

our civil servants taught us anything on September 11, 2001, it is that this badge is a symbol of heroism and honor. I know that he will wear it with pride.

HONORING COPELAND AND WINONA GRISWOLD ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2001*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce to you and the other members of this distinguished body, that on December 21, 2001, my in-laws, Copeland and Winona Griswold of Chumuckla, Florida, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Copeland and Winona were married on December 21, 1951. They met in Chumuckla, Florida during grade school and later became high school sweethearts and valedictorians of their senior classes. They have lived in Chumuckla these past 50 years, and have shared their love with their children Marty, Von, Vicki and Paul, and their many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Griswolds were agricultural pioneers in the State of Florida. They were named the Farm Family of the Year for Santa Rosa County in 1985, and Copeland was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in February of this year.

Their love story is one that is still in progress. I can tell you firsthand their love for each other has grown even stronger through the years and serves as an inspiration to us all.

Love has flourished between these two hearts, and I wish them continued happiness and love for years to come.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Northwest Florida, I extend our sincere congratulations to Copeland and Winona Griswold, whose love stands as a shining example to an entire community.

IN HONOR OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY MEMBERS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2001*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress prepares to end this session, unique in our history, I ask the House to recognize the work of nine Washingtonians who have just completed a uniquely important public service for our nation's capital, and therefore for our nation. The nine served the District of Columbia on the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. They are the two chairs, Andrew Brimmer and Alice Rivlin, the vice chairs, Stephen Harlan and Constance Berry Newman, and the members, Eugene Kinlow, Darius Mans, Joyce Ladner, Edward Singletary, and Robert Watkins. They are very distinguished Americans and among the most distinguished and most

accomplished residents of the District of Columbia.

This year, the Authority completed six years that have brought the District of Columbia out of the worst financial crisis in a century. To cope with this crisis, Congress passed the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority Act in 1995. The city had followed several others—Philadelphia, New York, and Cleveland among them—to junk bond status indicating an inability to borrow, or insolvency. As with the cities that preceded them, the District required a "control board" or Authority in order to continue to borrow the necessary money to function. Unlike other cities, however, the nation's capital reached this point not only because of local mismanagement, but also because it is a city without a state and a city that carried the full complement of state functions and costs. To the credit of the prior administration of President Bill Clinton, which designed a package relieving the city of the most costly state functions and of the Congress, which approved it, the District has had a remarkable recovery.

Working countless hours with the Mayor and the City Council, the Authority helped the District achieve investment grade bond status by the third year of the control period, rather than in four years; create a budget reserve of \$150 million and left the city well on its way to creating a 7-percent cash reserve three years ahead of schedule; repay all borrowings from the U.S. Treasury; eliminate the accumulated deficit; and post four years of balanced budgets with surpluses, two years ahead of the congressional mandate to do so.

Elected officials, who continued to run the city throughout, deserve credit for this improvement. However, they would doubtlessly agree that more than any single group or individuals, the Financial Authority deserves the credit for the four-year rapid recovery of the District. It was the credibility of the individuals on the Authority and the extraordinary job they did that enabled the District to borrow in its own name. The city never had to have the Authority borrow for the District. It was the Authority that worked hand in glove with D.C. elected officials to assure that the finances and the management of the D.C. government would proceed apace to improve. And it was the Authority that gave Congress the confidence that the city would be ready for the sunset of the Authority on September 30, 2001.

It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of these Washingtonians to the recovery of the city or the difficulty of the work they were called upon to do—and did. The District could never have purchased from experts of their special competence what each gave to the city as a contribution of unique expertise, endless hours, extraordinary effort, and plain, priceless wisdom.

The city the Authority found had been wracked with many years of overspending and an accumulated deficit as well as a dysfunctional government of city agencies. The city they have left has had four straight years of balanced budgets plus surpluses and a much improved fully functioning city government. At the end of the last fiscal year, the District had a larger surplus than Maryland and larger than Virginia, which had no surplus. The bottom line that is expected of every jurisdiction of living within its budget, credit to assure bor-

rowing and clean audits has been achieved. The huge task of restructuring and reforming each city agency is proceeding with many notable improvements. The Authority, working with elected officials has improved the most critical agencies, including public safety and education, where resident concern was pronounced. These financial and management improvements are among the many rich features of the Authority's legacy.

However, the Authority also left an important warning not only for the city but for Congress about the future of the city. Despite remarkable city improvements and the Revitalization Act's assumption of \$5 billion in pension liability and some state functions, the Authority warned of a structural deficit not of the city's making that urgently needs congressional attention. Next session, I will introduce a bill to meet the structural problem the Authority has left Congress to remedy.

Today, however, let us be grateful that the most difficult part of the job of revitalizing the nation's capital has not been left to Congress. It has been done by nine extraordinary citizens who asked nothing from Congress, not pay, and not even praise. Yet, considerable praise is the least they are due from the Congress of the United States. It is praise and honor that I ask this House to give to these nine Washingtonians today from a grateful Congress and a grateful nation.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY  
FIRST AUTHORITY

*Andrew Brimmer (Chair)*

Dr. Andrew Brimmer served as the first chair of the Authority. Mr. Brimmer, the first African American to serve on the Federal Reserve Board, has long been recognized as a distinguished economist. Among his many posts and achievements is service as an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and posts teaching economics at Michigan State University, the Wharton School, the University of Pennsylvania, and other colleges and universities. Dr. Brimmer is the President of Brimmer and Company.

Dr. Brimmer became the chair of the Authority when the city was at its lowest point of financial and management disrepair. He led the Authority as it took on very large and intractable fiscal and operational problems and managed them with skill and determination.

*Stephen Harlan (Vice Chair)*

Stephen Harlan served as vice chair for the first term of the Authority. He was the chair of H.G. Smithy Company, a specialized real estate firm providing mortgage banking, finance and investment, and multi-family property management services. He previously served as vice chairman of KPMG Peat Marwick.

Mr. Harlan successfully led the Authority's public safety revitalization at a time when crime was the primary concern of District residents and officials.

*Joyce Ladner*

Dr. Joyce Ladner has served as Interim President of Howard University, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and professor of sociology at the Howard University School of Social Work. She is currently a Senior Fellow of Government Studies at the Brookings Institution.

Dr. Ladner successfully concentrated on improving public schools when education was the primary concern of the Authority.

*Constance Berry Newman*

Constance Berry Newman, one of the most versatile officials in the public life of the