

quest for elected office. He was among the first to encourage Kenneth A. Gibson, Newark's first African American Mayor, to actively seek political office. And, of course, I am another of his proteges. Since taking the oath of office this year in January, Assemblyman Payne has energized the New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino Caucus.

I would like to bring my colleagues attention to two pieces of legislation Assemblyman Payne has introduced—a bill establishing a 21-member Amistad Commission to develop education and public awareness programs about the history of slavery in America and the post-slavery triumphs of African Americans.

He has also introduced a bill that would require all the New Jersey's school districts to have a program that links troubled children with volunteers who promise to spend at least one hour a week with them for at least one year. Prior to his election, Assemblyman Payne has actively recruited hundreds of mentors to work with some of our troubled youth. These mentors occupations ranged from doctors and lawyers to retirees and laborers—people who knew the importance of being a caring adult in the lives of sometimes confused and troubled youngsters. Assemblyman Payne was himself a mentor to a young man who was destined to get into trouble. Today, Rahjan Williams, the mentee, is looking forward to attending college to become an accountant.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will join me as I extend congratulations and best wishes to my only brother of whom I am extremely proud. And I wish to thank those who are honoring him, especially his son-in-law Wilfredo Benitez, an up and coming young attorney with the host law firm

**"KUDZU" CONCLUDES  
SUCCESSFUL WASHINGTON RUN**

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the artistic merit and creative talents of North Carolinians Doug Marlette, Jack Herrick, and Bland Simpson, creators of "Kudzu: A Southern Musical." This musical production has been playing at the Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC for almost sixteen weeks, has received glowing reviews from the New York Times, the Boston Globe, and other publications, and has lifted the spirits of thousands who have been privileged, as I was last week, to see the show.

The musical is based on the syndicated comic strip "Kudzu," illustrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Doug Marlette. The Red Clay Ramblers, a talented and versatile musical group from Chapel Hill, are featured along with an excellent cast. The production explores life in a small Southern town called Bypass and focuses on the life, loves, and mishaps of a character named Kudzu (which is also the name of the incredible vine that has engulfed half the town but hides wondrous treasures beneath).

Having grown up in a small Southern town myself, I could easily identify with their portrayal of the South and instantly recognize many of the characters! However, you do not

have to be Southern, or even follow the antics of Kudzu, Rev. Will B. Dunn, and the other Bypass regulars in the comics, to enjoy this family show. Doug Marlette, Jack Herrick and Bland Simpson wrote a clever and entertaining script and incorporated great bluegrass and Dixieland music to make this production enjoyable for all audiences. It's as funny as can be, but it also tugs at the heartstrings and reminds us of the things that matter most in life.

I commend this North Carolina trio, the cast of "Kudzu," and director Lisa Portes for their tremendous work in making this production such a success. They tell a great story and I am proud that they call North Carolina home.

**HONORING TERRI THOMSON**

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Terri Thomson, on her swearing in as the Queens member of the New York City Board of Education. She is a dynamic and energetic individual, who will work tirelessly on behalf of the thousands of students in the New York City Public School System. Terri began working as a staff assistant in my Queens office when I served in the New York State Senate. I quickly became impressed with her work ethic, and her political savvy. Shortly after being elected to Congress in 1983, I promoted her to be my district administrator where she served with the utmost integrity and compassion until 1990. In this capacity, she made a difference in the lives of thousands of my constituents. Aside from being an invaluable political ally, she became the dearest of friends both to me and to my family.

After leaving my office, she was hired by Citibank as the Director of Community Relations and was eventually promoted to be the Vice President of City and State Governmental Relations. At Citibank she helped school principals with professional training and worked to integrate new technology into the public school system. Moreover, she was able to introduce students to the Internet and demonstrated its application to commercial banking.

Throughout her career, Terri has been deeply involved in the community. She also serves as the Vice Chair of the Brooklyn Sports Foundation, which seeks to create an indoor sports facility for the New York City Public School System. Terri has also been involved with the Queens Chamber of Commerce and the Queens Public Library where she sought to improve both economic and educational opportunities for the entire community.

Terri's commitment to the community, her understanding of the issues, and her public and private sector experience make her uniquely qualified for a position on the New York City Board of Education. I am fully confident that she will be thoroughly equipped to grapple with the enormous complexities of the New York City Public School System. Thus, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this extraordinary individual whose dedication to the community will continue to make a significant

difference in the lives of thousands of New Yorkers.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. GIL GUTKNECHT**

OF MINNESOTA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday and Friday, June 18 and 19, due to my son's graduation, I missed roll call votes 245 and 251. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On roll call vote number 245, on establishing the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns With the People's Republic of China, yea.

On roll call vote number 246, on ordering the previous question on the resolution establishing the rule for further consideration of H.R. 2183, yea.

On roll call vote number 247, on agreeing to the resolution establishing the rule for further consideration of H.R. 2183, yea.

On roll call vote number 248, on agreeing to the resolution establishing an open rule for consideration of H.R. 4059, the military construction appropriations bill, yea.

On roll call vote number 249, on agreeing to the Thomas amendment to the Shays substitute to H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, yea.

On roll call vote number 250, on agreeing to the Maloney amendment to the Shays substitute to H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, yea.

On roll call vote number 251, on agreeing to the Gillmor amendment to the Shays substitute to H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act, yea.

**U.S. IMMIGRATION COURT**

**HON. BILL MCCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish a new United States Immigration Court. The title of the bill is the "United States Immigration Court Act of 1998." This bill would remove the immigration adjudication functions from the Justice Department and invest them in a new Article I court. The court would be composed of a trial division and an appellate division whose decisions would be appealable to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The system for adjudicating immigration matters has matured tremendously over the last 15 years. Special inquiry judges have become true immigration judges. The Board of Immigration Appeals has been greatly expanded, and the whole Executive Office for Immigration Review has been separated from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Yet much of this system, including the Board of Immigration Appeals, does not exist in statute. And while separated from the INS, aliens still take their cases before judges who are employed by the same department as the trial attorneys who are prosecuting them.

It is time to take the next logical step and create a comprehensive adjudicatory system

in statute. Such a system should be independent of the Justice Department. This is not a new concept—in fact, I first introduced legislation to take this step back in 1982. I continue to believe that an Article I court would allow for more efficient and streamline consideration of immigration claims with enhanced confidence by aliens and practitioners in the fairness and independence of the process.

The bill introduced today provides a solid framework on which to build debate on this important and far-reaching reform. I look forward to working with all interested parties in fine-tuning and further developing this proposal where necessary and enacting this much needed reform. It is my hope to see real progress made on this matter and I urge my colleagues to support the United States Immigration Court Act of 1998.

#### HONORING MEMBERS OF THE LION 4 UNIT OF WORLD WAR II

##### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a little-known, but immensely significant, group that valiantly served our country in World War II. This heroic group of individuals, members of the "Lion 4" unit, served to supply and repair the many needs of the huge Navy presence in the Pacific theater. This unit, along with the other brave soldiers who fought the war in the Pacific, helped us defeat the Japanese and end the war months earlier than expected. We shall never forget the accomplishments of these men, some of America's true heroes.

The Lion 4 unit landed on the Admiralty Islands north of New Guinea, with the daunting task of having to build a base equal to Pearl Harbor in size and function, with room to anchor over 400 ships. They landed on February 29, 1944, and by March 10, a severely damaged airfield was operational, providing pivotal air support during the war. Amazingly, at least 36 major units were operational by July, merely five months after the Lion 4 had first landed! These men had almost single-handedly created the largest and most important naval and air base in the Pacific Theatre. This in spite of knee-deep mud, torrential rainfall, 120 degree temperatures, malaria, and the constant risk of death from the ongoing war around them. They built this base so that the fighting troops could get supplies and repairs, and the time saved, in addition to the Lion 4's service, served to cut short the war and break the back of the Japanese forces.

On behalf of the men and women of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we proudly honor these men for their service to our country. The following men, members of Lion Four/ Navy 3205 Association, are among the servicemen who helped keep our country free and proud:

Marlon Adrian, Albert Aguero, Edwin Anguiski, Robert Archer, Ford Basel, Leonard Bearce, Ralph Benavidez, S.Q. Berry, Donald Berry, Henry J. Bozenski, Donald Bratt, Robert Bridges, Robert Bridges, George Briggs, Ernest Brown, Harold Brown, Williams Burg, Lenard Callaway, Loran Cambell, Pat Cannavino, Harold Cazaubon, Morris J. Coe,

Marion Cook, George Crosley, Jesse Daniels, Carrol Day, Fred Defield, Martin Delozier, John Dick, Augustine DiSano, Malone Downes, Irvine Downs, Earl Dressen, Robert Dunn, Frank Durbin, James Eby, Carl Eitel, Max Ellis, Howard Espenson, Joseph Frendling, D.P. Garner, Shelton Gautreaux, William Gaydos, George Gerberding, John Geschrey, John Glaser, Charles Granger, Chester Grobschmidt, Sam Guerrero, Frank Halder, E. Lee Hall, Garry Hanson, Robert Hartigan, Robert Harwood, Thomas Hatcher, Ralph Hayes, George Haymes, James Heand, Robert Hecke, Charles Heiss, Forrest Herron, Jr., John Herzog, Preston Hoalst, Frank Hogan, Charles Hoggett, Douglas Hood, Kenneth Hoyt, William Hutchison, Joe Jacob, Clifford James, James Jensen, Farris Jobe, Hal Johnson, Sylvester Kapoclus, James Kauffman, Eugene Kennedy, Chester Kershner, Andrew Kube, Herman Kuhns, Robert Laflame, Marshall Leach, Bernard Lease, Marvin Leasure, Larry Leonard, Arthur Ludwig, Daniel Lukach, Paul Mahan, Charles Majewski, Perry Martin, Ken Mathews, William Maxwell, Charles McCabe, Eugene McCardell, Joseph Melillo, Jake Miller, Thomas Miller, Frank Moesher, Lawrence Moon, Dale Mulholand, Miles Mutchler, Evan Nardone, Glen Nelson, Donald Nephew, John Newkirk, William O'Dea, Howard Olson, Richard Ostrem, James Owens, Inger Pederson, James Pennebaker, Walter Pensak, Robert Phipps, William Piper, Donald Pittelko, I.C. Plaza, Marvin Plunkett, Floyd Prater, Melvin Rabbitt, Douglas Ragsdale, Al Raiola, George Roe, Robert Rosenberg, Irvan Rustad, John Ruth, Paul Sanders, John Sarbach, Alvin Saxton, Roland Schomer, Oron Schuch, Carl Schultz, Robert Schultz, Harold Schwocho, Eldon Shomo, Paul Siler, Roy Smith, Ruben Stahl, C. Stewart, Wm. Stiffler, Phillip Storm, Robert Stower, John Streicher, Buford Swartwood, Robert Tafel, Louis Tangney, Ernest Taube, Lowell Ter Borch, John Thomas, Ronald Trabucco, Walker Treadway, Joshua Treat III, Robert Trevorah, Frank Van Poppelen, John Van Soest, Charles Vicory, John Ward, Chuck Washner, Harry Waugh, William Webb, Harry Weiss, Hal Wenick, B.F. Williams, Sherwood Williams, Loren Yates, and Frank Zehner.

Family members will be representing the following deceased members of Lion 4 at the next gathering in Williamsburg, Virginia: Herbert Banning, Edward Boyle, Mr. Daningger, Brayn Driggers, Thomas Hutchison, Bert Lancaster, Robert Riehm, Eugene Rushing, Arthur Schussler, Arnold Vann, Donald Williams, Edward Winikaitis, and Glen Zunke.

As we sit here today, a half century after World War II, the need remains to honor those brave men and women who secured our freedom. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we express our deepest gratitude to the members of Lion Four and all the units that helped keep America free; we shall never forget their sacrifices.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF REVEREND BOYD R. KIFER

##### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, my community is mourning the loss of one of its most active and involved citizens, Reverend Boyd R. Kifer. Boyd Kifer was born on December 13, 1925, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. As a child in Muskogee, he and his family were active in the Church of the Nazarene, which he was to serve for the greater part of his life. His father taught him the brick-laying trade, and he used this skill in the building of several churches in the years to come.

After graduation from what is now Southern Nazarene University, Rev. Kifer began his ministerial career in Pawnee, Oklahoma. Desiring further education, he moved his family to Kansas City, Missouri, to attend the Nazarene Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1958. Rev. Kifer had a remarkable pastoral career. He served congregations in California for twenty years. In 1978 he embarked on two careers, continuing his ministry as interim pastor throughout southern California. He touched thousands of people, ministering to over eighty congregations during times of transition.

The second career Rev. Kifer embarked upon was as administrator of the congressional office of United States Congressman Glenn R. Anderson. It was in this capacity that I knew him and valued his positive impact on everyone he met. He served as an effective liaison between Congressman Anderson and the constituents and community leaders in the district. He was a familiar and respected figure at every public event in Long Beach. After the Congressman's retirement, Boyd continued to serve the Anderson family with joy and dedication.

His experience in the church and in the community prepared him to enjoy people. Boyd was compassionate, concerned, helpful, and humorous. Boyd will be greatly missed in our community. He is survived by two daughters, Kristie Kifer and Mindy Pengilly, both of northern California; two sisters, Dorothy Sayes of Oklahoma and Neva Bozeman of Colorado, and one brother, Gene Kifer of Texas, and a multitude of friends.

#### PRAISE FOR MR. GERRY CALABRESE WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 43 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF BERGEN COUN- TY, NEW JERSEY

##### HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary public servant in Bergen County, New Jersey, Mr. Gerry Calabrese. Through decades of service, Mr. Calabrese has distinguished himself as a gentleman who puts the welfare of the people of New Jersey above his own.

Gerry began his career in public service by fighting for the American cause of freedom in