Othello and Showboat. Armed with the knowledge of twenty-five languages Robeson was able to sing for peace and justice throughout the world.

Last year marked the 100th birthday of Paul Robeson. It is only fitting that we celebrate Robeson's legacy by issuing a commemorative postage stamp in his honor.

## HONOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY WITH A MUSEUM ON THE MALL

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish an African-American Museum on the mall, in Washington, D.C., as part of the Smithsonian Institution.

The story of black people in America has yet to be told in its entirety. African-American history is an integral part of our country, yet the richness and variety of that history is little-known and little-understood. As tourists from all over the world come to visit our Nation's Capital, they will not be able to learn the full history of black people in America. This museum represents a great opportunity—to showcase our history in its diversity and breadth, and to make the understanding of American history more complete.

Did you know that Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was a pioneering heart surgeon that played a vital role in the discovery of open-heart surgery? And that Ernest Everett Just, Percy Julian and George Washington Carver were all outstanding scientists? Educators such as W.E.B. DuBois and Benjamin E. Mays left an indelible mark on this country. The Harlem Renaissance produced poets, writers and musicians like Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes and Duke Ellington. The civil rights movement changed the face of this country and inspired movements toward democracy and justice all over the world—producing great leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., and Whitney Young. Too few people know that Benjamin Banneker, an outstanding mathematician, along with Pierre L'Enfant, designed the District of Columbia. There are many more and their stories must be told.

Until we understand the African-American story in its fullness and complexity, we cannot understand ourselves and our nation. We must know who we are and where we have come from so that we may move forward together. And we recognize the importance of all our people and all of our history. The establishment of the museum would be one important step toward achieving greater understanding as a nation and as a people.

It is my hope and prayer that as we preserve these important moments in history, we will inspire future generations to dream, to write, to march and to teach. As they are able to look back at all that has been accomplished, they will be able to look forward and believe in the future of our great country.

I am pleased and delighted that many of my colleagues have joined me in cosponsoring this bill. I urge all my colleagues of the 106th Congress to support this worthwhile and important legislation.

## INTRODUCING THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Teacher Tax Cut Act. This bill provides every teacher in America with a $1,000 tax credit, thus raising every teacher's take-home pay without increasing federal spending. Passage of this bill is a major first step toward treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals teachers are underappreciated and underpaid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world!

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we want to ensure that the teaching profession attracts the very best people possible we must make sure that teachers receive the compensation they deserve. For too long now, we have seen partisan battles and displays of heightened rhetoric about who wants to provide the most assistance to education distract us from our important work of removing government-imposed barriers to educational excellence.

Since America's teachers are underpaid because they are overtaxed, the best way to raise teacher take-home pay is to reduce their taxes. Simply by raising teacher's take-home pay via a $1,000 tax credit we can accomplish a number of important things. First, we show a true commitment to education. We also let America's teachers know that the American people and the Congress respect their work. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, by raising teacher take-home pay, the Teacher Tax Cut Act encourages high-quality professionals to enter, and remain in, the teaching profession.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to put aside partisan bickering and unite around the idea of helping educators by supporting the Teacher Tax Cut Act.

## INTRODUCTION OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to today introduce, along with 27 cosponsors, the Civil Participation and Rehabilitation Act of 1999. This legislation grants persons who have been released from incarceration the right to vote in Federal elections. At a time when our Nation faces record low voter participation, this legislation represents an historic means of both expanding voting rights while helping to reintegrate former felons into our democratic society.

The practice of many states denying voting rights to former felons represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, sex, and property. However, over the past two centuries, these restrictions, along with post-Civil War exclusions such as the poll tax and literacy requirements, have been eliminated. Unfortunately, the United States continues to stand alone among the major industrialized nations in permitting an entire category of citizens—former felons—to be cut off from the democratic process.

Denial of suffrage to these individuals is no small matter. A recent study by the Sentencing Project and Human Rights Watch reveals that some 3.9 million Americans, or one in 50 adults, is either currently or permanently disenfranchised as a result of state felony voting laws. This includes an estimated 1.4 million African American men, or 13 percent of the total population of black adult men. In two states (Alabama and Florida) almost one in three black men is permanently disenfranchised, while in five other states (Iowa, Mississippi, New Mexico, Virginia, and Wyoming), one in four black men is barred from voting in elections. Hispanic citizens are also disproportionately disenfranchised.

In addition to diminishing the legitimacy of our democratic process, denying voting rights to ex-offenders is inconsistent with the goal of rehabilitation. Instead of reintegrating such individuals into society, felony voting restrictions only serve to reaffirm their feelings of alienation and isolation. As the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals has concluded, ''if correction is to reintegrate an offender into free society, the offender must retain all attributes of citizenship.'' Clearly this includes voting—the most basic constitutive act of citizenship.

The legislation I am today introducing constitutes a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for ex-felons, while protecting state prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. The legislation would only apply to persons who have been released from prison, and it would only apply to federal elections. As such, my bill is fully consistent with constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding federal voting rights laws. The legislation is supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, the National Council of Churches (National and Washington Office), the National Urban League, the Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others.

## CONGRATULATING THE MERINO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Merino High School boys basketball team on their Class A District 4 Championship.

The Merino players, led by Coach Dave Kautz, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams

not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Merino High School boys basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 4 Championship.

## CONGRATULATING THE KIM HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kim High School boys basketball team on their Class A District 3 Championship.

The Kim players, led by coach Gary Page, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Kim High School boys basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 3 Championship.

## CONGRATULATING THE GRANADA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Granada High School boys basketball team on their Class A District 2 Championship.

The Granada players, led by Coach Manuel Gonzales, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Granada High School boys basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 2 Championship.

## CONGRATULATING THE SWINK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Swink High School girls basketball team on their Class 2A District 4 Championship.

The Swink players, led by Coach DeDe Shiplet, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs, and their shot at the Colorado State 2A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Swink High School girls basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 2A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 4 Championship.

## CONGRATULATING THE FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fowler High School girls basketball team on their Class 2A District 6 Championship.

The Fowler players, led by Coach Greg Fruhwirth, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State 2A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Fowler High School girls basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 2A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 6 Championship.

## CONGRATULATING THE STRASBURG HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Strasburg High School girls basketball team on their Class 2A District 8 Championship.

The Strasburg players, led by Coach Merci Ames, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State 2A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Strasburg High School girls basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 2A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 8 Championship.

## CONGRATULATING THE HOEHNE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hoehne High School boys basketball team on their Class 2A District 6 Championship.

The Hoehne players, led by Coach Chuck Pugnetti, will now advance to the next level in the state basketball playoffs and their shot at the Colorado State 2A Championship.

All teams, no matter what the sport, continually strive to find that special and unique combination of teamwork, leadership, skill and effort which unlocks the door to success. Under careful tutelage, hard-working teams not only win games, but also build the confidence necessary to win championships. Clearly, these dedicated hoopsters have found this winning formula and attained the next rung of sporting success.

Greater challenges remain, however, and I wish the Hoehne High School boys basketball team the best of luck in the Colorado 2A State Championship. No matter what the outcome of the next game, this team has proven it has the heart of a champion, and can take pride in the District 6 Championship.