

worked to freeze physicians' fees, prevent doctors from charging patients extra fees, and expand Medicare benefits to cover occupational medical therapy.

I have worked closely with Congressman JACOBS on the Ways and Means Committee over the last 12 years, and I can vouch personally for his integrity, his intelligence, and his zany sense of humor. ANDY has been fearless in speaking out against what he sees as unfair or unwise policies—regardless of public support or opposition—and he has taken on powerful special interests, at least one which has worked unsuccessfully to unseat him. He has defended public employees—not always the most popular thing to do—and he has worked to raise cigarette taxes and protect smokers rights. A combat veteran, he was a critic of both the Vietnam war and the Persian Gulf war. Here, clearly, is a man who takes a stand on principle rather than polling. ANDY is also well-known for his frugality, and his wry, quirky sense of humor and his dry wit have shocked and amused his colleagues, congressional witnesses, and hearing audiences on countless occasions. The Ways and Means Committee will be a much less spontaneous place when he leaves at the end of this year.

It has been an honor to serve with ANDY JACOBS and JOHN MYERS. I want to thank them both for their many years of public service, and I wish both of them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to celebrating German-American Day, which is traditionally observed on October 6, with the community in Michigan. In community halls, homes, and places of worship across the Nation, German-Americans will be gathering to reflect on their heritage. In Macomb County, we will be gathering on Saturday, October 5, at the Carpathia Club in Sterling Heights. The local German-American club, chaired by Agnes Newman, will again be hosting the celebration.

Since the first German immigrants settled in America on October 6, 1683, German-Americans have made significant contributions to the heritage and culture of the United States.

Today, there are more than 50 million citizens of German ancestry in America. Together, we have forged a strong and lasting bond. Our two nations have made a strong commitment to strengthening the friendship between our two governments and our citizens. While the importance of the relationship between our two governments cannot be emphasized enough, it is the personal connections we make that will keep the relationship flourishing. We have been associated with several very good programs that help to do just that.

In Michigan's 10th District, we have been very closely associated with the Congress-Bundestag exchange program for young professionals. This year, we are hosting three Germans who we hope will benefit from the experience, and young people from our com-

munities are guests in Germany. In addition to the Congress-Bundestag program, there are efforts such as the staff exchange that help to strengthen our bonds of friendship.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, it is a fitting tribute to German-Americans to again observe German-American Day and celebrate our friendship together.

MARKING THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on the occasion of its bicentennial celebration. In just a few weeks, members of the A.M.E. Church will gather in New York to mark this special occasion. I want to share with my colleagues and the Nation some information regarding the A.M.E. Church.

Founded in 1796 out of racial persecution and religious discrimination, the A.M.E. Zion Church is one of the oldest African-American dominations. It includes a membership of 1.5 million people in 12 countries and spanning 5 continents.

Mr. Speaker, the A.M.E. Zion Church is known as the "Freedom Church of Liberation" because of its leadership in the abolitionist movement. Some of the most famous names in the struggle to abolish slavery, including Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Paul Robeson, and Harriet Tubman, were A.M.E. Zion Church members. It is interesting to note that A.M.E. Zion churches, including the Mother A.M.E. Zion Church, the oldest black church in New York City, were actual "stations to freedom" on the Underground Railroad. The stations not only served as safe havens, but also as a place to pray for continued success.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial celebration marks two centuries of worship. Those gathered for the celebration will also pause to acknowledge the unselfish labors and sacrifices made by men and women throughout the struggle for religious freedom and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I take pride in saluting the A.M.E. Zion Church on the occasion of its bicentennial celebration. I ask that my colleagues join me in this special tribute.

TRIBUTE TO OUTGOING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time to offer my own thoughts and feelings about the Democratic members of the Texas delegation who are leaving this year—E KIKI DE LA GARZA, JOHN BRYANT, and RONALD D. COLEMAN. We have worked together on issues that have affected our great State of Texas and I want to express my continuing gratitude to them for their service in congress.

The 15th Congressional District in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas has had the able leadership of Congressman DE LA GARZA for 12 terms. He has been chairman of the House Agriculture Committee for 14 years, longer than anyone else. During his distinguished service he has supervised three major farm bills in 1981, 1985, and 1990. He led the reorganization of the USDA, overhauled the Federal Crop Insurance Program and helped to make sure NAFTA phase out tariffs on fruits and vegetables. His leadership will be missed and I wish he and his family only the best for the future.

JOHN BRYANT's seven terms in representing the 5th Congressional District in Dallas has been remarkable. His commitment to children and young people is reflected in his work on the Children's Television Act and the Children of Substance Abusers Act. He has consistently spoken out for lobby reform and his tireless work on immigration issues will not be soon forgotten. His strong voice for Texans will continue to echo through the halls of Congress.

RONALD COLEMAN's seven terms in representing the 16th Congressional District have been marked by his tireless efforts on the National Security Committee and the Appropriations Military Construction Subcommittee. His support of NAFTA and the military at Fort Bliss must be commended. He has truly protected our border with Mexico and his presence here in Washington will be missed.

I only hope that the distinguished careers of these outstanding gentlemen will continue in the same vein as they have served the people of Texas. My best of continuing good luck to all in whatever endeavors they may choose.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVES JACOBS AND MYERS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, JACOBS and MYERS are not some law firm you hear about in late night commercials. They are rather, a team of two of the finest legislators that I have ever had the privilege of working with in this House.

ANDY JACOBS and JOHN MYERS have been colleagues, of course, but they have also been mentors and friends to me. When I was the newest Hoosier in the Indian delegation, they provided insight and direction and I still find invaluable.

JOHN MYERS has worked tirelessly for our State. His interest in our economic growth, the health of our farms, the state of our infrastructure, has led to an extremely productive career that has ensured the health of Indiana's economy and the well-being of our people. JOHN's trademark is a dedication to the work of the people first. He has never been attracted to partisan sniping, and instead has made his hallmark the cooperative, bipartisan efforts. He has been the source of restraint and gentility in a too-often fraction Congress. John will be sorely missed, indeed, he is already missed. But I suspect that he will be able to rest well, or take on new challenges, with a light heart knowing how much he has accomplished in his time in Congress. He earned his many returns to the House, and in turn has earned a rest for these labors.