

there is still some way to go, Caribbean-Americans have prospered and excelled. Indeed the impressive list of achievements reflects strong and bold strides in every area in the fight for social and economic justice. Caribbean-Americans have partnered with African-Americans in forging a common understanding and a need to work in each other's interests. Not only that, Caribbean-Americans have reached out to other immigrant communities to broaden the base of the socio-economic and political struggle.

This natural dynamic has spawned the likes of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Assemblyman Nick Perry, Former City Councilwoman Una Clarke, Councilman Dr. Kendall B. Stewart, deceased Assemblywoman Pauline Rhodd Cummings, former City Councilman Rev. Lloyd Henry and State Senator John Sampson, in the present political arena. Social and educational interaction has produced Nobel Prize winner, the St. Lucian playwright Derek Walcott, the novelist Paulie Marshall, the basketball stars, Patrick Ewing and Tim Duncan and many, many others.

So this record of not remaining aloof from the fracas that is American life and politics is clearly outlined in Black historical records. Caribbean-Americans have also had to contend with similar problems faced by African-Americans, and then some more. They have had to deal with the problems of racism and discrimination. They have been used as handy scapegoats when opportunistic politicians needed a vulnerable group of people to beat up on. And they have been used as an unwitting tool against each other in the devious tactic of divide, rule and conquer.

Recent problems of having to come to grips with a horrendous xenophobic climate and some very draconian immigration laws which all but say to immigrants, "You are not welcomed here," has literally placed this community under siege. And compounding these problems is the pervasive nature of neo-racism which hits all Blacks—not only Caribbean-Americans. For many Caribbean-Americans, like their African-American brothers and sisters, education is the key to liberation and thousands have taken advantage of these opportunities in the United States.

They have succeeded despite the constant changing of the rules and the shifting of the bar to perpetuate a program of exclusion.

The Caribbean-American contribution to Black and American history is a saga of struggle, dedication and commitment to success. Caribbean-Americans have defied all odds and surmounted every obstacle along the way.

They have formed alliances and forged new partnerships to defend and protect common interests.

They have brought their political savviness to the Black liberation struggle. And they have made America richer for the experience.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 720, WATER QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. I am pleased to support this important and needed reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Economic growth can only occur if the infrastructure, the roads, the power grids, and the water/wastewater systems can accommodate this growth. A community cannot prosper without suitable infrastructure.

Too often, this vital infrastructure is not keeping up with the existing needs or future development. A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, found that, "without continued improvements in wastewater treatment infrastructure, future population growth will erode away many of the Clean Water Act achievements." Further EPA studies have found there to be a gap of \$181 billion between the revenue that is available and the wastewater infrastructure that is needed. It is expected that this gap will widen to more than \$500 billion by 2019.

These shortfalls unfortunately hit small communities the hardest. Water systems that serve these communities face a continued battle to keep their infrastructure in working order, all the while construction and maintenance costs continue to rise. Moreover, small systems simply do not have the ability to pass these costs on to their consumers.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund has helped address this need. This program allows communities to seek Federal and State dollars from the fund. From FY 2002 through FY 2006 the Missouri SRF provided \$745,776,200 in loans to water systems. These dollars went to create new collection sewers, replace existing or outdated sewers, and build treatment and secondary treatment plants. Without these updates, the environment around Missouri communities would have suffered. So for these reasons I rise in support of this legislation.

But I have concerns about extending Davis-Bacon Act requirements to all dollars within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. While it is true the prevailing wage requirements of Davis-Bacon were attached to Federal dollars in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program from 1972 through 1995, these requirements have never been attached to the State dollars in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The unprecedented move of placing prevailing wage requirements on all State Revolv-

ing Fund dollars is bad national policy. Placing Davis-Bacon on all dollars within the State Revolving Fund is a gross overreach of Congressional power. Though Missouri does apply prevailing wage requirements, 18 States have said through referendum or resolution that they don't want to have a prevailing wage law. This is a decision that should remain at the State level, not be subverted by the Federal government. Unfortunately, H.R. 720 says to the residents and lawmakers of these States, "you were wrong and we're not going to listen to you." This is wrong. Congress should not be in the business of preempting State law in this area. For this reason, I voted for the Baker Amendment which sought to remove the Davis-Bacon provision from the bill. I was disappointed that this amendment was not adopted.

Because of the pressing need to improve our Nation's wastewater infrastructure, I will support this legislation but I do so with serious reservations about the Davis-Bacon requirements in the underlying bill. I am voting to move this important bill on to the Senate, but it is imperative that this unjustified and inappropriate provision be removed as this measure moves through the legislative process.

RECOGNIZING THE "STARS" OF
THE 2007 LITTLE SMILES STAR
BALL

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the 2007 "Stars" of the Little Smiles Star Ball for their bravery and spirit. I am honored to be able to celebrate each of these exceptional children and the achievements they have made over the past year.

I would like to recognize Joey Botto, Nicole Cadavid, Steven Castro, Aleesha Choksi, Thannade "Eddie" Duclot, Ainsley Erb, James Franklin, Dominick Fuller, Gabriella Gonzalez, Sharnay Hightower, Tanner Hrobak, Cassandra McClanahan, Sean McKelvey, Chelsey Smith, Cesar Valasquez, and Syress Wilson.

Each of these incredible children is being recognized for the courage they have shown and the big smiles they bring to their families and to the doctors, nurses and staff at the south Florida hospitals and hospices where they currently receive treatment. Each of them has a shining spirit and truly deserves "star" treatment.

Please join me in celebrating the "Stars" of the Little Smiles Star Ball and their outstanding achievements.