

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Charles "Lefty" Driesell on his much-deserved retirement and thank him for his contributions to the University of Maryland, its fans and the citizens of the great state of Maryland.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE HIGH SCHOOL FIGHTING BEES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bayonne High School Fighting Bees for winning the New Jersey North 1, Group IV state championship for the first time in the school's history. Their hard work, dedication, and talent led them to victory, and to the ultimate of high school football prizes, winning the state championship.

Coach Rich Rodriguez's philosophy, that every play of every game was of the utmost importance, proved true in the 25–23 win over Hackensack High. There was no room for the players to let up on their intensity. Bryan Smith took this philosophy to heart. Running hard, he rushed for 233 yards on 23 carries, and his determination was an example of the entire team's tireless efforts to reach their goal.

As they move on in life, the team can remember the lessons that earned them the honor of being able to call themselves champions—that with great effort, teamwork, and dedication to a cause, one can accomplish goals and win not only on the football field but also in life.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Bayonne High School Fighting Bees for their accomplishments on the football field. Congratulations, you make our community proud.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH AND RABBI SHARON KLEINBAUM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great personal pleasure to rise today to honor New York City's Congregation Beth Simchat Torah and its rabbi, Sharon Kleinbaum. CBST, as it is known to thousands of friends throughout the city and around the world, is the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender congregation, and on February 9, 2003, we will celebrate the start of CBST's 30th year of service to the community.

In 1973, ten people gathered in the basement of the Church of Holy Apostles in response to a small classified ad placed in the Village Voice. At the time, none of the national Jewish organizations supported gay rights. No synagogues officially welcomed gay members. The fact that we are able to join together, thirty years later, to celebrate and commemorate CBST is a testament to the strength of what those first congregants established—a place where it is possible to be both "openly gay and proudly Jewish," as Rabbi Kleinbaum

says, a community in which all journeys are respected.

This celebration is also evidence of the special place CBST occupies in the hearts of New Yorkers of all denominations and all sexualities, as a welcoming and loving place to celebrate one's faith. Every year, for the High Holidays services, CBST moves its services to the Jacob Javits Convention Center in order to accommodate the 3,000 or more people who are a part of the extended CBST family. In 2001, just two weeks after September 11th, CBST's services for Kol Nidre, the Jewish Day of Atonement, drew 6,000 people. I don't think I could adequately describe the important place CBST has had in the lives of so many of my fellow New Yorkers, but the numbers certainly begin to tell the story. I am proud to represent Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in Congress.

There have been many heroes in the history of CBST. This year, we will thank the congregation's rabbi, Sharon Kleinbaum, for ten years of visionary leadership. In the course of ten eventful years, it has been her love of the CBST community that has made CBST an ever-growing force for positive social change. CBST, like the larger gay community of New York City, has lost too many members to AIDS, and through the years, Rabbi Kleinbaum has helped many CBST members through their own sickness, and the loss of friends and loved ones. She is the leader of a new generation of young Jewish leaders, deeply committed to the Jewish tradition but innovative and progressive in her view of its celebration, and passionate in her belief in the power of faith in people's lives. Rabbi Kleinbaum occupies a truly treasured place in the gay community, the Jewish community, and in the hearts of thousands of New Yorkers, and I am also proud to call her my friend.

TRIBUTE TO FERRIS FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Ferris Foundation and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education for understanding the importance of international education programs.

In 1989, Dr. Richard Ferris created the Ferris Foundation for Graduate Education, Inc. to nurture the strong bonds between the people and institutions of the United States and Ireland. Since the beginning, the Ferris Foundation has invested resources in the creation of academic projects providing postgraduate education to outstanding scholars of both countries. Over the years, the Ferris Foundation has brought excellent young scholars from universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to the United States for advanced studies in management and finance.

Last year, the Ferris Foundation and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education embarked on a partnership to give both African-American and Irish students an opportunity to learn about the Irish

and African-American cultures that exist in their respective countries.

The rector of the university system in Ireland worked with Dr. Ferris and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education to facilitate the implementation of this innovative program. The Association identified a number of scholarly and well-rounded students from some of the most prestigious African-American universities. The four students who were selected for graduate study in Ireland include: James Keeton of Albany State; Akisha Campbell of Florida A & M University; Joseph Easter of Jackson State University and Keisha Senter of Florida A & M University. These four distinguished scholars will experience Irish culture through a planned program of graduate study and through employment in an American corporation in Ireland.

This unique project not only provides each participant with a superior graduate education but also an introductory employment experience and a perspective on American culture seen through their new "Irish eyes."

I wish the Ferris Foundation and the Republic of Ireland and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education well as they continue on the path of fostering cultural exchange and embodying the motto of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in "Keeping the Doors of Opportunity Open."

THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to ask for further congressional scrutinizing of recommended changes to the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

The Federal Home Loan Bank system has enjoyed continued success as a regionally based cooperative that provides critical liquidity to its constituent member institutions.

The currently proposed changes involve three major issues that include the assumption of new powers, the dismantling of the regional character of the System, both of which bring into issue concerns about corporate transparency, and whether the FHLBank's disclosure practices are adequate.

It is thought by many in Congress and in the industry that efforts by some members of the FHLBank system to create a new market for securitization of mortgages would expand its mission in an era of economic uncertainty. Congress should have an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of any proposed reforms before the system is allowed to abrogate its traditional mission.

Moreover, the adoption of a multi-district charter would undermine the strength of the system which lies in its regional structure that allows each bank to have independence and flexibility in addressing its varying needs. As a result, further consolidation could threaten competition and lead to a limitation of access to credit for home ownership.

Finally, any expansion of FHLBank powers and activities should be accompanied by more stringent disclosure requirements; additional

statutory standards such as affordable housing goals; and appropriate capital requirements.

In order to safeguard the continued viability of the Federal Home Loan Bank system, any changes to its fundamental mission should receive adequate congressional scrutiny.

IN HONOR OF ETHEL D. PEOPLES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ethel Davis Peoples or over 34 years of dedicated service to the children and families of Jersey City. Upon her retirement, she was honored at Casino in the Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, on Saturday, December 7, 2002.

Mrs. Peoples, an exemplary citizen and active participant in the community, spent over 30 years working at the Jersey City Child Development Centers, Inc. She started her career working as a temporary food service employee, and her outstanding work led to a full-time position. Over the years, Mrs. Peoples has worked in several Head Start Centers, and has been a joy to work with as she shares her positive outlook with everyone.

Mrs. Peoples also invested countless hours as a volunteer worker with young adults at the Teen Post of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), located on Bergen Avenue. She was honored and recognized by the CYO for her devoted service and tireless work.

Mrs. Peoples, a great-grandmother, is also the mother of seven and grandmother of eleven.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ethel D. Peoples for enriching the lives of so many throughout our community and at the Jersey City Child Development Center, Inc.

SUSPENSION OF FURTHER TSP REDUCTIONS UNDER THE 2001 TAX ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will ask a simple question. Do Members of Congress feel that the threats posed by Iraq, North Korea, and terrorism are sufficiently real that all Americans should bear some sacrifice in responding to those threats?

Our Nation in times of war always has responded by requiring sacrifices from all segments of our society. Individuals in our military are asked to bear the highest sacrifice. They are forced to leave their homes and risk their lives overseas. Those fortunate enough to remain at home during the war have been asked to support the military through rationing, increased taxes, or diversion of government resources from domestic programs.

The President's rhetoric about the seriousness of the risk posed by Iraq and terrorism is inconsistent with his actual program. He places our military at risk but does not ask all

other segments of our society to sacrifice for the cause. Only the poor will be forced to sacrifice through reductions in the domestic safety net. Other segments of our society are promised tax reductions, not sacrifice, with the greatest tax reductions enjoyed by the wealthiest segment of our society.

The Department of Defense surveys clearly indicate that both active-duty and reserve members of the Armed Forces are primarily from low-income families. The fact that only one member of the Congress has a child in the enlisted ranks of the military is stark confirmation of the accuracy of those surveys. However every Member of Congress, by virtue of their congressional salary alone, will have sufficient income to enjoy large tax reductions under the Bush Administration policy.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation that I am introducing today will not increase taxes on any American above the level that is currently in effect. It simply suspends all further tax reductions under the 2001 Tax Act until the President certifies that the situations in Iraq and North Korea have been resolved, there has been an adequate response to international terrorism, and no member of the Armed Services is involuntarily on duty because of those situations.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the sacrifices required by my legislation do not meet the standard that this country has required in the past. It will not increase taxes, it will simply defer future tax reductions. Our seriousness about pursuing action overseas will be highly questionable if this Congress does not require that small sacrifice from those so fortunate to be able to stay at home.

I recognize that some will attack my legislation as being "class warfare." I would respond to that criticism by pointing out that all future tax reductions under the 2001 Act would be deferred by my legislation, including the limited benefits promised to lower income individuals. I recognize that the wealthiest segment of our society would have the largest benefits subject to deferral. However, that fact is not my doing, it is a simple reflection of the unfair nature of the 2001 Act.

The administration and many Republican Members of the Congress have vociferously attacked the legislation that I introduced earlier to reinstate the draft. It is clear that they do not believe that their cause in Iraq is of sufficient importance to risk the lives of their children. Now I am asking whether it is sufficiently important to sacrifice tax benefits promised in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Robert L. Johnson.

In 1980, Mr. Johnson launched Black Entertainment Television (BET) with the help of a \$15,000 loan. Under Mr. Johnson's leadership, BET Holdings Inc. expanded, and in 1991 became the first African-American-owned Company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Johnson has since expanded the

core BET network to include a theatrical film company, a book publishing division and restaurants. BET has flourished as the leading African American multimedia entertainment company, now reaching more than 65 million U.S. homes and more than 90% of all African-American cable households.

On December 12, 2002, the National Basketball Association awarded Robert Johnson an expansion franchise in Charlotte, NC, making him not only the first African American to own an NBA franchise, but also the first African-American to own a major professional sports team in North America.

The selection of Mr. Johnson completes a long series of achievements by African-Americans in the NBA. Earl Lloyd became the NBA's first African-American player in 1950. Bill Russell became the league's first African-American head coach in 1966. Wayne Embry became the league's first African-American general manager in 1972. Today, 85 percent of the NBA's rosters are filled with African-Americans, and 12 of the 29 coaches in the league are African-Americans.

It was his individual skills, his demonstrated ability to build organizations, and his success in business and media that earned Robert Johnson such a grand accomplishment. He will be an example for other team owners as he has committed to giving African-Americans opportunities within his team's management structure.

I would like to recognize the historical significance of Robert L. Johnson becoming the first African-American to own a majority portion of a major sports team in the United States and North America. I salute Mr. Johnson for his outstanding achievements and work as an African American businessman and leader. I commend the NBA in choosing Mr. Johnson to own the new Charlotte franchise, and I salute the league's understanding of the importance of diversity in making its selection. I would also like to encourage further efforts within the NBA and other professional sports to support minority ownership and management of team franchises.

SHERIFF GARY T. CARLSON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Merced County Sheriff Gary T. Carlson. Sheriff Carlson was born in Iowa and raised in Illinois and graduated from Cathedral High School in Chicago, Illinois.

At the age of 18, Gary joined the United States Air Force and after basic training was stationed at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California. After over two years at Castle, he received orders to Vietnam. Gary returned to the U.S. in April 1970 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant at McCord Air Force Base in Seattle, Washington.

Gary again returned to Merced, California and attended Merced College studying in the area of Sociology. He applied for and was hired as a Merced County Deputy Sheriff in October 1971. His first assignment was working in the Jail Division. Sixteen months later, he was assigned to the midnight shift Patrol Division, then to the Detective Division. Gary