

of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state is particularly offensive. It is also an affront to official U.S. policy. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 codified that "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel."

In light of Chairman Arafat's repeated threats to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state, and due to the lack of clarity in the Administration's position on this issue, it is important that Congress urge the President to state explicitly that a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood is in contravention to long-standing U.S. policy and is a violation of the Oslo Accords, and the United States will oppose and refuse to recognize such as action.

REGARDING THE "TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998" (H.R. 3888)

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" (H.R. 3888).

Enactment of the "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" is critical to end the problem of "slamming," that effects more than 20,000 consumers a year, according to the General Accounting Office. This legislation imposes a set of requirements that, when implemented by the industry, will eliminate the financial incentive for any carrier to make illegal changes in a consumer's selection of his or her telecommunications carrier.

Equally important are changes that I pressed for and that were made to the bill when it was marked up by the full Commerce Committee. This legislation avoids imposing burdens that will be as extensive or intrusive as some traditional rules and regulations placed on the telecommunications industry, while taking away the financial incentive for a carrier to engage in "slamming."

The "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" takes the approach of encouraging telecommunications providers to abide by a code of conduct that includes a self-policing mechanism. While this type of code is a common practice in many industries, it has yet to be adopted by telecommunications providers in the context of protecting consumers from "slamming." H.R. 3888 encourages the industry, under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission, to put in place the requirements of such a code. Under the code approach, the Commission shall engage in limited and minimal regulatory oversight; it will serve as a backstop, ensuring the proper code provisions are in place and, where appropriate, punishing those who willfully violate the code. By agreeing to adhere to the code, carriers can avoid more burdensome regulation and the significant civil penalties that can be imposed against companies that fail to follow the code and "slam" unsuspecting consumers.

This bill strikes the proper balance and I believe it will stop the unacceptable practice of "slamming." I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF ROBERT E. CHASE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the family and friends of Robert E. (Bob) Chase and commend him on his retirement at the end of this month as Assistant City Administrative Officer for the City of Los Angeles.

Bob, is retiring after 41 years of distinguished service during which he served the citizens of Los Angeles and four mayors—Norris Poulson, Sam Yorty, Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan. Soon after he first joined the city in 1957, Bob rapidly rose in the city administrative office, being named to the position of assistant city administrative officer and executive officer in 1971 in recognition of his management skills. These same skills earned him recognition within the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, which elected him president in 1975.

Bob's record tenure as Executive Officer of the city administrative office has been a source of stability and reassurance to the city's residents. Indeed, the office has been at the center of all of the major events and changes which have shaped the city of Los Angeles. Most importantly, the administrative office enjoys a nationally-recognized reputation overseeing the fiscal affairs of the nation's second largest city—due, undoubtedly, to Bob's talents and those of the fine staff he assembled.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Bob Chase is a constituent. He is an example of the high quality of public servants who serve the city and one of many who devote considerable time and effort to build a strong and stable community.

I know Bob is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sallie, and their family. From time to time, I understand he will also hone his already formidable skills at golf. In all these future ventures, I wish him the very best and, again, join in thanking him for his service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

CELEBRATING BURBANK MIDDLE
SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Burbank Middle School on their 50th Anniversary. This wonderful school has been serving the community of Houston, Texas faithfully for 50 years, and is well deserving of recognition and praise.

Burbank Middle School is truly a model school that has a distinguished student body and staff.

Burbank was dedicated on September 20, 1949, with 1,700 students, parents, teachers, and school administrators in attendance.

The building's original cost was \$2,250,000. This was a large investment in those days and demonstrates the commitment that the residents had for quality education.

The dedication of the cornerstone was performed by past school board president Ewing

Warlein. During the ceremony, he said: "This great structure is dedicated to education in the finest sense of the word and is not only a monument to education, but a monument to the American way of life, to free enterprise and our constitutional form of government. This building is dedicated not only to the education of the children in this district but also to the boys and girls of generations yet unborn."

Education is the key to our children's future and the key to our country's continued success. The teachers and staff at Burbank Middle School also believe this and have worked hard to ensure that all their students have an opportunity for quality education.

The twenty-first century will bring new challenges for our young people, and we have an obligation to educate them to deal with these challenges. With the leadership of the parents, teachers, and staff of Burbank Middle School, we can accomplish anything.

For years, families have known this school as a living monument in the community, making it a good place to study and learn. I am certain that the strength of this community would not be what it is today without the commitment of this school. I am honored to congratulate the members of the Burbank Middle School for making it a source of community pride for the past 50 years.

HURRICANE RELIEF FOR PUERTO
RICO RESIDENTS

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my deepest sympathies and offer my support to those on the island of Puerto Rico who have suffered losses due to the damage caused by Hurricane Georges. I would also like to clear up some confusion regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal agency currently working to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by the hurricane.

I recently learned that erroneous reports regarding the funding of FEMA have been circulating in Puerto Rico. Some in the Commonwealth have stated to the press that funding for the FEMA program is obtained from local taxes and user fees within Puerto Rico and thus, the inhabitants of Puerto Rico are being forced to fully fund the FEMA relief efforts on their own. These reports are completely untrue.

On the contrary, the funds for FEMA come from the U.S. Treasury general fund and are appropriated by the Appropriations Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The general fund is supported by the collection of federal taxes and federal user fees from citizens of the mainland of the United States. Thus the burden of FEMA relief efforts is not being incurred solely by citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

I urge all of my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in continuing efforts to aid our fellow American citizens in

Puerto Rico in their time of need. We need to continue to seek disaster relief funding for FEMA before Congress adjourns.

HONORING CLIFFORD R. HOPE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation naming the post office in Garden City, Kansas after former Congressman Clifford R. Hope.

Mr. Hope represented the 7th Congressional district in Kansas from 1927 to 1957. During those 30 years, Mr. Hope rose in prominence in the House and eventually became the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. In fact, he was the last Republican of the Agriculture Committee prior to the Republican party gaining control of the House in 1994.

During Mr. Hope's political career, he rose first in the Kansas House of Representatives becoming the Speaker of the Kansas House. Following his election to Congress, Mr. Hope became the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and was deeply involved in establishing many of the agricultural programs still in existence today. In addition to his work on behalf of agriculture, Mr. Hope was a strong advocate for defense programs and was heavily involved in the military programs essential to the war efforts of World War II.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Kansan it is with pride that I associate myself with Mr. Hope and I am honored to introduce this legislation.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF BENNY WATERS

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I pay tribute to Mr. Benny Waters, a jazz legend and the oldest touring jazz musician, who died on August 11.

Benjamin Arthur Waters was born the youngest of seven children to Edward and Francis Waters on January 23, 1902 in Brigh-ton, Maryland. Mr. Waters started his musical education at age 5 with organ lessons, and he soon moved to reed instruments. While in high school, still in the pre-jazz era, he played syn-copated music with Charlie Miller's band. In his late teenage years he attended the Boston Conservatory of Music, where he studied theory and arranging and gave private clarinet lessons. Among his pupils was Harry Carney, who went on to play baritone saxophone with Duke Ellington.

In 1952, a turning point came in Waters' life when he was asked to join Jimmy Archey's Band for a European tour. The saxophonist decided to stay on in Paris and remained there making it his home while touring festivals and giving concerts in Europe for the next 42 years. Last year, the French government presented Waters with its distinguished "Chevalier Legion d'Honneur."

Failing eyes and the need for cataract surgery brought the saxophonist home and unfortunately resulted in losing his eyesight. Waters' never-failing buoyancy and upbeat spirit brought him to the attention of the "Statesmen of Jazz" Tour, and he was invited to become a founding member. Through his performance, he achieved new stature at home in America. Waters, along with his fellow "Statesmen," contributed his time to Arbors Records for the "Statesmen" CD, and its sales are donated to perpetuate the nationwide and international tours. His most recent recording was "Birdland Birthday—Live at 95."

In blindness, he persevered, averaging 100 dates a year until this year, making a second-floor apartment in Hollis, Queens—a suburban town in my district—his home base. Jazz historians indicate that Benny was one of only six survivors of jazz recording artists of the late 1920s who were still active, along with Claude "Fiddler" Williams, Benny Carter, Lionel Hampton, Spiegel Willcox and Rosy McHargue.

Benny will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues, fans and communities across the world.

AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong objections over the Republican resolution ordering an impeachment inquiry against President Clinton. This has become a one-sided, all-out and disgraceful witch hunt into the private life of the President, and I strongly disagree with its objectives and methods.

Although I believe that the President's behavior with Ms. Lewinsky was indefensible and disgraceful, and I certainly do not condone it, it is in no way an impeachable offense. Given the existing evidence, I believe that there is no basis for impeachment of the President. Lying about an extramarital affair, regardless of to whom, does not rise to the level of an impeachable offense, as defined by the Constitution: " * * * the President shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." While the President's behavior was offensive, I believe that it does not fit this definition. I sincerely doubt that the farmers of the Constitution had Kenneth Starr's report—which focused on private sexual behavior—in mind when drafting the impeachment clause.

It is time for us to put this issue behind us and move onto matters that are vital to our nation. Our country has many challenges to confront, and it is imperative that Congress give its attention to the very important issues that affect the daily lives of all Americans—such as improving our education system, protecting Medicare and Social Security, and strengthen-

ing the world economy. Over the course of the 105th Congress, we have witnessed an abuse of power.

And it is this Congress that is guilty of the abuse. You see, Mr. Speaker, we abuse the power we have when children go to bed hungry, and we do little or nothing about it.

We abuse our power when Social Security is in trouble and we sit idly by;

We abuse our power when we don't address the problems of the environment, such as polluted waterways and dirty air;

We abuse our power when our health care system is ill, and we don't cure it;

We abuse our power when we allow the tobacco companies to poison our children without regard;

We abuse our power when our campaign financing system needs reform and we ignore it;

We abuse our power when our students are lagging behind those of other nations and we don't address the issue properly;

I think it has become painfully obvious that the Republican leadership wants to simply ignore the priorities that remain important to the general public, while insisting on following through with a purely partisan and never-ending investigation into the private life of our President. This is something that I simply cannot be a party to and that I strongly oppose.

PATRICIA ROBERTS-HARRIS

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Illinois' most prominent government officials and a dear constituent of Mattoon, Illinois, Mrs. Patricia Roberts-Harris. It is an honor to acknowledge one of the 19th congressional districts own as Mrs. Fran Phillips-Calhoun and the Patricia Roberts-Harris Commemorative Campaign celebrate and organize their energy on a U.S. postal stamp and a biographical book on Pat Harris.

As many of my colleagues may remember, Pat was a distinguished official in both the United States government and the arena of international diplomacy. But before she became the first black female U.S. cabinet member and the first black female ambassador, she was one of Illinois' favorite daughters. A native of Mattoon, she was proud of Illinois and wanted to do more for the United States and the African-American community. Pat was the only daughter born to Bert Fitzgerald and Hildren Brodie Roberts of Mattoon. During her early childhood, Pat's family owned a farm and she attended the local elementary and middle school in Mattoon. By high school age, her family moved to Chicago, where she finished at Englewood High School. Pat later attended Howard University in 1942 and graduated within three years, summa cum laude. She wanted to return back to Illinois and get involved in the Chicago community as an activist at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

However, it was in Washington where Pat became so well known in the first of numerous prestigious positions. In 1949, she worked for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as executive director and with Howard University as dean of students and professor of law. She even had