

residents in Goose Creek. But not long after, in 1947, residents of Pelly and Goose Creek held simultaneous elections and voted overwhelmingly to merge. The new community held another election in 1948 to adopt a new charter and the name Baytown.

Since that time, Baytown has become a thriving city of 70,000 with a vibrant economy, strong schools, safe neighborhoods, and active, involved citizens. Baytown has made a tremendous investment in its quality of life through improvements to its roads, parks, and the Bayland Park Marina. The City of Baytown is building a better future and laying the foundation for another fifty years of progress.

One key to Baytown's progress has been transportation improvements for a city once isolated. There is no better symbol of that improvement than the Hartman Bridge, named after the late Baytown Sun Publisher Fred Hartman. A feat of technology and one of the largest suspension bridges in the world, the Hartman Bridge has integrated Baytown and the East Bay into the fabric of Harris County like never before, easing transportation, spurring commerce, and helping make Baytown a driving force in the Texas economy. The bridge has opened doors for local business, allowing companies like Exxon, Bayer, Chevron, and Amoco to transport their goods to the Houston Ship Channel and destinations beyond. The bridge is a symbol of Baytown's progress and a sign of even better times to come.

Baytown also boasts some of the finest schools in the nation, a testament to the dedication of teachers, administrators, community leaders, parents, and students. Goose Creek Independent School District schools are among the state leaders in advanced placement programs, and students' SAT scores in math are among the highest in the nation. Goose Creek schools have been ahead of the curve in preparing young people to maximize their opportunity to succeed. It is also at community colleges like Lee College in Baytown that America's workers are getting a chance to advance their education and their careers.

The success of Baytown's schools underscores what may be its most important attribute of all—the involvement of Baytown's citizens in making this community such a great place to live, work, and raise a family. The citizens of Baytown understand that it is our government, our schools, our parks, our churches and our neighborhoods, and we make them better when we take the time to get involved. The results are projects like the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center, which teams up local schools, industry and civic leaders to protect local marshes and develop environmentally friendly classes on hobbies such as fly fishing, bird watching, and safe hunting skills. Another fine project is the Chamber of Commerce's Partnership in Education program in which local businesses volunteer their time and resources to area schools.

The past fifty years have not all been easy, but through it all—the boom times and the busts—the character of Baytown's citizens has shone through. That character has helped build such a strong city in just fifty years and will lead to even greater success in the next fifty years.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join in Baytown's 50th anniversary celebration and look forward to working with all Baytonians to help

make the next fifty years of Baytown history as memorable as the first fifty.

The following song, Baytown is Home to Me, by Kevin Hardin, was written especially for the 50th Anniversary:

BAYTOWN IS HOME TO ME
(By Kevin Hardin)

Chorus:

Baytown is home to me
If I stay forever or if one day I leave
The people and the places have my roots
down deep

Baytown is home to me

Verse:

Some came from New York, some came from
Tennessee

Some remember Pelly, some recall Goose
Creek

From rice farms in the marshes to oil rigs in
the bay

This boom town is still booming today.

Chorus:

Baytown is home to me
If I stay forever or if one day I leave
The people and the places have my roots
down deep

Baytown is home to me

Verse:

From Sterling and the Rangers to the Gan-
ders flying high

Churches, schools, and businesses are full of
Baytown pride

From a boat across the bayou, now a bridge
across the bay

Baytown is still growing today.

Chorus:

Baytown is home to me
If I stay forever or if one day I leave
The people and the places have my roots
down deep

Baytown is home to me

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR A
GOLDEN COUPLE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, anything of real value endures, and the longer it endures, the greater its value. If it is possible for something to become even more priceless than priceless, it is the love two people have for each other that results in marriage, the establishment and growth of a family, and a protective nest from all the challenges the world presents to us.

I am pleased to tell our colleagues that on December 20th, two wonderful people, Donald and Dorothy Keinath of Caro, Michigan, celebrated their most special 50th anniversary of marriage. Together with their children Karen and Russell and his wife Mary, their grandchildren Natalie, Anne, Joseph, and Julia, and the great number of friends their years of work and community involvement have brought to them, they were able to celebrate their anniversary in a manner befitting their years of devotion.

Don had two instances of great luck about fifty years ago. First, while he was a private first class in the Marine Corps, he was one of the lucky young men at the time who had the war in the Pacific come to an end before his unit was scheduled to ship out. Then at the Tuscola County Fair he met his future wife, Dorothy Brinkman, who liked looking at the pigs Don had on display. After their wedding on December 20, 1947, they honeymooned in

Washington, DC, marking the first of many trips the couple would make to Washington and elsewhere since that time. They love to travel, having journeyed to places as intriguing as Australia and Morocco.

Their home, however, has been their secure base for their years together. Don has been a farmer the entire time, still operating a 420 acre farm producing dry beans, sugar beets, barley, and wheat. He has served as a member of the Michigan Bean Commission for six years, and has also been a director of important sugar beet grower associations—the Farmers and Manufacturers, and now the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association—for thirty years. For twenty-nine of those years, he has served as an officer, including his current tenure as President of the Caro Sugar Beet Growers Association. He also received Michigan State University's Distinguished Service to Agriculture award in 1993.

He has been very active with his church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, including its building committee. Both he and Dorothy have served as Sunday School teachers. Dorothy has also been heavily involved with the Altar Guild at the church, and had also been a teacher before the needs of the family guided her into other activities.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly difficult for me to think of two kinder or more generous people than Don and Dorothy Keinath. Their lives together have been a blessing for each other, and a treat for those of us fortunate enough to know them. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing them the happiest of anniversaries, on this their fiftieth, and many more to come.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL WHIT-
MAN FOR TEN YEARS OF COM-
MUNITY SERVICE

HON. ROSA DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 14, Rabbi Michael Whitman will be honored for ten years of dedicated service to his community and the Young Israel House. Rabbi Whitman is a unique man marked by his integrity and commitment to his heritage.

Rabbi Whitman's work on behalf of the Jewish community has earned him the respect and admiration of all who know him. A deeply caring and compassionate man, he has devoted himself to making a difference for others—and he has truly left his mark on his community. From his work at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen to serving as a board member for the New Haven Homeless Resource Center, Rabbi Whitman has always found the time to devote to worthy causes and organizations. His steadfast determination and perseverance are remarkable, as is his vision for a more unified world and his commitment in working toward that vision.

An educator who has taught with distinction, Rabbi Whitman has extensive knowledge about law and the Jewish culture. He has published several articles and promotes learning as a way of life. Rabbi Whitman engages and motivates his students, encouraging open dialogue about thought-provoking issues. His classrooms give young people the opportunity

not just to discuss textbook readings, but to truly think about how these timeless lessons relate to our community today.

Under his dynamic leadership and enthusiasm, the Young Israel House has become a place of renewed energy. His hard work and diligence have brought about many positive programs that benefit so many. His unselfish dedication to others has made him a leader, not only in the Jewish community, but in the larger community.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Rabbi Michael Whitman on his 10th anniversary and this well deserved recognition.

CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL COURTS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 21, 1998 into the Congressional Record:

CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL COURTS

I am impressed by how much Congress' view of the Supreme Court and the rest of our federal court system has changed since I first came to Congress in 1965. Back then, the actions of the federal courts particularly the Supreme Court, were watched with great interest. The courts, for better or worse, helped change the country, enforcing civil rights laws, expanding civil liberties, and opening up the democratic process. Their decisions spurred sharp congressional debate and reaction.

Congress, today, may spar with the President over court appointments or disagree with certain lower court decisions, but it seems more detached from the actual work of the federal judiciary, particularly as it relates to the exercise of congressional power. There are several possible explanations for this change. First, the Supreme Court, reflecting the conservatism of its majority, has taken a lower profile, and fewer cases, than did the Warren and Burger courts. Second, the congressional agenda has shifted from civil rights and anti-poverty efforts—areas of the law where the Court was traditionally active—to budgetary matters—where it was far less so. Third, Congress itself has become more conservative, and many members are comfortable with most of the Court's rulings.

The 1996-1997 term of the Supreme Court further underscores the changed relationship between Congress and the courts. The term was perhaps the most significant in a decade, as the Court invalidated three federal laws and struck several blows for states' rights at the expense of Congress. The Court sent a powerful message to congress about the Court's role in redesigning the institutions of our government and in allocating power among them. I was surprised by the relative indifference of Congress to these decisions.

Constitutional scheme: The federal judiciary is an important part of our system of checks and balances. The federal courts not only decide cases, but also enforce important constitutional values. They can act as a bulwark against government power, particularly in the defense of individual liberties. They can protect state interest from encroachment by the federal government. They can also check overreaching by the executive and legislative branches.

The Framers viewed the judiciary as the weakest of three branches of the federal government, but still included constitutional limits on the exercise of judicial power. The Constitution requires the creation of a Supreme Court, but gives Congress the discretion to establish lower federal courts. Likewise, the Constitution, subject to certain exceptions, gives Congress the authority to regulate the jurisdiction of the federal courts—that is, regulate the types of cases the courts may hear. Congress has over the years generally expanded the jurisdiction of the courts, but has also acted in certain areas to curtail or even eliminate jurisdiction. Finally, Congress controls the pay of federal judges, and the Senate has the responsibility of confirming Presidential nominees to the courts.

Current problems: Friction between Congress and the federal courts has focused in recent years on two primary areas: pay and workload. First, many federal judges complain their salaries have not kept pace with inflation over the last four years, although Congress did approve a cost-of-living increase for the federal bench for 1998. Congress, in general, has linked the pay of federal judges to that of other senior government officials, including Representatives and Senators, so that all salaries of senior officials stay in the same range. The problem, judges say, is that Congress rarely gives itself a raise, so judicial salaries, which range from \$125,700 for bankruptcy judges to \$175,400 for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, lose value over time. This, in turn, hurts morale and makes it harder to attract top-flight candidates to the federal bench. The answer, judges say, and I agree, is to fund congressional and judicial salaries separately.

Second, federal judges are concerned about the increasing caseload for the federal judiciary. As Chief Justice Rehnquist noted in a year-end report, caseload has increased in part because Congress has expanded federal court jurisdiction over crimes involving drugs and firearms—so federal courts now hear more cases in these areas—and in part because the Senate has not confirmed nominees for the federal courts. Currently, 82 of the 846 judicial offices are vacant, and 26 of the vacancies have been in existence for 18 months or longer. The President has been slow to make nominations, but the real problem has been the Senate's failure to act on nominees in a timely manner. Some Senators complain that the President nominates "activist" judges who expand the law beyond the intent of Congress. My impression is that the President's judicial nominees are notably moderate. Each Senator is entitled to his opinion, but the proper response by an objecting Senator is to vote against the nominee, not to slow or block the nomination process. These vacancies over time erode the quality of justice.

Congress has several possible options for easing the workload of the federal courts. First, I agree with the Chief Justice that the Senate should act within a reasonable time to confirm or reject the President's court nominees. Second, Congress could consider measures to limit the jurisdiction of the federal courts in certain areas. Congress has acted in recent years to limit access to federal courts in habeas corpus petitions by state and federal prisoners. Justice Rehnquist has proposed curtailing federal jurisdiction in so-called "diversity of citizenship" cases as well to further limit caseload; diversity cases, which constitute 20% of federal civil cases, are essentially state law claims tried in federal court because the opposing parties are from different states. Third, some federal judges have urged Congress to draft laws with more precision to

avoid years of litigating the meaning of certain statutes. Congress does need to do a better job of eliminating such uncertainties, but that is easier said than done. The difficulty of gaining majorities in support of bills often means that ambiguous language is necessary to get a bill passed.

Conclusion: The federal judiciary is the least understood branch of our government, perhaps reflecting the subtle way in which the courts exercise power. The judicial branch has neither the sword of the executive branch nor the purse of the legislative branch, but rather must exercise power as the authoritative expounder of the Constitution. It is a testament to the strength of our democracy that the judgments of our courts, particularly the Supreme Court, are observed and that the judiciary has and will continue to play an instrumental role in defining our institutions of government and the scope of our rights as individual citizens.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD CLARY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ronald Ben Clary, who has served as the President of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce for the past two years.

President Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." Ron has worked hard to bring positive changes to our community during his tenure as president.

Under his leadership, Canoga Park and West Hills have grown and prospered, improving the standard of living for everyone in our community. The Chamber has added many new members, sponsored the annual Memorial Day Parade and initiated the new International Fall Fest. These activities have provided an opportunity for neighbors to come together to celebrate and appreciate our town. In addition, Ron is responsible for the creation of the Business Development Committee of the Chamber. This purpose of this committee was to focus civic attention on the need for beautification in downtown Canoga Park.

Ron has not only played an important role in the Chamber of Commerce, he is active in several other civic organizations as well. He has been a member and President of the Board of Directors of the Leadwell Homeowners' Association since 1984. The board manages the maintenance, operation and amenities of the West Side, which encompasses 195 homes, and is in the process of completing an \$8 million earthquake renovation.

Many organizations have recognized Ron's leadership abilities. Kiwanis International awarded him a lifetime membership in 1991, one of the highest honors presented by this organization. His extensive community service efforts have been recognized by the March of Dimes, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Pierce College, the Valley Cultural Foundation, Pacific Lodge Boys' Home and many other civic groups.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Ronald Clary for his service as President of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce. He is a role model for the citizens of our community.