

sitting on the Fresno Irrigation District and the Kings River Water PAC's Boards of Directors. She has participated in the Association of California Water Agencies, the Fresno Art Museum, the Agricultural Council of California, the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and St. James Episcopal Cathedral. Sayre cannot say for certain that the discourse of the boardroom surpasses the joy of receiving a Sunday school kindergardner's hug around the knees, but she has loved it all.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sayre McFarlane Miller for receiving the 2002 Common Threads Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Sayre for her commitment to community service and agriculture and in wishing her many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF  
SANDRA "SANDY" BLESSLEY

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Sandra "Sandy" Blessley; and

Whereas, Sandra Blessley was a gifted speaker and a Capital Guide for 29 years. Her dedication and love for her work was truly exemplary; after her first stroke she recovered by reciting her tour speech, so that she could return to work; and

Whereas, Mrs. Blessley will certainly be remembered by all those who knew her because of her personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which she gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her;

Therefore, while I understand how words can't express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Sandra "Sandy" Blessley.

HONORING JEFF FAUX

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Faux, who is the founder of the nationally respected Economic Policy Institute. During his long career, he has been a merchant mariner, railroad worker, blueberry farmer, antipoverty official, Labor Department statistician, and instructor at Harvard University.

Jeff Faux used these work experiences to his advantage when undertaking the great task of founding and building the Economic Policy Institute, the nation's only think tank expressly dedicated to examining economic issues from the vantage point of how they affect working families.

Named after the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, Faux grew up in Queens, New York, as an avid reader but an apathetic student. Dropping out of high school, he joined the merchant ma-

rine and shipped out to the Caribbean, before realizing that he didn't want to spend the rest of his life that way.

Completing high school years before open enrollment at New York's City University, his wide-ranging reading stood him in good stead when he aced an examination that qualified him for Queens College, in spite of his uneven record in high school. On evenings, weekends, and summers while in college, he worked as a bartender (following his father who had been a charter member of Bartenders Local 164), on a railroad, and in an American Can Factory in Brooklyn.

After he severely injured his back, Faux was treated in Queens General Hospital, sparing him from what might have been a lifetime disability. While hospitalized, he mused that he was, in a sense, the product of public programs—born in a public hospital, educated in public schools, and put back together again in another public hospital. Faux traces lifelong commitment to progressive politics to this period of recuperation and reflection.

Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's New Frontier, Faux moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked, first, for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and, then, for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Meanwhile, he enrolled as a graduate student at George Washington University, doing graduate work in economics.

Moving to the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Faux became one of the originators of a new kind of anti-poverty program: the Community Development Corporation. Modeled after a project initiated by Senator Robert F. Kennedy in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, community development corporations promote economic development in low-income areas, from the inner cities to rural America.

Traveling throughout the country, and briefly living with migrant farm workers in Colorado and New Mexico, Faux helped to turn the concept of community development corporations into a national program. He also found the time to participate in the historic Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights and to register black voters in Virginia.

In the 1980's, Jeff returned to Washington, D.C. and set about a new mission: founding a progressive think tank that would focus on economic issues. Others involved in the project included Barry Bluestone, Robert Kuttner, Ray Marshall, Robert Reich, and Lester Thurow.

In 1986, the Economic Policy Institute opened its doors, with a staff of Faux, communications director Roger Hickey, an administrative assistant and a graduate research assistant. Originally commissioning papers by academics, EPI build its own capacity with the hiring in 1987 of Larry Mishel as research director. A year later, EPI published the first biennial edition of its signature publication, *The State of Working America*, which would be researched and written by Mishel and many of the economists who later joined the staff of EPI.

In the later eighties, as a wave of deindustrialization swept over the U.S., EPI helped build the case for plant closing legislation, work that bore fruit in the WARN Act of 1988. A few years later, EPI shaped the debate on the minimum wage, showing that the benefits of raising wages for the poorest workers far outweighed the potential cost in terms of inflation or job loss.

Joining the debate about the North American Free Trade Agreement, EPI explored international issues as well, pioneering the proposal that labor standards be included in trade agreements. On domestic issues, EPI developed a trademark tactic, releasing statements signed by prominent economists supporting increased public investment, opposing the balanced budget amendment, endorsing President Bill Clinton's first budget plan, and opposing President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the very wealthy. Surveys continuously find that EPI is the most widely quoted progressive think tank in the nation's news media.

In 2002, Faux stepped down as president of EPI and assumed a new role as EPI's first Distinguished Fellow. He has begun work on a book about the North American economy.

Today, we thank Jeff for his enormous contribution in improving the well being of working families all across the world.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,  
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH  
CARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. This bill would provide legal protections to HMOs and override all of our efforts to hold them accountable through the Patients' Bill of Rights. Worse, it would restrict patients' rights without actually solving the problems associated with high insurance costs.

The Democratic substitute, which we were prevented from offering, would have taken a comprehensive approach to the malpractice insurance crisis, recognizing the need for both tort reform and insurance reform. Not only would it have prevented frivolous lawsuits, but it would have also required insurance companies to pass their savings on to health care providers, in addition to providing assistance to the physicians and communities who need it the most. Even the CEOs of 4 insurance companies say this bill does not guarantee reduced insurance premiums for doctors.

Capping non-economic damages at \$250,000, as this bill does, will disproportionately hurt stay-at-home mothers, children, the elderly and the disabled—people who do not earn enough to show a substantial economic loss. They suffer just as much as a high-paid CEO, yet under this bill, they would receive virtually nothing for their pain and suffering.

I urge my colleagues to do right by these families and oppose this bill. Let's come back and pass a bill that will actually do something to address the malpractice crisis.

A TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS  
TALIAFERRO

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Phyllis Taliaferro in recognition of her commitment to providing mental health treatment in the community.

Phyllis is a member of a proud African American family of Taliaferros. The most notable of whom is Booker Taliaferro Washington. Since 1898 Phyllis's family has maintained the Lucy Taliaferro Estate in Colonial Beach, Virginia. Phyllis's great-grandmother purchased the property. Prior to World War II, Phyllis's family moved to Baltimore where she was born. Following the war, Phyllis along with her parents and sister moved to New York.

Phyllis is a graduate of Amityville Memorial High School on Long Island. She earned her bachelor's degree at Morgan State University and received her master's degree in Social Welfare at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She has also studied at the University of Ghana at Legon and at St. Ann's Psychiatric Hospital in Rosekilde, Sweden. In the United States, she took post-graduate courses at the Lenox Hill Hospital Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy program and at Beth Israel Hospital. She has held faculty positions in the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College and at Old Westbury and Euro College.

In her professional life, she is focused on improving mental health treatment for women and children. She runs a group for women called "He Ain't All That." She has been honored by the Visiting Nurse Service, the Society for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, and the New York Black Psychologists. She is a Past President of the New York Association of Black Psychologists.

Phyllis is also the executive producer of the "The Phyllis Taliaferro Show—The Psychology of Everyday Life" on Brooklyn Community Access Television. Previously, on Starrett City Television, she was a producer and host of "Perceptions and Insights." Additionally, she made frequent appearances on Dr. Jeff's early television show, "A Hipper Shrink" and Dr. Brown's show, "Psych on Call." Phyllis has had guest spots on several radio shows as well as including "The Dr. Watkins Show," "The Gary Byrd Show," and "Hit It."

In addition to her work in the mental health field, she is actively involved in several local civic organizations. She is a member of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Brooklyn Women's Caucus, the National Political Caucus of Black Women in Politics, and the Central Committee for Al Sharpton. She is also a member of Church Women United and the auxiliary at Kings County Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Phyllis Taliaferro is dedicated to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

#### HONORING ANNE HESTER

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anne Hester on the occasion of her being selected as a recipient for the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women who have made

a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities with their time and/or contributions. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County. They should have past or present roots in agriculture while showing outstanding involvement in a variety of community activities in addition to agriculture. The honorees make a difference with their philanthropic giving while serving as visible and credible role models for other women.

Anne married into a 3rd generation farming family, and she and her husband, Gary, are principles in Hester Orchards. Anne has played a major role in her and her husband's diversified orchard crops, nut processing, and farm management companies. She is actively involved in the operation and manages the administrative office.

Anne has been active in many agriculture and education organizations. Mrs. Hester served as chairperson for the Tulare County Farm Bureau and acted as the driving force for its Ag Education, Youth Leadership, Fund-raising, and Scholarship committees. She recognized that Ag needed to reach out to student leaders and educate them about agriculture and its importance before they went on in their education. Because of her commitment to youth, Anne was also involved in a program at Farmersville High School where she helped at-risk kids get jobs in an effort to redirect their lives. Mrs. Hester's philanthropic devotion to helping the education of youth and her active involvement in the farming industry make her a significant part of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Anne Hester for her superior service to the public and her leadership in the agriculture community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Anne many years of continued success.

#### A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF MARVIN L. LAWVER

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Marvin L. Lawver upon the death of this outstanding person; and

Whereas, Marvin L. Lawver was born November 6, 1925 and in 1943, at the age of 17, Marvin L. Lawver answered his country's call to duty and enlisted in the United States Navy; and

Whereas, during his overseas service, including Pearl Harbor, he became highly decorated earning the American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal; and

Whereas, for his service to our country we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid; and

Whereas, Marvin L. Lawver will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him because of his personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and kindness to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him;

Therefore, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Marvin L. Lawver.

#### HONORING ANGEL GONZALEZ

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my youngest and bravest constituents, Angel Gonzalez. Angel is California's Ambassador to Foresters Champions Across America and the Children's Miracle Network program that honors remarkable children who have triumphed despite severe medical challenges. Today, Angel enjoys the fun and games of most five-year olds, but it wasn't long ago that would have seemed impossible.

Angel was standing with his Grandmother outside the oil change shop where his Mom works in Salinas, California, when a car in one of the service bays suddenly accelerated and crashed through the closed door of the shop. Angel was hit by the car and suffered severe head trauma and internal injuries. After emergency surgery and 10 days in a coma, there were no doubts that Angel was truly a fighter. He pulled through not only because of the good work of his surgeons and nurses, but because of determination and will power. His courage and determination has been crucial in his progress on the long and difficult road of rehabilitation. Over the months, Angel has made remarkable progress, gradually regaining his speech and motor skills. Through the continuing and laborious physical therapy, Angel has maintained his positive attitude and brought a playful approach to the challenges of his continuing recovery.

Angel's recovery is a remarkable testament to his strength and perseverance and the wonderful treatment he received at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. As California's Ambassador, Angel has traveled to Washington, DC to bring hope to other children who are fighting for their health, and to recognize the important role that children's hospitals play in providing specialized care for kids. I would like to congratulate Angel on his amazing recovery and his position as an inspiring role model to all people who face adversity. I am honored to be able to recognize the resolve and support of Angel, his family, and their community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LYSTRA MOORE- BESSON

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor of Lystra Moore-Besson in recognition of her contribution to her family and her community.

Lystra was born to Henry and Alice Moore in Trinidad & Tobago. She immigrated to the United States in 1975 to further her education. In 1980 she graduated from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. After graduation, she pursued a career in banking. She is presently Vice-President and Branch Manager of HSBC Bank USA and holds her securities licenses from NASD.

During her twenty-years in banking, she has received several awards including the "Chairman's Award for Sales Excellence" at HSBC Bank USA. She also sits on the African American Diversity Sub-Committee for Mentoring