

patent reform which are likely not even covered by the bill but may be considered at a later time. I hope to work with the many co-sponsors and the diverse industry, university and inventor groups to reach further consensus as we move this bill towards final passage.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line in this is there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially ones committed by those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 110th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

GLORIA MARSHALL—EDUCATOR

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Gloria Marshall is the well-respected principal of Spring High School in my district. I am proud to know her because she has devoted her entire life to education and to the well-being of our Nation's most important asset, our children.

Not only do the students admire her, but the parents and faculty of Spring High School cannot say enough about what she has done for the community.

Approximately 33 years ago, after receiving her bachelor's degree, Gloria took a teaching job for the nationally-recognized Spring Independent School District. While teaching at the high school, she earned a master's degree and later became principal.

Gloria's career has been highlighted by numerous awards both locally and at the state level. She was named Teacher of the Year at Spring Elementary School in 1979. In 2003, Spring ISD named her Secondary Principal of the Year. On a state-wide basis, she was named 2002-2003 Principal of the Year by Texas Region IV Education Service Center.

Under her guidance, The U.S. Department of Education has named Spring High School a "Blue Ribbon School" and also honored them with "Drug Free School Recognition Awards."

Not only is she a top-notch administrator in the education field, she is a faithful community servant who believes in helping local charities. For example, her school holds an annual food drive for Spring Assistance Ministries during the Christmas holiday. She encourages her students to collect thousands of pounds of food for the organization and to take responsibility in caring for their neighbors.

Gloria has an unwavering commitment to teach young people how to be responsible citizens and people of character.

The students of Spring High School are very fortunate to have such a dedicated principal who always has a positive attitude and commitment to excellence. She is a remarkable educator and an inspiration to all of us. That's just the way it is!

INTRODUCING THE CATHERINE SKIVERS CURRENCY FOR ALL ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Catherine Skivers Currency for All Act.

This bill would finally make the United States' paper currency accessible to blind and visually impaired Americans. Of the more than 180 countries in the world that issue their own banknotes, only the U.S. prints identical bills for every denomination. As a result, millions of Americans with visual impairments cannot recognize various denominations and may have difficulty using paper money. This legislation would, at long last, make our currency accessible to all.

Thanks to a recent court case, the inaccessibility of American currency has received significant national attention. In November, a federal court agreed with the American Council of the Blind that the current size and shape of bills violates the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

The Treasury Department is appealing the decision. But Congress has the ability to do the right thing before the appeal is heard. I first introduced this bill in 1979 and think it is embarrassing that, more than 25 years later, blind Americans had to sue their government requesting access to their own currency. We should not delay or deny justice any longer.

I propose this particular solution because it is simple, effective, and easy to implement quickly. My legislation requires the U.S. Treasury to trim the corners of all bills in a manner that prevents fraud, with lower value bills having more trimmed corners.

My bill calls for the trimming of four corners on the one dollar bill, three corners on the two dollar bill, two diagonal corners on the five dollar bill, two corners on a long side of the ten dollar bill, two corners on a short side of the 20 dollar bill, one corner on the 50 dollar bill, and no corners on the 100 dollar bill.

I named this bill in honor of Catherine Skivers, a remarkable woman of strength and conviction. Catherine is a constituent of mine, mother of five, longtime advocate for the rights of blind people, and the immediate past president of the California Council of the Blind. It is for Catherine and millions of other blind and vision-impaired Americans that I will work to enact this legislation.

Next to the flag of the United States, our money is perhaps the most widely recognized symbol of our nation. We deserve no less than a currency that serves the needs of all Americans. Let us not let another year pass with our currency in violation of our own laws and commitment to equality.

RECOGNIZING JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jackie Robinson, a

sports trailblazer, civil rights activist, veteran, and great American and to enter into the record an article from the New York Daily News by Lisa Olson entitled "Barriers Still Need Breaking—Up to us to complete Robinson's great work."

Long before Jackie Robinson stood up to racism and smashed through the barriers of segregation in Major League Baseball on April 15, 1947, he was fighting for equality. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. In July of 1944, he refused to sit in the back of a segregated military bus and although a court martial was issued for insubordination, he was found not guilty and honorably discharged in November of that same year. The courage displayed during this incident, as well as his commitment to the Army, helped prepare him for the battlefield of discrimination he would encounter on the baseball diamond.

Despite the hostility of opponents and even teammates, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson had the courage to join the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first Black man to play in baseball's major leagues. He knew that excellence was the calling and he proved his skill and talent on the baseball field. With tremendous pressure and opposition from fans and even some teammates, he handled himself with grace on and off the field. Because of his commitment and determination to be the best in the face of prejudice, African American and other minority athletes have been afforded the opportunity to compete in professional sports today.

Jackie Robinson received numerous awards and honors during his extraordinary career, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His legacy and outstanding contribution to Major League Baseball and America is representative of what America is all about. This country is about opportunity, diversity, and humility. I applaud Jackie Robinson for leaving a legacy of excellence, breaking down segregation, and inspiring people to strive for the best.

[From the Daily News]

BARRIERS STILL NEED BREAKING—UP TO US TO COMPLETE ROBINSON'S GREAT WORK

(By Lisa Olson)

They don't have to dress in the broom closet. They can drink from the same water fountains, eat at the same buffet, stay in the same ritzy hotels, swim in the same pools.

It's almost incomprehensible to imagine the America that greeted and jeered Jackie Robinson 60 years ago yesterday, when he bounded out of the dugout at Ebbets Field and became the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.

There were racial slurs and despicable letters, flying cleats and death threats, opponents who turned their back on him and Brooklyn Dodger teammates who wouldn't sit near him. We blithely toss around the words "courage" and "hero" far too often these days, but they can't be used enough to describe Jackie Robinson. MLB retired his No. 42 on April 15, 1997, the 50th anniversary of Robinson's major league debut, and temporarily suspended it yesterday, a serendipitous gesture that coincided with yet another hit to the American conscience.