

speech. Often he spoke about problems that the nation's governors have been talking about, such as education and crime.

The President spoke crisply, and with conviction. He showed genuine passion as he talked about his number one priority for the next four years—ensuring that Americans have the best education in the world. Recognizing widespread concerns about education, he called it “one of the critical national security issues for our future”. He then dealt in rapid-fire fashion with most of the policy areas on the nation's agenda. He wants to expand Head Start, extend the family and medical leave law, expand medical research and technology, mount a full-scale assault on juvenile crime, and clean up 500 toxic waste sites. He wants low-tax empowerment zones in urban areas to encourage revitalization.

His education proposals call for a 40 percent increase in federal spending on education by the year 2002. He set out a ten-point plan to renew education at all levels; especially noteworthy for me was his emphasis on teachers. So much of the discussion on reforming education has omitted the key importance of teachers. More controversial was his call for education standards. Most everybody is demanding improvement in the quality of education, recognizing the wide variety in what schools teach and students learn among the states and the counties. Most past efforts to create national education standards have been either ignored or diluted, and the U.S. is one of the few industrialized countries without specific national requirements for what students should know. The challenge here is to help students and teachers to know what to strive for in class without creating more federal intrusion into the schools.

The most moving portion of the speech came at the end when he called for one America, emphasizing that diversity is our strength, not a weakness, and that we must all be “repairers of the breach”. Even after a long speech, the audience was clearly moved by the president's conclusions and plea for unity amidst diversity.

His bluntest statements were in opposition to the balanced budget amendment to the constitution, even as he made a strong plea to balance the budget. He stated that a constitutional amendment would cripple the country in time of crisis and force unwanted results upon the country. I strongly applauded his call for bipartisan campaign finance reform, and I was not surprised to see him make a plea for improving welfare reform. And I liked his challenge to employers to make the new welfare system work by giving someone on welfare the chance to work.

The most dramatic change in the President's thinking is on health care. He has clearly abandoned his plans for sweeping changes, and is now proposing more incremental steps by extending insurance to at least half of the ten million children in our country who have no health insurance.

#### WORLD LEADERSHIP

The President gave major emphasis to keeping American leadership in the world strong. He spoke for some time and in considerable detail about what that means. He wants an undivided democratic Europe and an America that looks to the East no less than the West. He also wants an America that prospers in a global economy, free to conclude new trade agreements that open new markets to our goods and services, even as we preserve our values. He expressed his confidence that with the best workers and the best products, we can out-compete anybody in the world in a truly open market. The President made a very strong and direct

appeal to Congress to approve the chemical weapons convention, and to support the necessary resources to carry on our diplomacy. He urged Congress to take the steps to keep America strong, secure, and prosperous for another fifty years.

#### CONCLUSION

I thought the State of the Union address was one of the President's better speeches. It gave a very clear indication of his priorities. The President hit the right themes of improving education and better preparing our nation for the future, but he spent very little time discussing the tough decisions and shared sacrifices that will be needed to tackle the problems of balancing the budget, shoring up Social Security and Medicare, and reforming the campaign finance system.

The President tried to convey a sense of decisive and coherent action by setting out the agenda for the next four years but without proposing ambitious new federal programs. He was clearly aware throughout the speech of the limits imposed by the fiscal realities. The President still speaks of offering opportunity, demanding responsibility, and preparing us for the 21st century, but his proposals reveal a diminished means for accomplishing those goals.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO TRICIA PATTERSON

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 1997*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the House's attention the good work of a valued community organization in my district, the Italian American Commercial Club, and their efforts to assist outstanding young people to further their education.

This year the Italian American Commercial Club of Joliet's 1996 scholarship recipient is Tricia Patterson. Tricia is an outstanding young lady and is an honors student at Joliet West High School. While maintaining a full load of honors classes, Tricia still manages active involvement in the National Honors Society, the French National Honors Society, French Club, and Peer Helpers. On top of this, she works part-time at Dominic's.

Tricia is proud of her family and credits her family with teaching her the basic values that have helped her succeed.

This outstanding Joliet West High School student has worked hard to succeed, especially when it comes to academics. Tricia plans to attend college and has already been accepted to two outstanding colleges, Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois to study accounting.

I'm proud to represent outstanding young people like Tricia Patterson and commend community groups like the Italian American Commercial Club for their contribution to helping young people.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating Tricia Patterson.

### HONORING PAMELA Y. LOVING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 1997*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who is strong and positive

force within the community, and who by her actions has shown that the rewards from such dedication are immeasurable. On Thursday, February 6, 1997, the Flint, MI Pan-Hellenic Council will honor Ms. Pamela Y. Loving as a part of their Seventh Annual Salute to African-American Elected Officials. The awards dinner is chaired by Mr. James B. Franklin III, and the honorary chair is Dr. Alan Arnold.

Pamela Loving, a resident of Flint MI, has blessed the city with a professional career that spans 35 years, beginning at Lippincott Market as a sweeper, a butcher and a cashier. Ms. Loving has also held positions at Hurley Medical Center and served as the public health nurse for the city of Flint. She has also served as president of Whole Village, Inc. and then began a 23 year tenure at GMI Engineering and Management Institute. These accomplishments have ultimately led to her current position as acting president of Jobs Central, Inc., proving that hard work and perseverance are prime factors for success.

Armed with an associates degree from C.S. Mott Community College, a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and a graduate-level curriculum from such schools as Central Michigan, Purdue, Wisconsin, Michigan State, and Harvard, Ms. Loving decided to pursue a more active role in the community of winning a seat on the Flint Board of Education in 1989, where she still serves as treasurer. In addition to the board, Ms. Loving possesses a host of affiliations including the Flint Cultural Center, Hurley Medical Center Board of Directors, Alzheimer's Association and Forum Magazine Advisory Board, to name a few.

This year's dinner will also honor the Honorable Valdemar Washington with the distinguished Floyd J. McCree Memorial Leadership Award. Additionally, the Community Service Award will be given to Ailene Butler, Joann Owens-Reed, and Ali Saaba. All of these individuals represent the very best in civic and social responsibility, and are more than deserving of the highest respect and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I appear before you today to recognize Ms. Pamela Loving. As evidenced by her personal motto that “Learning is a lifelong process,” she has been and shall continue to be a solid inspiration to not only me, but to all those she comes in contact with. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow members of the 105th Congress to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, Ms. Pamela Y. Loving.

### TRIBUTE TO HONOR JACKIE ROBINSON MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESEGREGATION OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 1997*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a talented man, Mr. Jackie Robinson, and to the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of major league baseball. Not only did Jackie's efforts gain entrance for African-Americans into professional baseball, but they paved the way for African-American participation in all professional sports.

Fifty years ago, as the United States fought racism in World War II, America's national