

he made significant contributions to his community, church and congregation. For example, he helped raise an additional \$20,000 for the Endowment fund; he founded the All Saints Gospel Choir and developed a movie night as a vehicle for a youth ministry in the Parish and in the Brooklyn Archdeaconry. Rev. Pruitt also established blood donation drives and was responsible for the placement of Black icons in the church.

In addition to his congregation at St. Philip's, Reverend Pruitt served as a Chaplain to the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate, Adjunct Professor at George Mercer School of Theology, Dean of St. Matthew's (Central Brooklyn) Deanery, Chairman of the Diocesan Department of the Budget of the Diocese, Secretary of the Board of Managers of Episcopal Health Services, Chaplain of the Clergy Caucus of Central Brooklyn Churches, Chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Addiction and Recovery, and Vice-President of Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church. He was also a Member of Community Board No. 3 in Brooklyn and a member of the Steering Committee of the 81st Precinct Police Clergy Caucus.

While the Rector of St. Philip's, Canon Pruitt received numerous awards and honors including: The 1994 Community Service Award from Brooklyn Gas; 1995 Community Service Award from Crown Heights Lions Club; 1998 Community Service Award from Bedford-Stuyvesant Headstart; 1999 Community Service Award from the City of New York Police Reserve Association; 2000 Community Service Award from New York Blood Center; 2001 Community Service Award from the 81st Precinct Police Community Relations Council, and 2002 Community Service Award from The New York City Police Department. Most recently, he received the 2002 Chairman's Award for Service from the Central Brooklyn Churches. In addition to this long list of community service honors, in 1996, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from St. Paul's College, citing career excellence in community service and parish ministry.

He also raised funds to help rebuild churches throughout the country such as St. Thomas Church in Farmingdale, NY, St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City, OK, and a church in Princeville, NC.

Mr. Speaker, with his numerous awards and community contributions, Reverend Canon Dr. Alonzo Clemons Pruitt has shown that he is clearly dedicated to his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable human being.

#### SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, NATIVE ALAS- KANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1166, which would amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Busi-

ness Development Centers to Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

With their native lands taken and having been relocated to the confines of reservations, the injustices of the past affect the lives of these indigenous peoples today, as many reside in economically depressed areas that make it difficult for them to make a sustainable living. This bill works to rectify part of this historical legacy, helping these communities to help themselves, by requiring small business development centers to provide technical assistance to businesses in these communities. Economic development and such capacity building would thus encourage their communities to grow and prosper.

All Americans deserve the same opportunity to advance themselves to have a better life. Our Congress should support efforts that promote the job creation, spur economic growth, and self-sufficiency for all Americans. That is why I, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, strongly support this legislation that would assist Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian communities.

#### RICE FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Rice Farmers Fairness Act. This legislation conditions the continuation of farm subsidies in the state of Texas upon the maintenance of rice production. Federal law allows for the continuation of subsidies to landowners who discontinue tenant rice farming on their land. In essence, this means that the subsidy continues to flow in spite of an end to production.

This is a "something for nothing" subsidy of the worst kind! As a result of this provision, there is a very real threat to the agricultural infrastructure. With landowners receiving subsidies in spite of lack of production, the entire warehousing, processing and "value-added" industries are put at risk.

As grain elevators, processors and others see a reduction in demand for their services because of the diminution of production permitted by federal law, they have a disincentive to continue to provide said services, services which must remain in place in order for those who remain in production to be able to bring to market the rice which they continue to produce. Thus, by way of the decimation of the infrastructure, this subsidy to non-producers comes at the expense of those who continue to produce rice. Therefore, the provisions of federal law which provide this subsidy actually amount to another form of federal welfare, taking from producers and giving to non-producers. These destructive government policies have particularly pernicious effect in Texas, where rice farming, and the related industries, are a major sector of the economy in many towns along the Texas coast.

My legislation is very simple and direct in dealing with this problem. It says that those who have tenant rice farmers producing rice in Texas must agree to continue to maintain rice in their crop rotation if they wish to receive

subsidies. In this way, we can remove the perverse incentive, which the Federal Government has provided to landowners to exit the rice business and thereby put the entire rice infrastructure at risk.

America's rice farmers are the most efficient, effective producers of rice in the world, despite the many hurdles erected by Washington. The Rice Farmer Fairness Act helps remove one of these hurdles and this makes America's rice farmers even more efficient. In order to enhance our competitive position, we should also end our embargoes of other nations. Congress should eliminate the burdensome taxes and regulations imposed on America's farmers. I hope my colleagues will join me in removing these federally imposed burdens on rice farmers by supporting free trade, low taxes and regulations, and cosponsoring my Rice Farmer Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to help parents of children with special educational needs by introducing the Help and Opportunities for Parents of Exceptional Children (HOPE for Children) Act of 2003. This bill allows parents of children with a learning disability an up to \$3,000 tax credit for educational expenses. Parents could use this credit to pay for special services for their child, or to pay tuition at private school or even to home school their child. By allowing parents of special needs children to control the education dollar, the HOPE for Children Act allows parents to control their child's education. Thus, this bill helps parents of special needs children provide their child an education tailored to the child's unique needs.

Helping parents provide their child with an education designed around the child's individual needs is far superior to the "one size fits all" cookie cutter, bureaucratized approach that has dominated special education for the past 30 years. This approach is inappropriate for any child, but it is especially harmful for special needs children. The HOPE for Children Act puts control over education resources back in the hands of those who know best, and care most about, the unique needs of children: parents.

The HOPE for Children Act allows parents of special needs children to provide those children with an education that matches their child's unique needs without having to beg permission of education bureaucrats or engage in lengthy and costly litigation. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE WORKERS AT THE OCEAN SPRAY NEVADA PLANT

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the workers at the Ocean Spray Nevada plant for completing 1 million bottling hours without a single accident. This singular feat has been accomplished through the dedication and skill of every man and woman in the plant. One million hours equals 25,000 40-hour work weeks, and is a nearly impossible feat to accomplish. Every manufacturing plant in the United States and overseas can learn from the example provided by Plant Manager Paul Altmier and his entire team.

The Ocean Spray plant, located in Henderson, NV, was completed 9 years ago and employs roughly 200 people. This plant provides the western United States with cranberry juice and other beverages. I am honored to represent the workers at the plant on this occasion and look forward to their continued accomplishments in safety and excellence.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2003

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that today, Chairman DON YOUNG and I are introducing the "Water Quality Financing Act of 2003."

As many members know, the American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the condition of the infrastructure throughout the country. Wastewater infrastructure received a "D."

Nearly half of sewer pipes in American cities are over 50 years old. Some are over 100 years old. Treatment plants built in the 1970's need to be upgraded. New mandates to manage municipal stormwater runoff have gone into effect. And water quality must be improved.

As a nation, we are not investing enough in our wastewater treatment infrastructure to ensure that we will continue to keep our waters clean. Unless we act, we could lose the significant gains in water quality that have been achieved over the last 30 years.

There are multiple reasons for our current situation.

The Federal government has redirected local resources by imposing unfunded mandates on our communities.

Some State and local governments have chosen other local priorities before maintaining wastewater infrastructure because it was "out of sight, out of mind."

But, instead of assigning blame, we need to work together to solve these problems.

We must breathe life into partnerships using the resources of Federal, State and local governments, the private sector and local ratepayers. No one sector will be able to carry this responsibility alone.

We also must meet the challenge of finding more efficient and less expensive ways to address our wastewater treatment needs.

According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, the gap between current spending and needed investment could be over \$200 billion over the next 20 years. The actual amount of needed future investment depends heavily on the actions of Federal, State and local governments.

If we can achieve a greater environmental return on our investment with alternative treatment systems and can increase efficiencies through partnerships, regionalization, and improved operation and maintenance, we can cut the gap between current spending and needed investment in half.

This means we need to both increase investment and take action to reduce costs.

The "Water Quality Financing Act of 2003" addresses these issues by:

(1) Authorizing \$20 billion over five years in Federal assistance through State Revolving Loan Funds;

(2) Encouraging innovative and alternative approaches to solving water quality problems and financing infrastructure improvements;

(3) Encouraging appropriate management of infrastructure assets, including planning for the payment of the costs of repair and replacement; and

(4) Increasing support for small and disadvantaged communities through funding, technical assistance, and increased subsidies.

There are a variety of competing policies that continue to be discussed as we update this program. In crafting this bill we have looked at the national goal of improving water quality, the current demands on the Federal budget, and the responsibilities of local communities to provide municipal services and maintain their local wastewater systems.

We have worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle and the various stakeholders to advance the goal of improving the infrastructure in the most cost effective manner. We have received favorable feedback from diverse parties. The Water Quality Financing Act of 2003 embraces innovative solutions for these competing interests and I urge members to support this legislation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ZZZ'S TO A'S

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing crisis in America. With early school start times, some before 7:00 a.m., adolescents do not get enough sleep. The National Sleep Foundation reports that children and adolescents need at least 9 to 10 hours each night. But few sleep that much, and even fewer sleep on a regular schedule. Over time sleep deprivation leads to serious consequences for the health, safety, social behavior, and academic achievement of the nation's youth. This is simply unacceptable, especially since the solution is so easy. We must encourage schools to push back their start times to at least 8:30 a.m.—a schedule more in tune with adolescents' biological sleep and wake patterns and more like the normal adult workday.

A recently published study by Dr. Kyla Wahlstrom at the University of Minnesota demonstrates the impact of later school start times. After the Minneapolis Public School District changed the starting times of seven high schools from 7:15 a.m. to 8:40 a.m., Dr. Wahlstrom investigated the impact of this change on school performance and the results are encouraging. Dr. Wahlstrom found improvement in attendance and enrollment rates, increased daytime alertness, and decreased student-reported depression. If we allow adolescents to perform in accordance with their biological clocks, we provide them with the opportunity to succeed in school. Further, adequate sleep benefits adolescents by decreasing their chances of sleep-related car accidents and child obesity.

As more research is done, picture is clear—with early school start times, we place undue pressure on adolescents' ability to perform and achieve in school. Some school districts have responded to the research and have pushed school start times back. In total, 34

school districts across 19 states have pushed back school start times. In addition, the evidence has led nearly 100 additional school districts to consider changes.

I continue to advocate for later school start times and today I am re-introducing the ZZZ's to A's resolution to encourage schools to push back their start times to at least 8:30 a.m. I urge my colleagues to join me in this initiative. By encouraging schools to push back their start times and allowing adolescents to get enough sleep, we provide students with the opportunity to function normally, achieve in school, and be their best!

#### TRIBUTE TO AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM, 2003 MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community spirit of the Amherst Regional High School Boys Basketball Team of Amherst, Massachusetts and congratulate them on winning the 2003 Massachusetts State Championship for Boys Division I Basketball.

The team had a remarkable season this year and their accomplishment is well deserved. They finished with a record of 21-4 and the state title win was the first ever for the Amherst Boys Basketball Team. These talented young men pulled together and worked as a team to defeat an admirable and previously unbeaten foe in Central Catholic of Lawrence, Massachusetts. Each player put aside personal goals and focused intently on their common aim—to be the best in Massachusetts High School Basketball.

I also want to acknowledge their coach, Jim Matuszko, and the excellent leadership he has provided since becoming Head Coach five years ago. Jim, an Amherst graduate himself, returned to build a team that has become the pride of the entire community. With a staff of dedicated assistant coaches and a great deal of support from students and parents, he created a model program. Jim's athletes are not only dedicated team members, but leaders in the community.

Again, I congratulate the students and coaches of Amherst Regional High School on their extraordinary championship season.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for floor votes on Monday, March 31st due to a long-standing prior commitments.

If I had been present, I would have voted in the negative for final passage of H.R. 1463 the "Small Pox Vaccination Compensation Fund Act."