

Currie; one son, Joseph Oliver Henley, and three grandchildren.

Congratulations and best wishes for health and happiness today and for many years to come.

Maradian, Sabrina M. Meier, Ryan D. Offutt, Neil A. Reyes, Hannah R. Riordan, Claudia V. Rocha, Michael J. Ryan, Estevan O. Sanchez, Tarik D. Scarlata, James D. Stone, Rosalind V. Thompson, Corey S. Tucker, Lakisha M. Vaughn, Emily J. Waldon, Brian R. Wellman, Hubert E. Wells, Vincent G. Wilhelm, John C. Williams, Aaron B. Williamson.

THE MEXICAN BAILOUT

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, why are the American people being asked to bail out the Mexican economy to the tune of \$40 billion?

Despite listening for 2 hours to administration officials this morning at the Banking Committee hearing, I still fail to understand why we should be expected to put the full faith and credit of the United States on the line for a country that has a long and painful past of undisciplined financial mismanagement.

I cannot support some hastily slapped-together financial deal, especially in the absence of the President providing a coherent policy. The President has an obligation to formulate a viable program that will guarantee Mexico's inflationary policies won't put Main Street America another \$40 billion in the hole. Last night all he said was—we need to bail out Mexico. On top of all his rhetoric last night, the President spoke to the importance of the Nation pulling together and making sacrifices for the greater good. I think it is unconscionable to ask 262 million Americans to bail out Mexico's ruling elite.

Many Latin American countries, and not just Mexico, have dismal track records when it comes to paying back loans, whether they are from private, international or governmental sources. It is no secret that Mexico has a statist economy, that has tenaciously clung to that legacy since independence. The bottom line is that statist economies do not work. They are financially unstable and unreliable.

This bailout idea looks more and more to me like the first of what may be many more payments on a bad NAFTA deal.

FIFTY YEARS OF MATRIMONY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, a romance out of the lore of Hollywood has now reached 50 years in my home district in Smithtown, Long Island. Eugene A. Cannataro and Vera Ditta were married on February 4, 1945 at Sts. Philip and James Church in St. James on a snowy Sunday.

During their 50 years of marriage, the hallmark of their lives has been a relationship based on mutual respect, family, and God. Gene and Vera have been blessed with a wonderful family and are the proud parents of a son, Dennis, married to Patricia, and a daughter, Lynn, married to Peter. They are the proud and devoted grandparents of three beautiful granddaughters, Cheryl Ann Cannataro, Dana Lynne Nowick, and Kerry Lynn Nowick.

Gene and Vera's enthusiasm, generosity, good humor, and fellowship have touched all who have come to know them. They are known to many for their love of life and family.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL PAGES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all of the Pages who have served so diligently in the House of Representatives during the 103d and 104th Congresses.

We all recognize the important role that congressional Pages play in helping the House of Representatives operate. This group of young people, who come from all across our Nation, represent what is good about our country. To become a Page, these young people have proven themselves to be academically qualified. They have ventured away from the security of their homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. Through this experience, they have witnessed a new culture, made new friends, and learned the details of how our Government operates.

As we all know, the job of a congressional Page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the Pages must possess the maturity to balance competing demands for their time and energy. In addition, they must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people at a personal level. At the same time, they face a challenging academic schedule of classes in the House Page School.

The fall 1994 class of pages witnessed many important and historical events and debates, including the approval of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, President Clinton's address to Congress and the Nation on his health care reform proposal. The Pages also were present for the historic speech by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to the joint session of Congress, and had the opportunity to meet and speak with President Mandela. The Pages also witnessed the orderly transfer of power in the House from the Democrats to the Republicans—a tribute to the strength of American democracy.

I am sure the departing pages will consider their time spent in Washington, DC to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of their lives, and that with this experience they will all move ahead to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Page Board, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this group of distinguished young Americans. They certainly will be missed.

DEPARTING PAGES: FALL 1994-95

Amy E. Accavitti, Seth A.G. Andrew, Matthew D. Atkinson, Bart M. Bartlett, Rebecca J. Berkun, Jacqueline A. Bethea, Joanna L. Bowen, Jessica Brater, Allison Burdick, Erin C. Carney, Michael A. Carter, Krista Clarkson, Keyundah Coleman, Janey C. Crawford, Amy J. Crocker, Robert Cuthbert, Anastasios C. Drankus, Kathleen K. Duffy, Michael D. Ellison, Cathryn Caroline Fayard, Michael P. Fierro, Kristin M. Francis, Janine D. Geraigery, Jennifer C. Gerard, Melissa A. Hayes, Joseph R. Hill, Derek J. Johns, La Toya Johnson, Julia C. Kelly, Lisa N. Konitzer, Marcos A. Lopez, Ross C.

REINVENT THE WELFARE OFFICE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Family Service Center Act authorizing modern one-stop centers consolidating services and information for families needing aid to become self-sufficient.

The Family Service Center Act would fund demonstration projects in urban, rural, and linguistically and culturally diverse communities. Centers would be single neighborhood access points for a broad range of services for needy families with children. Centers would use consolidated computer systems and communications technology to improve services while reducing waste and duplication.

There is significant waste in the welfare system that could be eliminated through the use of automation and new technology. In my community of Hudson County, NJ, welfare officials compared data bases with New York City and found 400 families collecting benefits on both sides of the Hudson River. The result will be savings of up to \$2 million per year.

More savings will be achieved as automation links together more programs. For example, Hudson County plans to check out-of-State unemployment insurance records against the welfare rolls to detect unreported income.

The taxpayers are not the only beneficiaries of this bill. New data systems at Family Service Centers could cut the mountains of redundant forms that frustrate and confuse clients. Families dealing with one office, applying for aid through one form, and being tracked on a single data base, need fewer intrusive home visits by welfare workers checking for errors or fraud.

Projects effectiveness in streamlining services and cutting costs would be subject to rigorous State and Federal evaluations. After 3 years, projects could be renewed for an additional 3 years if they demonstrate effectiveness in achieving their objectives.

The act would also require participating States to report on Federal, State, and local policies and laws that impede the coordination of services to needy families with children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to reinvent the welfare office.

TRIBUTE TO W.M. PETE RODES

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding citizen, W.M. "Pete" Rodes, who