

RECOGNITION OF BARBARA SMITH

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Smith of Providence, Rhode Island. Mrs. Smith is employed at the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels and has been awarded a Prime Time Award. Prime Time Award recipients are selected by Green Thumb, Inc to honor the important contributions of America's Oldest Workers. Green Thumb, Inc is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit provider of job training and employment for older Americans.

Mrs. Smith was born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island. Throughout her marriage and raising her four children, she maintained a career outside of the home. At first she worked in a factory, then she attended college and completed an Advanced Clerical degree. Using her degree, Mrs. Smith worked for fifteen years at Prudential Insurance, and later at a bank. Eventually she made her way to Meals on Wheels and has been making a difference in the lives of the older members of her community ever since.

In addition to her time at Meals on Wheels, Mrs. Smith gives back to her neighborhood by donating her time to charity work. She is also involved in the Eastern Star and the Daughters of Isis. She has served in leadership positions in both of these worthwhile organizations.

Barbara Smith has been a spectacular role model to both those young and old in Warwick. I am proud to represent such as asset to our great nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Smith on her award and in thanking her for her many years of service and hard work.

U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY
NOMINATIONS**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, valor, these are principles that will take on a new meaning for many students in the Second Congressional District of New Jersey as they seek to attend one of our U.S. Service Academies. Every year, high school seniors work diligently on essays and applications in their effort to secure a bid to one of our nation's military academies. One of the prerequisites to attend a U.S. Service Academy is receiving a nomination from the student's Representative in Congress, U.S. Senator, or the Vice President. The process for this year has been completed, and I was very impressed with the caliber of candidates I had the privilege of nominating to the academies.

I would like to recognize all of the students who received nominations from my office. The list of nominated students includes: Liznelia Alicea of Woodbine, Rebecca Baldwin of Pittsgrove, Brion Bennett of Marmora, Andrew Berenato of Ocean City, Christopher Broome of Linwood, Charles Bylone of Vineland, John R. Clark III of Monroeville, Andrew

Clemmensen of Mays Landing, Christy Cohen of Port Republic, Steven Datz of Pitman, Dana Andrew Denny of Pilesgrove, Geoffrey Dull of Marmora, Caroline Farnoly of Vineland, George Eric Fleming of Egg Harbor Township, Tyler Forrest of Linwood, Brian Forster of Minotola, Colin Gold of Estell Manor, Heidi Gomeriger of Salem, Jennifer Janezic of Cape May, Jill Kozakowski of Ocean City, Matthew McCoach of Cape May Court House, George McConnell of Port Norris, Corey Meeks of Glassboro, Stacey Miller of Bridgeton, James Nicolosi of Pitman, Melanie Peter of Millville, Benjamin Pitts of Monroeville, Jonathan Pogranicy of Port Republic, Christopher Poponak of Cape May Court House, Melissa Reichenbach of Egg Harbor City, Dylan Rogers of Wildwood Crest, Edison C. Rush III of Pennsville, Christopher Ryckebusch of Mays Landing, Angelina Schulz of Fortescue, Michael Skey of Linwood, Larry Smashey of Monroeville, Joel Sofia of Pitman, Adam Sparks of Carneys Point, Juan Carlos Villar of Vineland, Robert Ward of Cape May Court House, and Joseph Welsh of Northfield.

To demonstrate the dedication of students who received nominations, let me provide a synopsis of the application process. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated. The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and furnish my office with their evaluations of each student.

Students are then interviewed by an Academy Screening Board made up of local citizens who volunteer their time to conduct interviews for my office. Given the caliber of each of this year's applicants, I know the Board's job was particularly difficult. I would like to recognize these men and women who served on the Academy Screening Board and to thank them for giving up their time and for all of their hard work. These individuals have contributed to their communities in a variety of ways and are characterized by a strong commitment to public service and their country.

The students who have made it through the nomination process are to be commended. They have worked hard and their families, schools and communities should be proud of their efforts. I wish all of them the best of luck in their quest to receive an invitation to one of our Country's prestigious academies.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, last week Senator FRED THOMPSON's committee which is investigating campaign finance abuses in the 1966 elections issued its final report. The news from the report was not new, or startling. The committee concluded that our political system has been undermined by the influence of big money, specifically soft money.

The current soft money loophole allows wealthy donors to donate unlimited amounts of

money to influence federal elections. The threat of massive spending in a Congressional campaign forces special interest groups to weigh in with their own money, and candidates to raise increasingly large personal war chests. This cycle has to end. We need to bring the out-of-control spending in federal elections to an end.

In two weeks we will finally have our chance to do something about campaign finance reform. I hope we don't miss this golden opportunity to restore the public's faith in our democratic system. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

MILITARY RETIREES FAIRNESS
ACT OF 1998, H.R. 3434**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 1998, I introduced H.R. 3434, the Military Retirees Fairness Act of 1998. I am very pleased my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, a strong and committed advocate for veterans and military retirees, has joined me as an original sponsor of this legislation. We encourage Congress to enact legislation this year to resolve the long-standing problem addressed by H.R. 3434.

Under current law, men and women who served in our Nation's Armed Forces are barred from the concurrent receipt of full military retirement pay and the full amount of compensation granted for a service-connected disability incurred or aggravated during their military service. The Military Retiree Fairness Act will allow military retirees to concurrently receive military retirement pay and service-connected disability benefits.

Service-connected benefits are paid to compensate a veteran for disabilities incurred or aggravated during military service. In contrast, military retirement is paid to provide an income to military retirees who spent at least 20 years of their lives working for, and serving, our country as members of the Armed Forces. The purpose and intent of these two programs are distinctively different and should not be confused or considered duplicative. Retired military personnel who were fortunate enough to have emerged from military service unscathed receive the full amount of military retirement pay which they have earned by their military service and do not qualify for service-connected disability benefits. In many cases, these retirees are able to earn additional income through post-military employment and thereby accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

Those military retirees who were not so fortunate, are required to forfeit all or a portion of their military retirement pay in order to receive service-connected compensation which has been granted as a result of disability or disease incurred or aggravated during their military careers. These veterans, as a result of their service-connected medical conditions, face diminished post-military service employment possibilities and, therefore, a reduced ability to earn additional income through non-military employment, thereby losing the opportunity to accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

While all veterans who are subject to the concurrent receipt offset are unfairly penalized, the Military Retiree Fairness Act would rectify the injustice which falls most heavily on our older veterans. Retirees who qualify for Social Security disability benefits have those benefits offset by monies received under State worker's compensation laws. However, the Social Security statute provides that this offset, which is similar to the military retirement offset, ends when the worker attains 65 years of age. Furthermore, while recipients of Social Security benefits who earn income have their Social Security benefits reduced as a result of their earnings, this offset is reduced at age 65 and eliminated entirely at age 70. The Military Retiree Fairness Act would promote fairness between military retirees and Social Security retirees by reducing the amount of the concurrent receipt offset by 50 percent at age 65 and eliminating it entirely at age 70.

Those military retirees who have given so much of their lives to the service of our country and suffered disease or disability as a direct result of their military service do not deserve to be impoverished in their older years by the current receipt offset penalty. I urge my colleagues to join this bipartisan effort to promote fairness for America's military retirees.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR T.L. BARRETT, JR., PASTOR OF THE LIFE CENTER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr. on the occasion of his celebration of his Thirtieth year in the Pastoral ministry. Pastor Barrett serves proudly and with distinction as the Pastor of the Life Center Church of God in Christ in Chicago.

Pastor Barrett has served in the Gospel Ministry for thirty-five years, accepting the call of the Lord at the age of nineteen. Pastor Barrett is the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees. He holds the Doctorate of Divinity and Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Monrovia in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Under the leadership of Bishop Ocie Booker, Prelate—First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Illinois, Churches of God in Christ, Pastor Barrett serves as Superintendent of the E. Burns Memorial District.

In 1968, the Lord directed Pastor Barrett to organize the Mr. Zion Baptist Church. Pastor Barrett moved the church to its present location in 1983, where being led by Christ, the name was changed to Life Center. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Barrett has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the foundation of the Christian mission, leading souls to repentance.

Building a ministry that focuses on the total man, Pastor Barrett is an outstanding motivational speaker and teacher. He is the author of many publications on the science of better living and positive thinking. He has organized numerous programs in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing complex, including the Big Brother and Sister program and the Life Enrichment program. Pastor Barrett is the

proud father of 13 children and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr., Pastor of the Life Center Church of God in Christ to continue to be steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. I am truly honored to pay tribute to this outstanding Servant of God and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 8, women around the world observed International Women's Day and paid tribute to the women around the world who are being denied basic human rights. Today, members of Women's Caucus, with the leadership of our co-chairs, are joining with them on the floor of the House in their struggle for justice and equal treatment.

In spite of our advances as we approach the 21st century, women around the world continue to be under attack. With increasing frequency, women are being used as tools of war, dehumanized not only for their gender, but also for their ethnicity and religious and cultural practices. In Algeria, women have been targeted for rape, they are raped and maimed and either casually killed, or kidnapped and forced into sexual servitude. The women of Afghanistan cannot work or go to school; they are not allowed out of their homes unescorted and must be covered from head to toe. In 1994 thousands of rapes, gang rapes, and rapes with objects such as sharpened sticks and gun barrels were carried out against Rwandan women by Hutu soldiers and members of the militia. Many Tutsi women were sexually mutilated or forced into sexual slavery, often after witnessing the torture and killing of their relatives and the destruction of their homes. Estimates from rape-related pregnancies range from 2,000–5,000. To date, the perpetrators of these acts of sexual violence have not been brought to justice for the crimes.

In too many countries, women either lack legal protection or the judicial system does not prosecute violations of those laws protecting their basic dignity. Female genital mutilation, one of the most horrific crimes inflicted upon women, has been performed on 85–114 million girls worldwide. In Sudan 82% of women have had the most extreme form of female genital mutilation performed. It is estimated that untrained birth attendants perform 2/3 of the procedures. They typically have limited knowledge of hygiene and often use inadequately cleaned traditional instruments. Side effects include trauma, bleeding and hemorrhaging; pain, stress and shock; infections (which can be fatal); painful and difficult sexual relations; obstructed labor and difficult childbirth; and psychological trauma. This procedure is contrary to basic human rights and any rational health care and must be stopped.

Women also continue to be subjected to the dehumanization of the sex industry. Each year

in China, tens of thousands of mostly rural Chinese women are abducted or lured away from their homes by criminal networks promising work or travel. The women are then raped and beaten before being subjected to forced marriages to strangers or prostitution in Asia's sex industry centers, especially in Thailand or Taiwan. Approximately 10% of the female population of Thailand is in prostitution, although not enough to meet demand. Thai officials estimate that there are 20,000 women and girls trafficked from Burma to Thai brothels with 10,000 more imported each year, 10,000 women and girls from the Soviet Union and 5,000 from China.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the issues concerning women's rights and dignity that we in Congress must be addressing. We have done much, but we must do more. The most positive step which we could take is to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women. This treaty, ratified by 161 countries, has been languishing before the Senate for 17 years. CEDAW will give the force of international law to our efforts on behalf of women's rights, and also give us the credibility to be taken seriously on this issue when we advocate with foreign governments on behalf of human rights.

LATINA HISTORY DAY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 13, 1998, Hispanas Organized for Political Equity (HOPE) Education and Leadership Fund's Seventh Annual Symposium, entitled A Proud Past . . . A Powerful Tomorrow will take place in California's 33rd Congressional District. In honor of this important event, I am proclaiming March 13, 1998, as LATINA HISTORY DAY.

The Symposium serves to address a variety of issues important to Latinas of all ages. I am pleased that Latinas benefit from the workshops on science and technology, and corporate management. This year's Symposium also introduces TEEN TRACK, which will focus on providing young Latinas with information on higher education and the importance of leadership.

Since its founding in 1989, the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund has remained dedicated to furthering the educational, political and economic status of Latinas. HOPE has anchored itself to the principle that knowledge of the political process coupled with active participation will guarantee a more representative, democratic government.

The proclamation of Latinas History Day during "Women's History Month" memorializes the important role Latinas play in American society. It recognizes the work and sacrifices of prior generations, celebrates contemporary Latinas, and lays the foundation for future generations.

I commend the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund for their commitment to Latinas, and in their honor, proclaim March 13, 1998, as Latina History Day.