk of fire danger. Last year nearly 2,000 fires in Utah burned 228,000 acres of land. In Utah County alone, over 3,200 acres of land were destroyed by 57 fires.

Preventive actions can help save our lands as well as better allocate the taxpayer money spent on putting out fires. The Yellowstone fire of 1988 cost the nation \$120 million to fight. Only a fraction of that amount would have been needed for prevention. As prescribed, controlled fire costs about \$50 an acre. In a wilderness fire this cost for fighting the fire alone increases to between \$200-\$400 an acre. That does not include the cost of lost timber, wildlife, or ecological damage. Simply reducing the built-up fuel load that grew during years of fire suppression can have a significant effect on reducing fire danger.

Educating people on fire safety is a key issue as well. In Utah, 60-70% of the fires are either accidentally or intentionally started by humans. Most of these could be avoided with proper understanding.

We must make funding for responsible fire practices a priority. This will improve the sense of serenity for my family, the constituents who I serve, and the many people who live on or near our public lands.