

A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT A PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL TO FREDERICK DOUGLASS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to present posthumously a Presidential Citizens Medal to Frederick Douglass, in recognition of his achievements in civil rights and service to the nation.

Abolitionist, editor, orator, reformer, and civil rights activist, Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential African-American leaders of the 19th century. The fourth of seven children born to a field hand in Talbot County, MD, Frederick Douglass escaped slavery with great adversity to become a forefather in civil and women's rights.

Throughout his extraordinary life, Frederick Douglass gained international prominence for his lecturing and autobiographical writings, in which he detailed the callousness of slavery. However, his notoriety was largely attributed to the founding of the North Star, a weekly newspaper that not only spoke out against slavery and oppression, but also served as a station on the Underground Railroad.

Douglass' civil rights achievements were also highlighted by a successful political career. As a staunch Republican, Douglass served as an advisor to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo by President Ulysses S. Grant, was appointed U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and was named Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in 1881 by President James L. Garfield, all of which were firsts for African Americans.

My Speaker, for these achievements and many others, which are too numerous to name, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and the subsequent letter to the President urging him to posthumously present a Presidential Citizens Medal in honor of Frederick Douglass.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Meadow Elementary in the Baldwin Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for February 2003. Mrs. Joan M. Flatley is the Principal at Meadow School, Ms. Cora Ianuario is Assistant Principal, and Dr. Kathy Weiss is the Superintendent of Schools in the Baldwin Union Free School District. The school has 750 students in grades Kindergarten through 5.

The Meadow Elementary School Community is a close-knit body of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. Their goal is to ensure each child a stable early education

through an enriched curriculum that keeps the children excited, and unique programs that appeal to a wide variety of younger children.

The new Character Education Program and the school's determination to create a caring environment for everyone shows the strong commitment Meadow Elementary has to developing student character. Each month Meadow students and staff focus on different character traits, and are rewarded for efforts to achieving the month's traits. The Program emphasizes traits that students should strive for, such as: responsibility, cooperation, respect, generosity, perseverance, acceptance/tolerance, honesty, compassion, fairness, and self-discipline.

The Meadow School has many wonderful programs designed to ensure each child receives individual attention. The special education program is unique to the school. All students in the district, in grades Kindergarten through 5, requiring special education go to Meadow. Currently, there are 80 students in the program. Also, the English as a Second Language program helps 30 students every day conquer their fears and language barriers.

Long Island students receive a better education thanks to the faculty and teachers of Meadow Elementary School and I am proud to name them school of the month for February.

CONGRATULATING COACH ROBERT CAPELLO ON HIS 800TH CAREER VICTORY

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the remarkably successful coaching career of Robert Capello, the long-time coach for Edcouch-Elsa High School in my congressional district.

Coach Capello recently celebrated his 800th career victory, making him the only Hispanic high school basketball coach in the Nation with 800 victories. Even more remarkable, Coach Capello boasts a 69 percent victory percentage over his 36-year career at the helm of the Edcouch-Elsa Yellowjackets. His great success over the years is evidenced not only by that career victory milestone but by the many championships his teams have won. The Edcouch-Elsa Basketball Team has been District Champions for 11 of the past 19 years. They have played in the Texas State playoffs in 19 of the past 21 years. They are the first school in the Rio Grande Valley to send four players to the Texas High School Coaches Association South All Star games.

Robert Capello is not only an excellent basketball coach, he has also been an extraordinary role model and mentor to hundreds of boys and girls who have graduated from Edcouch-Elsa High School over the years. He inspires his athletes to excel both on the court and in the classroom, and has encouraged all students at Edcouch-Elsa to reach their fullest potential by pursuing a college education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Coach Robert Capello for his 800th career basketball victory, and for his 36 years of inspirational leadership and caring commitment to the students of Edcouch-Elsa High School.

HONORING FRANK MEEKS AS THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, 2002

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Meeks, who has recently been named the Chamber Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Meeks earned a degree in political science and English from the University of Southern Mississippi, with the goal of attending law school. In order to help defray the cost of continuing his education, he became a delivery boy for Domino's Pizza in 1979. Within a short amount of time, Mr. Meeks became manager of the store, and decided to stay with Domino's.

In December 1980, Mr. Meeks took 2 years off from Domino's Pizza and served as a congressional aide for Senator TRENT LOTT, then a Member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Meeks continued to earn extra money by assisting Domino's Pizza in opening up new stores in the Virginia area. After 2 years with Mr. LOTT, Mr. Meeks decided to return to Domino's and was awarded the franchise for Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. Mr. Meeks opened his first store in July 1983 in Alexandria, Virginia. Today, Frank Meeks oversees the operation of fifty-nine Domino's Pizza stores in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Mr. Meek's franchise, Domino's Pizza Team Washington, continues to be one of the top franchises in Domino's Pizza, Inc.

Under Mr. Meek's leadership, Team Washington has been active in supporting area schools. Team Washington has generously contributed to the post prom and after graduation parties in Fairfax County, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland. In addition, Team Washington has also contributed to the Washington's Children's National Medical Center, Food and Friends, Mount Vernon High School, and numerous other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Frank Meeks. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring him for all of his success and dedication to his work and the community.

TRIBUTE TO DELOISE JONES

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Deloise Jones. Mrs. Jones is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. She earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Tougaloo College. She then went on to earn a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Jackson State University.

Mrs. Jones began her career as an economist with the Labor Department in Washington, DC. In 1981, she became an elementary teacher in the Jackson Public School (JPS) District in Jackson, Mississippi, where she has served since. In 1994, she served a 4-year tenure as president of the Jackson Association of Educators.

Mrs. Jones has received numerous awards and recognitions for her commitment and service in the interest of public education and the teaching profession. These acknowledgments include the Silver Apple Award, which she was presented by JPS Board of Directors in 1983. In 1988, she was appointed as a teacher representative to the Paperwork Reduction Task Force by then Governor Ray Mabus. And, most recently was selected as teacher of the year by her colleagues at the elementary school where she currently works.

Mrs. Jones is a valued member of the community and her contributions are greatly appreciated.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION WEEK

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2003*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today Representative JOHN PETERSON and I are introducing a bill to establish an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week during the second week of May in honor of the army of health care heroes who, every day, comfort, care for, and assist our loved ones. Modern society takes for granted the need for nursing as an indispensable component of our public health system, but this was not always the case. The very concept of a visiting nurse can be traced to the pioneering work of Florence Nightingale. She reformed British military hospitals in the Crimean War through an expose in the British press, she professionalized nursing and made it an acceptable profession for educated women, devoted the rest of her life to building on her experiences, setting standards and writing books, until the mission of nursing had gained the respect of the world.

When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow read of the work of Florence Nightingale, he penned a poem, *Santa Filomena*, that spoke of the deep appreciation owed by all of us to those dedicated to service in the ultimate caring profession. He wrote:

Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,  
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,  
Our hearts, in glad surprise,  
To higher levels rise.

The tidal wave of deeper souls  
Into our inmost being rolls,  
And lifts us unawares  
Out of all meaner cares.

The Visiting Nurse Associations of today are founded on the principle that the sick, the disabled, and the elderly benefit most from healthcare when it is offered in their own homes. They are non-profit home health agencies that provide cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of their condition or ability to pay for services. Through these exceptional organizations, 90,000 clini-

cians dedicate their lives to bringing healthcare into the homes of over 4 million Americans every year. In the face of rising costs and drastic changes in our health care system, visiting nurse associations have continued to deliver high quality health services for over 120 years.

It is time for Congress to recognize the vital services that visiting nurses provide their patients. Moreover, visiting nurses also are an indispensable lifeline for families. The comfort and quality care that visiting nurses provide can help family members cope with the difficulties of a loved one's illness.

I am proud to be introducing this important legislation with my colleague Representative PETERSON and urge my colleagues to join us in supporting National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY,  
WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION  
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2003, and in support of the Democratic substitute amendment.

For twenty years, a complicit agreement regarding welfare existed between conservatives and liberals in this country. Conservatives refused to devote more money to the program, and liberals refused to demand anything of recipients. We lost two generations of Americans to this failed system of dependency.

I am a long-time believer in welfare reform. I worked in the White House and with the Congress to help enact the welfare reform legislation of 1996—and I was proud to be a part of the strong, bipartisan reform that legislation created. I applaud my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle who helped to pass what has been a landmark of successful reform. The 1996 reforms broke from the past with a new approach that grounded the welfare system in the values of work and responsibility. It was a bold and daring experiment that worked.

Instead of simply handing needy families a check, we created new opportunities for families on welfare. By providing access to education and training, we helped welfare recipients to get better and more lucrative jobs. Recognizing recipients' need to care for their young children, we helped them to get child care, and allowed mothers of young children modified work requirements. Realizing that many low-paying jobs do not provide health insurance, we instituted transitional medical assistance for families coming off welfare.

Since enactment of the 1996 reforms, enrollment has plunged more than 50 percent. The percentage of welfare recipients who work has increased five-fold over the past decade, and states now spend more on work support than on cash benefits. Thanks in large part to welfare reform, 8 million people left poverty in the 90s, teen pregnancy dropped by more than 20 percent, and child support collections doubled. We are moving in the right direction because we were true to our common values.

The most important thing we've accomplished with welfare reform has been to connect a generation of children with the culture of work. Most of us grew up watching our parents go to work. We internalized the value of work and now are passing these values onto our own children. Today, millions of children who would otherwise have grown up in a home where work was alien, now are being raised in a home where they are learning the routine of work.

In my state of Illinois, caseloads dropped 74.9 percent between 1996 and 2001, and, despite the recession, continued to fall an additional 23.7 percent in 2002. Many credit our strong success in caseload reduction to the state's innovative use of the flexibility in the original legislation, allowing Illinois to provide appropriate support for families making the transition from welfare to work. The proposed reauthorization will have a particularly disastrous effect on states like Illinois that have taken advantage of family support provisions to make notable progress. By removing the support system that has allowed many to get off and stay off welfare, this legislation is likely to create major setbacks in the progress of reform.

The Democratic substitute amendment builds on the success of the 1996 reforms. It retains the strong work incentives that not only help individuals go back to work, but provide them with greater job security by helping them become better educated, and train for better jobs. It recognizes the importance of giving mothers with young children the flexibility to take care of their children. It eliminates the current exclusion of legal immigrants from the system.

The Republican legislation represents a return to the failed ideologies of the past. It is not realistic to count the number of new hours of work mandated by this bill, and call reform a success. In voting for this legislation, you are voting against education and training to help current welfare recipients get out of dead-end jobs. You are voting for standards that will create hardships for working mothers, and add thousands to waiting lists for child care. You are voting to continue to exclude legal immigrants from participating in a program that would help them to contribute to this country rather than being simply a drain on the system.

In fact, I find the title of this legislation ironic: The Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act in fact stifles personal responsibility, discourages work, and creates hardship for families. Inherent in the concept of personal responsibility is making the choice to work towards self-improvement. By mandating more hours of work while limiting the training and education options are available to workers, this bill removes all incentive for personal responsibility.

Promoting work is not as simple as increasing work hours. There are likely to be countless individuals who, because they do not have the time, health, or child care resources to work forty hours each week, or simply cannot find a job where they are permitted to work forty hours, will choose instead not to work at all. If this legislation aims to promote work, it must do so by making work more realistic for workers and their families, not by imposing mandates that make working more difficult.

Lastly, the legislation creates untold hardship for families. By increasing mandated work