

they should have raised them with the regulators. After all, MON 863 isn't new, having been approved to be as safe as conventional maize by nine other global authorities since 2003."

THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN
COLLINS FOOTE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER and I rise today to honor Helen Foote, a woman of faith, family, a selfless spirit and infectious laughter.

Ms. Foote was born to the late Reverend Benjamin Collins and Henrietta Collins in South River, Maryland. One of eight children, Helen received her education in a one-room school and spent her free time like most children, fishing, hunting and picking apples from the trees in a nearby orchard. On Sundays, Helen and her cousins spent time learning the art of playing the piano. It was here, during those lessons, her already well-known laughter earned her the nickname "KeeKee" embodying the sound of her continuous and infectious laugh.

As she grew up, Ms. Foote developed a reputation for spreading joy both through her laugh and through her altruistic nature. Whether helping wallpaper her parent's bedroom, caring for her ailing mother or donating her time to her church, Helen Foote was the very model of selfless dedication. In fact, her benevolence eventually led Hope Memorial St. Mark United Methodist Church to name her Mother of the Year in 2004. And as a mother of five daughters, one stepdaughter, 10 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 6 step-great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild, that award was well-earned.

The daughter of a Reverend, religion always remained a pivotal aspect of Ms. Foote's family life. At a young age she attended Chews United Methodist Church in Owensville, Maryland. In her later years she became a member of Hope Chapel now referred to as Hope Memorial St. Mark United Methodist Church. It was here Ms. Foote served as a Communion Steward, an Usher and a member of the United Methodist Women.

Today you can still find Ms. Foote doing the things she loves best: working in her yard, cooking meals for her family, rooting for her beloved Baltimore Orioles, and, occasionally, wallpapering a bedroom.

Helen Foote is truly a blessing to all she encounters. She is an inspiration, a foundation for the young and dedicated, and a distinguished and divine family woman. Helen Foote is truly a woman of strength and I am honored to rise today and honor her in this Congress.

THE FAIR LAND TRANSFER
COMPENSATION ACT OF 2005

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fair Land Transfer Compensa-

tion Act, a bill for fee simple transfer of certain federal lands to the District of Columbia to provide partial in-kind compensation for the federally imposed structural balance documented in a 2003 GAO report to be "between \$470 million and up to more than \$1.1 billion." My bill would transfer 65.73 acres of land in Southeast Washington, D.C. known as Reservation 13 and the parcel known as Poplar Point, also in Southeast. The bill introduced today would assist in providing the compensation that would be authorized by H.R. 1586, the Fair Federal Compensation Act (FFCA) introduced by the bipartisan House regional delegation and me in April. The FFCA would authorize an annual federal contribution of \$800 million (to increase annually with the consumer price index) to partially compensate the city and relieve a dangerous structural imbalance.

The extensively documented GAO report confirming exclusive federal responsibility for the District's structural imbalance and the bipartisan sponsorship of the FFCA demonstrate the need for federal action. However, neither the administration nor the Congress has responded, despite the District's continuing apprehension and repeated introduction of the FFCA. Today's bill providing valuable land to partially compensate the District would mark the first significant federal response to the FFCA.

The District of Columbia has had administrative control of Reservation 13, a GSA property, for 150 years and has used the parcel for the D.C. General Hospital, the District of Columbia jail, and other public facilities. Poplar Point is a strip of land owned by the National Park Service but has never been developed for use as a park.

The transfer authorized in this bill has several advantages for the District and for the federal government: an immediate benefit in partial payment that the District has long sought from the federal government to compensate the city for the structural imbalance; satisfaction, through the transfer of valuable federal land, of some of the responsibility the GAO reports that the federal government bears for the District's structural imbalance; the highest and best use for underused land that the District desires for mixed uses that are unavailable if the District continues to have administrative control but not ownership; a continuing revenue stream in the nature of an annual contribution from investments the District will be able to attract following transfer of the land; and compliance with the Federal Property Act (FPA) requirement that the federal government receive value for the transfer. The bill requires an appraisal and estimates of the financial benefit to the District that are necessary to determine the extent to which the bill would reduce the federal government's responsibility for the structural deficit.

The federal government has never used the parcels in my bill, and has no intention of doing so. At the same time, the District is unable to get value from this strategically located land in the city. Achieving maximum use of available sites located in the nation's capital, where the federal government owns and occupies the most valuable land, is essential to maintaining the financial stability of the District of Columbia.

This bill would compensate the District for some of the costs responsible of the structural imbalance which include the federal removal

from the tax rolls of more than 40 percent of District's land for federal and other purposes; services provided by the District to 200,000 federal employees, notwithstanding a ban on taxation of commuters, most of whom are federal employees; and the District's responsibility for several state costs, although the city is not a state and lacks the broad tax base of a state.

The costs to the District to cover this structural deficit are unsustainable. Among the most serious are the city's debt service, the highest in the country; its taxes, among the highest; and deferral of major capital improvements for vital facilities such as schools and for roads, a major factor inhibiting economic and population stability and growth.

The existence, source and danger of the structural deficit imposed by federal mandates have been fully acknowledged and are no longer debatable. In addition to the definitive GAO report and the findings of the District's Chief Financial Officer, the details are reported in two other studies (McKinsey, March 2002, requested by the Federal City Council consisting of regional business representatives; and Brookings, October 2002, led by Alice Rivlin, former director of the CBO and of the OMB).

According to the GAO, the only available options to eliminate the federally imposed deficit are "to expand the District's tax base or to provide additional financial support." The bill I introduce today will "expand the District's tax base," creating a continuing revenue stream because ownership will allow the District to get the highest and best use of valuable land through its own development initiative. I ask that the House begin the process of compensating the District for the federal deficit carried by the city by enacting the Fair Land Transfer Compensation Act.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI LEONARD
AND MRS. CAROLYNNE GUTTMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Council of Young Israel Shofar Award recipient Rabbi Leonard Guttman and his wife, Carolynne, and pay tribute to their involvement and commitment to the Young Israel movement and to worldwide Jewry.

Rabbi Leonard B. Guttman Esq. is an Assistant Vice President for Intergovernmental Relations at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the largest public health system in the United States. His prime responsibility is to serve as an advocate in Washington for New York's publicly funded hospitals and its over 1.3 million patients. While new to the Young Israel Ohab Zedek of North Riverdale-Yonkers, in 1988-1989 he worked at the National Council of Young Israel where one of his responsibilities was serving as editor of the Young Israel Viewpoint. He has also been an adjunct Professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Touro College and an Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department for the Aging. From 1994-1996, he served as First Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel at the New York