

and native violet, the Illinois state flower. Bringing this native vegetation back to an environment that is now urban, has not been an easy task. For example, Mr. Kline has had to replace the garden's urban soil. Mr. Kline has upheld his strong determination to complete his vision for the garden, diligently researching native plants and remaining patient with the garden. Mr. Kline is growing non-native flowers such as tulips to provide some color to the garden, while he is waiting for the soil to become rich enough for a complete native garden.

Mr. Kline's hard work and dedication to the 225 square foot library garden was featured in a recent article in the Chicago Tribune. Mr. Kline has also received the Library Volunteer Recognition Award in 1996 and 1997 for his hard work and numerous volunteer hours.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing Mr. John Kline's strong dedication to the betterment of the people of his community, as well as the land on which they live.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC PORT CHICAGO EXPLOSION: OP- PORTUNITY TO CLEAR THE NAMES OF CONVICTED SAILORS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today is the 54th anniversary of the terrible explosion and loss of life at Port Chicago Naval Weapons Station during World War II. A number of survivors, their families and community supporters are gathering today at a memorial on the site of the explosion to mark the anniversary and continue the effort to clear the names of sailors that were wrongly convicted of mutiny after refusing to resume loading munitions in the aftermath of the tragedy.

I was proud to write the law in 1992 that established a National Memorial at the site of the explosion and where the ceremony today is being held.

A little over a half century ago this site was a vital supply center during the crucial phase of World War II in the Pacific. From this site, the munitions that liberated much of Asia from totalitarianism were shipped, and the history of the world was changed.

But as we know, we remember Port Chicago today for another reason as well. Fifty-four years ago tonight, one of the largest pre-nuclear explosions in world history occurred right here. Two supply ships, a supply train, and hundreds of brave and dedicated sailors were vaporized. The devastation was unparalleled in the history of World War II here in the United States with the singular exception of Pearl Harbor.

Today, most of the scars of WWII have healed, and from the ashes of that war a new Asia has arisen. But not all the scars are healed.

For several years, as many of you know, I have been leading an effort, along with the help of our colleague Representative PETE STARK and our former colleague Ron Dellums, to close the books on the one remaining issue in the Port Chicago story: purging the convictions of the sailors who did not return to ship loading operations immediately following the explosion.

Those sailors were neither traitors nor deserters, as some have suggested. They sought the same post-traumatic leave as was allowed their white officer counterparts—leave they were denied because of their race. They sought remediation of the unquestionably hazardous conditions involved in loading the ships which undoubtedly contributed to the events leading to the explosion, including the dangerous competition among loading crews provoked by officers.

Now, along with 40 or our colleagues in the House of Representatives, I am seeking the personal intervention of President Clinton to clear these records. As many of you know, the Navy has already acknowledged that race was an important factor in many aspects of life in the Navy and at Port Chicago in 1944. Their race denied black sailors the opportunity to serve in combat situations. They were assigned to loading operations exclusively because of race, and they were subjected to hazardous conditions in those loading operations because they were black. And ultimately, they were denied equal treatment from the Navy after the explosion solely because of their race.

Their convictions were wrong because they resulted from a system that the highest military officials of this nation now acknowledge was racially biased against black people. The time has long passed for these convictions to be overturned. As the San Francisco Chronicle editorialized on March 1 of this year:

The United States should be a strong enough country to acknowledge that it makes mistakes, especially in the fervor of a world war, and its harsh judgment of these men was indeed a mistake.

That is why the State Legislature unanimously voted to ask President Clinton to intervene: when race taints one aspect of an issue, when it creates the context in which a condition exists, it is a factor in what results from those conditions. That is why these convictions must be expunged.

Whenever I speak out on behalf of the Port Chicago sailors, there is always someone who writes to criticize my efforts. But recently, someone wrote with another perspective that I want to share with you today, a man in Rancho Mirage, California, whose late uncle, a long-time Navy man, was severely injured by the Port Chicago explosion. Here is what he wrote:

[I]t certainly is understandable that those who were loading the ammunition and who were treated so shabbily by their superiors (almost as if they were completely expendable fodder) would definitely not want to go back into the situation. I wouldn't either. These men deserve to have their names cleared and their dignity restored. I don't doubt that my uncle would have wanted the same thing.

So, on this 54th anniversary on this historic tragedy, let us both recall the bravery and sacrifice of those who served and those who died here at Port Chicago in pursuit of peace and justice. And let us include a prayer for those who served here and who still seek justice from the government they risked their lives to defend.

I will continue my efforts to secure a fair hearing and justice for the sailors of Port Chicago, and their families and survivors, and with the support of the survivors, their families, the families of the victims and the community at large we will secure that justice that has eluded these men for a half century.

THE FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker today I, along with a host of my colleagues, am introducing the Food Safety Enforcement Enhancement Act of 1998. I believe that one of this government's fundamental responsibilities is ensuring that Americans have the safest food possible.

The recent outbreaks of E. coli across the country have caused illnesses and at least one death. A woman in her 90s from Washington County, Maine, died after becoming infected.

The outbreak has shaken the confidence of American consumers. Americans are stunned when they learn that the Secretary of Agriculture does not have the authority to demand a recall of contaminated meat. The Secretary cannot impose civil fines on a company that knowingly or repeatedly violates food-safety laws.

Consumers, farmers and ranchers are all asking that more be done to prevent food-borne contamination and that something be done to stop the spread of contaminated meat once it is discovered.

The legislation, developed with the United States Department of Agriculture, and introduced as a companion to a bill sponsored by Senator HARKIN, would give the Department some common-sense powers.

It requires notification of the USDA when contaminated meat or poultry products are discovered. It gives the Secretary the authority to recall contaminated meat and poultry as soon as it is discovered. It also gives the Secretary the authority to levy civil penalties on slaughterhouses and processors for violations of food safety laws.

I view this as the beginning of a process to identify ways to foster improvements in the meat and poultry food chain that can lead to improved public safety, enhanced consumer confidence and acceptance by producers, processors and consumers of their shared responsibilities in ensuring that Americans continue to enjoy the safest and most abundant food supply in the world.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE AND FEDERAL MORTGAGE PRE- PAYMENTS

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concerns about the critical shortage of affordable housing across our country and its devastating impact on a growing number of people—particularly in my home city of Minneapolis and in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Twin Cities have a rental housing vacancy rate of less than 2 percent—5 percent is considered full occupancy.

The lack of sufficient new production of affordable rental housing is now being exacerbated by the increasing number of federally-subsidized mortgages that are being prepaid.

This privately-owned rental housing was built under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's section 236 and 221 programs. In exchange for Federal mortgage insurance or interest subsidies, owners agreed to restrict the rents that could be charged on units in the building as long as the mortgage was insured or subsidized by HUD.

When owners choose to terminate these Federal assistance contracts, the tenants are faced with the prospect of losing their homes because their rents may soon become too expensive for them to afford. After a federally assisted mortgage is prepaid, residents are commonly faced with a dramatic increase in rent—often of \$300 per month or more.

To add further stress for tenants in this difficult situation, current Federal law requires that a building owner who intends to prepay a section 236 or 221 mortgage may provide only 30–60 days notice to tenants. Clearly, this is a very short period of time for anyone to find a new home. It is an even greater problem for low-income people who face an especially tight housing market. They deserve as much time as possible, and I believe the Federal Government should require a 1-year notice for these prepayments. By not doing so, we jeopardize the already inadequate affordable housing supply in the Twin Cities and the nation.

Today, Congressman VENTO offered an amendment to the FY99 VA/HUD Appropriations bill that would have required owners who intend to prepay a federally-subsidized mortgage on a rental property to give 1 year's notice to residents as well as to State and local authorities. Although the State of Minnesota has enacted such a requirement, it is preempted by Federal law.

While it would not alone address the growing shortage of affordable housing, a 1-year notice housing requirement for Federal mortgage prepayments would be an important first step to help at-risk tenants make a difficult transition. It may even provide the time necessary for state, local and non-profit organizations to work with tenants and owners to preserve the affordable rental housing units.

I am disappointed that Congressman VENTO's amendment was not approved. However, I am committed to working with him and others to maintain and improve our country's affordable housing stock. I will also continue to work with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to establish a 1-year notice on Federal mortgage prepayments. It is a simple, but significant step in preserving affordable housing in Minnesota and the Nation.

HUD, VA, AND INDEPENDENT
AGENCIES BILL (LEACH AMEND-
MENT)

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when we voted on the rule under which we are currently considering this legislation, the VA–HUD Appropriations Act, and specifically the Leach amendment, I voted against it. The process has been circumvented and I do not agree with that.

This is about more than process, however. It is ultimately, and more importantly, about people in need being abandoned—whether we

help those who are disadvantaged, or whether we turn our backs on them.

(The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities says the number of poor families receiving assistance each year will be reduced by up to 69%.) I cannot and I will not be a party to such a blatant wrong aimed directly at those who are most in need—low income families and individuals, including the elderly and persons with disabilities.

You'll get no argument from me that resources are scarce, and it is for precisely that reason I stand here today and say: Do in your heart what you know is right—do not jeopardize public housing assistance for poor and low-income working families. It is unfair. It is unjust. It is unconscionably wrong.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF UNUM CORPORA-
TION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate UNUM Corporation, headquartered in Portland, Maine, on its 150th anniversary. UNUM was founded as Union Mutual Life Insurance Company on July 17, 1848, which makes UNUM one of the 10 oldest insurance companies in the United States. UNUM has pioneered the development of long term disability as an insurance product and has continued its leadership and innovation with the creation of long term care, group life, employee benefit and other insurance and re-insurance products.

UNUM's leadership in the insurance business and its importance to Maine's economy is obvious. But what really distinguishes UNUM from other companies, and what really deserves recognition, is its dedication to UNUM employees. UNUM provides more than a good job with good pay; it provides employees with a family-friendly workplace, and serves Maine and other states in the U.S. as a good corporate citizen.

UNUM has received several awards recognizing its dedication to its employees. UNUM was named as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" by Fortune magazine; among the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" by Working Mother magazine; as one of the "Top 30 Family-Friendly Companies" by Business Week; and among the "Top 50 Employers" by Equal Opportunity magazine. It can certainly be said that UNUM is one of the country's most progressive employers.

UNUM is also a valued member of the communities in which it does business. To celebrate its 150th anniversary, UNUM planned a series of community activities that culminate today in a "Day of Sharing." This past Monday, UNUM Chairman and CEO James Orr rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange. UNUM sponsored a demonstration of wheelchair rugby in front of the Exchange. The event also included a demonstration of games and the coaching of children with disabilities. UNUM's day-long effort, "A Day of Sharing, A Lifetime of Caring," involved more than 3,400 UNUM employees working on 270 community service projects which will touch

the lives of over 1.2 million people in six countries. UNUM truly is an outstanding corporate citizen.

Mr. Speaker, UNUM is a business leader in the field of insurance, an employee and family-friendly employer, and a valued member of the community. I am extremely pleased and proud to have UNUM Corporation's headquarters in my district in the State of Maine. On behalf of the people of Maine, and all the communities that UNUM serves, I congratulate UNUM on its 150 years of service and wish it another 150 years of success.

TRIBUTE TO ZEDEKIAH LAZETTE
GRADY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Right Reverend Zedekiah Lazette Grady of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Grady is a pillar of the community who has served his church and family tirelessly.

Bishop Grady has served the African Methodist Episcopal Church well over forty years as a distinguished pastor, capable administrator, civic organizer, ecumenical leader, social reformer, teacher, presiding elder and a Christian gentleman. He served as pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Laurens, South Carolina; Walnut Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in Ware Shoals, South Carolina; Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Anderson, South Carolina; Rocky River African Methodist Episcopal Church in Antreville, South Carolina; St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgetown, South Carolina; and Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

In addition to the above pastorates, Bishop Grady served as the Presiding Elder of the historically rich Edisto District of the Seventh Episcopal District South Carolina Conference. Under his leadership, membership in the District increased ten percent a year and the number of pastoral charges increased from 24 to 35.

In 1992, Bishop Grady was elected the 111th Bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Church and was assigned to the Sixteenth Episcopal District, which included work around the world. In 1996, he was assigned to the Ninth Episcopal District headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bishop Grady's civic and community service has also been extensive. He was a key negotiator in the hospital and garbage worker strikes of the late 1960s in Charleston, South Carolina. He has served as Chairman and Vice-President of the South Carolina Juvenile Parole Board and was a member of the Charleston Community Race Relations Committee and the Charleston County Housing Authority. He is a member and past president of the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and has been a delegate to the World Methodist Conferences four times. Bishop Grady is married to the former Carrie Etta Robertson of Winnesboro, South Carolina. They have four children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring the Right Reverend Zedekiah Lazette