

the Vietnam conflict raged. Representative JOHNSON saw some of the worst. He has been quoted as saying, "If hell is here on earth, it is located on an oddly shaped city block in downtown Hanoi, Vietnam."

Isolation, starvation, and torture were almost certainly not what Representative JOHNSON envisioned as he participated in ROTC in college and moved on to a military career as an Air Force fighter pilot. Yet when his F-4 was shot down only two months into his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Representative JOHNSON took everything that was handed to him all the while heroically maintaining his pride in the country he serves to this day.

He was labeled a diehard by his guards and banished to solitary confinement for months at a time. A patriot throughout, Representative JOHNSON returned home an continued his military service until his retirement in 1979. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1991, where he has repeatedly shown his dedication to responsible fiscal policy, family values, and America's patriotic heritage.

Since his return from Vietnam, Representative JOHNSON has received many awards in recognition of his service to his country, including two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and one Bronze Star with Valor, among others.

Representative JOHNSON, our tribute today is not so prestigious an award. Yet it is meant to signify the gratefulness and respect of your colleagues for the service you have done your country and continue to do as a Member of this House. Representative JOHNSON, thank you. Your enduring will and patriotism in the face of unimaginable adversity is truly exemplary.

HONORING THE WHITTIER CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELE-  
BRATION OF EDUCATING  
WHITTIER'S CHILDREN

**HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Whittier City School District. On Friday, February 20, 1998, students, teachers, administrators, and friends and family of the Whittier City School District will come together at a special Centennial Celebration at the Whittier Community Center, in Whittier, California, to commemorate 100 years of dedication to educating Whittier's children.

The rich history of the Whittier City School District reflects the history of the State of California and of our nation. Established on February 21, 1998, the newly formed district experienced the growth boom of the west. In its first 20 years, coinciding with the incorporation of the City of Whittier, school enrollment doubled from 200 to 400 pupils. It again doubled during World War I. By 1917, the area's growing oil industry began producing over a million barrels per year. With this booming industry, new jobs and population growth followed. During this same period, to accommodate the increase in student enrollment, four new schools were built: John Muir Junior High; Jonathan

Bailey Elementary; Longfellow Elementary; and Lydia Jackson Elementary.

Growth slowed during the Great Depression. Despite the stagnant economy, in the latter part of the Depression, the District built the Lou Harry Hoover School. Following World War II, phenomenal growth in the district prompted the construction and annexation of 12 schools. During the post World War II era, a total of 11,400 students graduated through the Whittier City School District. After the Korean Conflict, total school enrollment had grown to 1,700 pupils. For the last 40 years, the district has experienced steady growth. During the Vietnam Conflict years, the North Whittier School, later renamed Wallen Andrews Elementary, was built to accommodate students coming from the newly built tract homes along Workman Mill Road, north of the City of Whittier.

Currently there are 13 schools in the Whittier City School District: Wallen Andrews; Lou Henry Hoover; Lydia Jackson; Abraham Lincoln; Longfellow; Mill; Orange Grove; Daniel Phelan; Christian Sorensen; George Washington; West Whittier; Walter Dexter Intermediate and Katherine Edwards Intermediate. The Whittier City School District Board of Education, consisting of School Board President Brigitta Weger, Vice President Dr. Owen Newcomer, Clerk Dr. James Albanese, and Boardmembers Javier Gonzalez, and John Peel, along with Superintendent Dr. Carmella Franco, are dedicated to the District's motto "Educating Children . . . Our Only Business." With the arrival of the Centennial Celebration, student enrollment is near 7,000 and the Whittier City School District estimates, after the conclusion of the current academic year, a total of 43,700 students will have graduated from its schools during the past 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me extending our congratulations and appreciation to the friends and family of the Whittier City School District on its 100th Anniversary and for its century of exemplary dedication to providing top quality education for our youth.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF LITHUANIAN INDE-  
PENDENCE

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuanian Independence.

For nearly 55 years, Lithuania was occupied by Soviet military forces. But in the past five years, the people of Lithuania have been able to finally enjoy and celebrate the freedoms and privileges of an independent nation.

The United States and Lithuania have now formed a significant partnership between our leaders, our governments, and our people. We have close trade relations with Lithuania. We are mutually committed to the security of the Baltic region.

With free and fair elections recently completed, Lithuania has established a commitment to democracy and pluralism. I believe we can say with great confidence that Lithuania is becoming a full partner in the effort to build

democracy and promote freedom around the world.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their persistence and hope through the many challenging decades. The 80th anniversary of Lithuanian independence will be celebrated by the Lithuanian-American community in Southeast Michigan on Sunday, February 8, at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Lithuania's independence.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD F. EICHOLZ

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding and tireless contributions of a distinguished Ohioan, Bernard F. Eicholz, who recently retired from the Certified Development Company (CDC) of Warren County, Inc.

From 1981 to 1997, Bernie served as founder and President of the CDC. The CDC is a vital tool for small business owners throughout Warren County. When he founded the CDC, few could have foreseen the growth and development the area would experience. But Warren County has experienced record-breaking economic growth, and Bernie has been a driving force behind it. During Bernie's service, the CDC has helped small businesses to create or retain nearly 2,000 full-time jobs in Warren County.

Bernie has devoted his entire life to public service. Prior to founding the CDC, he served as Mayor of Covington, Kentucky; City Manager of Franklin, Ohio; Director of Economic Development for Warren County, Ohio; and Director of Economic Development for Springboro, Ohio. He has also served as a consultant to community leaders on issues ranging from annexations to charters.

Bernie has given generously of his time and talent and we are grateful for his many years of service and leadership. His leadership in the business community and Warren County as a whole have helped to transform the region. All of us in southwest Ohio congratulate him on his retirement and recognize him for his many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD SHAPIRO

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Donald L. Shapiro in honor of the dedication of his portrait at the Harvard Club of New York City. He is a man of character, ambition, and faith.

Few Americans have been as successful as Donald Shapiro. A graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Graduate School of Business, Donald Shapiro has served as Vice President of Real Estate for Levitt & Sons, and subsequently as Executive Vice President of Peerage Properties. He was also President of the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center on Long Island.

In 1974, Donald co-founded Vector Real Estate Corporation. As President, he guided the firm in development, acquisitions, and joint-ventures on residential, commercial, and retail properties. In 1989, Donald began a tenure as director of the New York Federal Savings Bank; three years later, he became its CEO. Last year, he negotiated the sale of New York Federal Savings Bank to Flushing Savings Bank and became a Senior Vice President.

It should also be noted that Donald Shapiro has helped guide several other enterprises in the New York area. He is a former board member of the Community Bankers Association of New York State and is currently a director of the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York.

But, Mr. Speaker, Donald Shapiro has done so much more. Religion, education, and family have played significant roles in his life. I particularly respect and admire his religious commitment. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia and Chair of the West End Synagogue. His leadership has helped these institutions thrive. I also commend him for his loyalty to the educational institutions that helped him grow. He recently completed a term as an Alumni Trustee of the Phillips Academy, and is currently Chair of the Academy's Campus Design Review Committee.

Donald Shapiro has embraced life. In addition to his business and volunteer ventures, he enjoys swimming and playing squash, and is an aficionado of theater and music. The New York Giants and New York Mets can count him as one of their biggest fans. He has three adult children—a rabbi, a poet, and an actor. He is married to Arlene, a real estate broker, and they reside in New York City.

From 1993 to 1996, Donald Shapiro served as President of the Harvard Club of New York City. Next week, the Club will dedicate his portrait. On this joyous occasion, I want to acknowledge his achievements and wish him happiness and success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NEW CASTLE AREA HONOR GUARD

**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the New Castle Area Honor Guard. This group of dedicated Veterans provides an invaluable service to all those individuals who risked their lives in defense of our freedoms. I would like to take this opportunity to commend these volunteers for their years of service to the Veterans of Lawrence County.

The New Castle Area Honor Guard was formed in October 1992 when a group of concerned Veterans became aware of a terrible disservice that had recently occurred. A fellow Veteran had passed away in the New Castle area, leaving no survivors to attend his funeral service or honor his memory. The concerned men enlisted the aid of their fellow Veterans and committed themselves to honoring their comrades in an appropriate fashion. Hence, the honor guard was formed to provide military funeral services for honorably discharged Veterans of the area.

Since performing their first military funeral in 1993 the membership of the New Castle Area

Honor Guard has grown to nearly 40 dedicated individuals. In addition to funeral services, they have extended their operation to perform services in which our national flag is honored. The honor guard has performed more than 500 funerals in and around the Lawrence County area and has traveled as far as Ohio to provide their services.

Mr. Speaker, let us commend the efforts of this loyal group of American Veterans. These citizens have proven their commitment to our nation time and time again. They once served with valor in our armed forces and they continue to serve with honor in our community. I ask you and all members to join me in a special salute to the New Castle Area Honor Guard.

#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST RESERVE FUND

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to establish a "Save Social Security First Reserve Fund." I am joined by Representative BARBARA KENNELLY, Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Social Security, and Democratic Members of the Committee on Ways and Means. I hope that others, both Democrats and Republicans, will join us in this effort.

The bill would implement the President's call to reserve 100 percent of the budget surplus until we have taken all the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. It would ensure that budget surpluses are set aside pending Social Security reform.

Social Security is a strong reflection of who we are as a nation. Through it, we recognize our duties to our parents and grandparents and our shared responsibility to one another. Social Security protects all of us in good times and in bad.

Without Social Security, nearly half of all older Americans would live in poverty. That is because Social Security provides most of the income of two-thirds of the people over the age of 65.

Social Security protects young and old alike from the unforeseen circumstances of death or disability. Over 7 million widows and children receive benefits due to the death of a breadwinner.

This legislation reflects our determination to save Social Security first—before we talk about tax cuts or spending priorities. Thus, the bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to deposit any budget surplus into the Save Social Security First Reserve Fund which would be invested in U.S. government securities. The budget deficit would be zero. This would leave no doubt that we intend to save any budget surplus which materializes until we have taken action to strengthen the Social Security system.

#### DAYCARE FAIRNESS FOR STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, passage of H. Con. Res. 202, the Equitable Child Care Resolution, is an important step Congress must take to address the child care needs of American families.

The Equitable Child Care Resolution will ensure that the child care discussions by Congress include consideration of the needs of at-home parents. Unfortunately, the President's child care proposal fails to recognize that almost 70 percent of American families do not pay for child care because at-home parents or relatives care for the children. These families—many of which are low to middle income—have devised creative solutions to meet their child care needs, because they would rather have a parent, relative, or friend care for their children than an institution. However, their solutions often entail a sizeable sacrifice of family income. The President's proposal simply ignores this 70 percent of families with children and instead focuses on the remaining 30 percent.

During consideration of child care policy, it is also important that Congress not create another large federal bureaucracy. Such a bureaucracy, coupled with a subsidy for child care, would create the incentive for increased dependence on, and control by, Washington bureaucrats. The effect would be to move more children into institutionalized day care. Parents have the right to determine what kind of child care that is best for them, whether parent-based, church-based, community-based, neighborhood-based, or institution-based. They should not be pushed into one type of care through social engineering subsidies. Moreover, the President's plan would unequally distribute benefits, tilting them toward families where both parents choose to work, while taxing those who decide to stay at home.

A more effective solution would be to provide an across-the-board tax reduction—such as expanding the \$500 per child tax credit recently enacted by Congress. We should expand the range of choices available to parents, not the government's control over child care. Parents should be equipped with the resources, responsibility, and personal control to raise their children.

The federal government currently sponsors numerous programs to help families with children. Since 1995, Republicans in Congress have enacted major reforms to help families afford child care. The welfare reform law has merged four programs into the better and more effective Child Care Development Block Grant. This block grant allows localities to respond to the different needs of our families, giving parents choices through vouchers. Overall, welfare reform has increased child care funds for our country's neediest families by \$4 billion. In addition, the Child Development Tax Credit provides \$14 billion over the next five years to families with child care expenses.

My goal is to help restore the central role of families in society while addressing the specific needs of our children. A child care plan,