

Atlanta University's motto, "I'll Find a Way or Make One," and Clark College's motto, "Culture for Service."

I want to commend the outstanding work of Clark Atlanta University's current President, Dr. Walter Broadnax, and the staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

Interdenominational Theological Center—The Interdenominational Theological Center was chartered in 1958 through the mutual efforts of four denominations, representing four seminaries: Morehouse School of Religion, Gammon Theological Seminary, Turner Theological Seminary, and the Phillips School of Theology. The Interdenominational Theological Center would later add the Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; the Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Today, over 15 different denominations are represented throughout the center, including Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), United Church of Christ, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic, as well as students who are nondenominational.

The ITC has an international reputation for producing exceptional clergy and a long-standing tradition of community outreach, and it is known for its commitment to promoting service to both the church and society. In fact, the International Theological Center is currently playing an important role in fostering a national dialogue surrounding the Black church's role in the renewal of American society.

I want to commend the outstanding work of the Interdenominational Theological Center's current President, Dr. Michael A. Battle, and the staff, faculty, students, and alumni of the Interdenominational Theological Center.

Morehouse College—Founded in 1867 as the Augusta Institute in Augusta, Georgia, Morehouse College is the Nation's largest liberal arts college for men. In addition to ensuring that its students are prepared both academically and socially, Morehouse also takes great pains to ensure that its students are spiritually prepared for leadership and success in the larger society; as a result of this unique focus, Morehouse has the distinction of conferring bachelor's degrees on more black men than any other college or university in the United States.

I am pleased to note that Morehouse's notable alumni include some very distinguished Members of this Congress: my colleague from Georgia, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP and my good friend from New York, MAJOR OWENS. It also should be noted that Morehouse counts former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, and former Health and Human Services Secretary Leon Sullivan, among its prominent alumni.

I want to commend the outstanding work of Morehouse College's current President, Dr. Walter Massey, in addition to its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Morehouse School of Medicine—Morehouse School of Medicine was established in 1975, as part of Morehouse College, to address both a severe shortage of minority doctors, and a shortage of doctors in rural areas and inner cities. In 1983, Morehouse School of Medicine joined the consortium of institutions known as Atlanta University Center and was granted full accreditation of its M.D. degree program in April 1985.

Recognized for taking the lead in educating primary care physicians, 68 percent of More-

house School of Medicine alumni are practicing in primary care disciplines, while 84 percent are practicing medicine in underserved areas. Furthermore, Morehouse School of Medicine's research focuses on areas that disproportionately affect the African-American and other minorities. Its institutes include, but are not limited to: the National Center for Primary Care, the Cardiovascular Research Institute, the Neuroscience Institute, and the NASA Space Medicine and Life Sciences Research Center.

I want to commend the outstanding work of Morehouse School of Medicine's current President, Dr. John Maupin, in addition to its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Spelman College—Founded in 1881 for the purposes of educating African-American women and girls, Spelman College has empowered women to fully use their talents to succeed and to better the world, for many generations. As one of two black women's colleges in the Nation, Spelman develops its students not only academically but also emotionally and spiritually.

Spelman students are encouraged to pursue the study of fields where minorities and women are often underrepresented, such as math, science, and engineering. To this end, Spelman has forged partnerships with NASA and has been designated as one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and NASA as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math education.

I want to commend the outstanding work of Spelman's current President, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, in addition to its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Morris Brown College—Morris Brown College is a private, liberal arts, 4-year institution founded in 1881 by members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Today, thousands of leaders in government, education, business, technical fields and the professions are proud to have Morris Brown College as their alma mater.

While the Atlanta community was deeply troubled by the April 2003 decision of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to rescind the accreditation of Morris Brown College, we remain hopeful that the institution will soon be restored to its full academic standing. I stand in solidarity with Morris Brown College, as it moves forward through this challenging transition, and I am confident that the institution will return stronger than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for the goals and ideals of Historically Black Colleges and Universities week, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING REFORM IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this sham legislation and call on this Congress to pass serious reform legisla-

tion to clean up the corruption in the People's House.

The culture of corruption under the current Republican Majority is a stain on the honor of everyone who serves this institution. The former Republican Majority Leader has been indicted, one former Republican Member of the Appropriations Committee is serving a lengthy Federal prison term, and just this morning we learned that a former powerful Republican Committee Chairman has agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges. And throughout the current 109th Congress, the Republican Leadership has shut down the Ethics Committee that has responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the U.S. House.

I support full disclosure of all Member-directed appropriations to shine a light on the process and ensure any special interest provisions can pass muster of public scrutiny. It is well past time for Congress to pass serious lobbying reform to clean up this institution.

Unfortunately, House Resolution 1000, the so-called Earmark Reform Act is a fraud. It would do nothing to expose the Alaskan "Bridge to Nowhere" because it does not apply to authorization bills. And on appropriations bills, this proposal sets up a huge loophole because it does not apply to what is known as the Manager's Amendment. This omission simply sets up a new conduit for the Republicans' earmark excesses.

Mr. Speaker, I regret the Republican party bosses refuse to bring legislation to clean up the corruption in Congress, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this scam legislation.

S. 418: MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 418, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This act helps to ensure that our military personnel are not vulnerable to immoral and dishonest insurance schemes.

I think the provisions of this bipartisan bill are crucial for the protection of our Armed Forces and their families. While most of America's focus on the military concerns our actions abroad, protecting personnel and their families at home can sometimes be overlooked. But for years now, men and women in the armed services have fallen victim to unscrupulous salespersons pushing high cost and unnecessary financial products and life insurance. This practice must be stopped.

As numerous investigations, studies, and congressional hearings have shown, bad actors within the insurance and financial products industry have been taking advantage of military personnel in order to turn a quick profit. The military personnel they target are often young, inexperienced in financial matters, and particularly vulnerable to the aggressive sales tactics used by some companies. To make matters worse, Department of Defense Directives and state regulations would be violated or completely ignored by these salespersons, without repercussion.

In some cases, servicemen and women were sold life insurance policies with low benefits and premiums as high as fourteen times the amount available to every enlisted person under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program. In other cases, they were sold investments that have all but disappeared from the civilian markets because they can rob investors of years of earnings. But some salespersons found a niche outside of the public mainstream to sell these disreputable investments on our military bases.

It should be noted that there are many up-standing financial and insurance companies that sell very worthwhile investment and insurance products to military personnel and their families. They should be applauded for the fine job that they do in helping our military members and their families. This bill is targeted at the few who abuse the system and prey upon our military.

This bill, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, will stop these practices by targeting the bad actors, adding much-needed transparency and communication between federal and state agencies. This bill clarifies confusing jurisdictional issues between DoD and state regulators, allowing regulators to better enforce state and federal law on military bases. It would create a registry to track investment advisors, brokers, dealers, and insurance salespersons, and let bases know when a suspicious salesperson has walked through their gates. Finally, the bill would ban the worst types of financial products being sold to our military. These products have disappeared from the civilian market, and they should disappear from our military installations too.

This bill has gained bipartisan support in Congress. I urge you to support this legislation and protect the financial future of our military personnel and their families. During a time when so many of our armed forces are bravely fighting tyranny abroad, we must ensure that they are protected at home.

IN HONOR OF POCAHONTAS'
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Pocahontas in Randolph County, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for the community and for all who helped shape the city's history.

Pocahontas has a long history dating back to the 1700's when the region was occupied by the French and a number of Indian tribes, including the Osage and Cherokee. The city's first settler, Ransom S. Bettis, arrived from Greenville, Missouri, in the early 1800's and is credited with helping establish Pocahontas as the county seat.

Pocahontas began as a significant river port and the first supply stop in Arkansas for travelers coming down Old Southwest Road. Several famous frontiersmen, including Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, General Ulysses S. Grant and others, made stops in Pocahontas during this time. Even today, the city continues to serve as a strategic educational

and agricultural center for Randolph County and the state.

The city constructed its first courthouse in 1837, a 40 feet by 40 feet two story structure. After the courthouse collapsed in 1870, Pocahontas residents replaced the structure in 1875 with the historic courthouse that remains today. The courthouse is a central landmark in Pocahontas' historic downtown business square with most of the commercial outlets renovated to compliment the building.

Pocahontas served as a major recruiting, training, and supply center during the Civil War. The city housed as many as 10,000 men after Arkansas withdrew from the Union on May 6, 1861. These men helped the state prepare for combat and secure the northern border from invasion. Federal troops even burned a section of the city, including the Pocahontas newspaper office, during the conflict.

The late nineteenth century through the mid-1920s marked a golden age for Pocahontas. The city had seven hotels and forty-three steamboats that navigated the Black River and turned Pocahontas into an important port of commerce. During this time, Pocahontas landed the Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Northern Railroad in 1896, completed the Hawk Railroad Company's connection of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Pocahontas in 1902, and watched the San Francisco Railroad construct a new railroad bridge across the Black River in 1911. Other early industries included four button factories, a brick company, Hanauer's cotton gin, the Grafton Stave and Heading Company, and the Pocahontas Bending Works, which made wooden parts for wagon wheels around 1901.

Development slowed during the 1920s and 1930s until several industries began to locate in the area. In 1942, Pocahontas landed a factory that made powdered eggs for the army and employed about 500 residents. Brown Shoe Company came to the area just a few years later, becoming the largest employer in Pocahontas. Other factories came in the 1960s including McGee, Aircraft Engineer, Cinch, and Pro Group, followed by Amerace ESNA in the 1970s.

Pocahontas continues to benefit today from its central location between the hills of the Ozarks to the west and the rich farmland of the Delta to the east. Tourists and residents flock to the region's five rivers year-round for all types of recreational activities including fishing and canoeing. The city is also home to the Black River Technical College which contributes significantly to the region's educated workforce.

This month, friends and residents of Pocahontas will kick-off a three week long celebration honoring the city's 150 years of history. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pocahontas, Arkansas, on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the city's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community, and wish Pocahontas many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

TRIBUTE TO HAL POTE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take his opportunity to recognize

and congratulate Hal Pote on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Hal, a friend of mine, diligently serves as the President of the Spina Bifida Foundation, SBF. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I have had the privilege of working along side Hal and truly appreciate his commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for individuals living with Spina Bifida.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida—our nation's most commonly permanently disabling birth defect—occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Spina Bifida occurs in approximately 7 out of 10,000 live births and currently there are 70,000 men, women, adolescents, and children living with Spina Bifida in the United States.

In addition to Hal's strong professional commitment to improving the lives of those living with Spina Bifida, Hal has a binding personal tie that unites his heart with his expertise. Hal's nephew, Gregory was born with Spina Bifida almost 20 years ago.

Supporting his nephew through more than 20 surgeries, Hal counts it a privilege to share in Gregory's many wonderful moments like in 2004 when Gregory carried the Olympic torch. Hal is dedicated to ensuring that Gregory and all other individuals living with Spina Bifida enjoy a high quality of life. Through Hal's vision and dedication to helping Gregory and the tens of thousands of people like him, he joined with a group of colleagues to form the Spina Bifida Foundation in 1999.

In its 7 years of existence, the Foundation has achieved many amazing things for the Spina Bifida community. Just a few years ago, people born with Spina Bifida did not live past their teenage years and yet today, thanks to the advances in medical research and the dedication of public advocates like Hal Pote, many children with Spina Bifida are living to be adults. With more and more people with Spina Bifida living into adulthood, Hal and the Spina Bifida Foundation are committed to addressing the new challenges these adults now face.

One of the specific projects in which Hal has been instrumental is urging Gruma—one of the world's largest producers of corn flour and tortillas—to begin research and product testing on enriching its corn products with folic acid, a known preventative of Spina Bifida. At the urging of the Foundation and with the full and strong support of the Spina Bifida Caucus, Gruma now has a year-end goal of enriching all its corn products sold within the United States.

This is an outstanding and notable achievement. In fact, studies show that if all women in the United States consumed the recommended amount of folic acid every day before and during early pregnancy, up to 70 percent of neural tube birth defects could be prevented. Members of the Hispanic/Latino Community are at a higher risk of Spina Bifida affected pregnancies than any other ethnic group and this important and commendable action by Gruma has significant implications for improving the health and well-being of the US Hispanic/Latino population.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Hal for his outstanding leadership of the Spina Bifida Foundation and his steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life not just for his nephew Gregory but for all individuals living with Spina Bifida. I wish him the