

receiving an award for the second straight year.

Scott Graham will receive the Keeping Christ in Christmas Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick DiGiacomo will receive the Most Festive in Contemporary Style Award for their Christmas light display.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Magliocco will receive the Most Festive in Traditional Style Award for their Christmas decorations. This will be their second award in as many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meyers will receive the Award for Most Original Use of Colors. This year, the Meyers' house and yard were decorated with miniature pastel lights.

The entire Weimerskirch family has been selected to receive the Most Creative Use of Christmas Colors Award. Their house and yard were decorated exclusively with red and green light bulbs this year.

And finally, Nancy Hilliard Goldberg will receive the Most Extensive Property Decoration Award for decorating every inch of her block-long property in memory of her late husband, Sam Goldberg.

The individuals receiving this year's Bloomfield Citizens Council awards have all made significant contributions to the quality of life in Bloomfield. They deserve recognition for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on two recent occasions, I was unavoidably detained on official business in my congressional district while the House was in session. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 72 and 73 and "no" on rollcall vote 85. I ask that this statement appear at the appropriate place in the permanent RECORD.

SALUTING THE ORGANIZERS OF THE THYAGARAJA FESTIVAL

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize an extraordinary group of citizens in my congressional district. Recently, the music department at Cleveland State University hosted the 1997 Thyagaraja Festival. This 2-week celebration marked the 20th anniversary of the Thyagaraja Festival. This festival enables international musicians from the country of India and other parts of the globe to come and perform in the city of Cleveland. In addition, this event offers those in attendance an opportunity to witness an array of cultural performances. Visitors travel from a majority of the United States from Arizona to California and Connecticut to Alaska. Others came from Hong Kong and India to be a part of these phenomenal activities.

This year, the festival's total attendance was estimated at 12,000; the event included the children's music competition, the Aradhana and luncheon, the ballet, Lakshmi Probhavam,

and 18 full-length concerts. The total number of participants is indicative of the tireless effort and dedication put forth by the Cleveland State University Music Department and other volunteers to organize such a spectacular event.

Mr. Speaker, while some countries within our international community are stricken with obstacles such as war and poverty, the Thyagaraja Festival stands as an illustration of our city and Nation's commitment to international unity and appreciation for cultural diversity. Again, I salute the organizers of the 1997 Thyagaraja Festival for creating an opportunity for the city of Cleveland and our great Nation to partake in an attempt to increase multicultural awareness and secure global peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, I was detained by important events in my State. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. STARK, the Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly [PACE] Act of 1997. Our bill would provide coverage of PACE under the Medicare Program and establish PACE as a Medicaid State option.

As many know, PACE is a quality, cost-effective long-term care program that was pioneered by On Lok Senior Health Services in San Francisco, CA. The PACE program is a fully-capitated acute and long-term health care program in which all covered services are provided through a single organization or a single provider of care, including not only the long-term care services and inpatient hospitalization, but physician services, nurses, physical, occupational and recreational therapists, social workers, dietitians, home health aides and medical equipment suppliers. PACE programs receive capitation payments from Medicare and Medicaid, and in the case of individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid, private individuals. These payments provide payers savings relative to their expenditures in the traditional Medicare, Medicaid, and private payer systems. Finally, PACE programs are unique in that they assume total financial risk and responsibility for all acute and long-term care without limitation.

PACE evolved in response to problems which exist in the current long-term care system, a system that is biased toward institutional care, leads to discontinuity and duplication in the provisions of services, and affords little control over utilization of services and costs. These problems can lead to fragmented care, repeated and lengthy hospital stays,

family stress, premature nursing home placement, and impoverishment.

By expanding the availability of community-based long-term care services, tightly integrating all aspects of their enrollee's care, and emphasizing preventive and supportive services, PACE programs have substantially lowered the utilization of high-cost, inpatient services. In turn, dollars that would have been spent on hospital and nursing home care services are used to expand the availability of community-based care which, again reduces the need for higher-cost institutional care. As a result, PACE enrollees are able to remain at home and enjoy a better quality of life.

The PACE Coverage Act of 1997 offers an alternative to traditional long-term care which has been proven effective—both in terms of quality and cost. While we recognize that PACE is not the only solution to problems facing frail, older Americans, it is one solution that has withstood the test of time and the scrutiny which comes with being visible. On Lok, the first of the PACE programs, has been in existence since 1972 and began offering the full spectrum of PACE services in 1983. In 1986, Congress authorized demonstration waivers for up to 10, later 15, organizations seeking to replicate the achievements of On Lok in San Francisco. These programs have accumulated more than six decades of experience. Based on the success of these pioneers, it is time to make PACE programs available to eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries on a broader scale.

The purpose of our bill is to make this important alternative available across the Nation. It is also urgently needed. As mentioned, 15 demonstration sites were authorized. Far more than that number are now waiting in the wings to serve our frail elderly citizens. By establishing qualified programs as providers, we also will facilitate the ability of the private sector to insure these services and to contract with PACE programs on behalf of individuals who would benefit from this type of care. Again, this, of course, would be voluntary. What we are doing here is providing another significant resource.

As we examine the needs of the elderly, we need to look for ways to move beyond existing programs to make coordinated care networks a permanent competitive options for all beneficiaries, and the PACE model provides a strong foundation for us on which to build.

RECOGNITION OF HAMILTON ELEMENTARY AS ONE OF THE TOP TITLE I SCHOOLS IN THE NATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise Hamilton Elementary School in Memphis, TN. On May 6, the U.S. Department of Education will recognize Hamilton Elementary as one of the top title I schools in the Nation. This is a prestigious award, based on rigorous and competitive process. Schools must compete with tens of thousands of elementary schools from around the United States for this award. The award recognizes a school's ability to help children meet high academic standards

and advanced levels of performance. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Hamilton Elementary. When we set high education standards, children, parents, teachers, and administrators respond. Hamilton Elementary stands as a model for the entire Nation.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is the Nation's largest Federal investment in local schools. It directs approximately \$7 billion each year to cover 50,000 schools districts in the United States with high numbers of low-income families and students. With an emphasis on high academic standards and accelerated learning in core subjects, it is transforming schools like Hamilton Elementary. Title I is an investment that will pay dividends for years to come.

Our work, however, is not over. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the Nation's report card, only 28 percent of fourth graders read at a proficient or advanced level. Only 21 percent of eighth graders are proficient in math. On Friday, the Department of Education reported that "education and training are strongly associated with increased productivity, higher rates of employment and higher paying jobs for Americans." At the same time, other industrialized nations are making productivity gains as these countries spend more to train and educate their work force.

Today, more than ever, we owe it to our children to give them the education and skills they need to become productive participants in today's marketplace. High technology companies will shape the next generation of successful businesses in the 21st century. If we do not educate and train our young people to enter these high-skilled, high-wage jobs, our global competitors will pass us. Hamilton Elementary is doing its part and I applaud them for it. I call on my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring their accomplishment.

STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in Bucks County, the Students in Free Enterprise, located at the Bucks County Community College.

Students in Free Enterprise [SIFE] is a non-profit, international organization including over 400 chapters on the campuses of U.S. colleges and universities. SIFE has continually encouraged the free enterprise system through educational programs since its inception more than 20 years ago by Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart. Students in the organization dedicate their time and resources to helping others develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing, and teaching the principles of free enterprise. SIFE is not only involved with the encouragement of the free enterprise system, but has worked closely with many national and international charitable organizations such as the American Red Cross, the American Lung Association, and the Civil Air Patrol on various projects. The student organization at the Bucks County Community College has also in-

stituted programs such as Reading Empowers and Directs Youth [READY] and Children Are Really Extra Special [CARES] to teach children important computer skills.

The Students in Free Enterprise is a valuable asset to the people of Pennsylvania. In honor of their many charitable and civic contributions, I join my colleagues in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in recognizing May 20, 1997 as Students in Free Enterprise Day.

I congratulate them on this day as they continue their mission of helping people achieve their dreams through free enterprise education.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE URGES FAIRNESS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Massachusetts State Senate passed a resolution urging us to reverse the cruel and unwise policy adopted last year in the welfare bill of cutting off basic income support to legal residents of this country who are unable to support themselves.

I thought this was a grave error when it was proposed and worked hard against it. I regretted its passage and signature by the President. And since that time, our worst fears have come true. I've heard from people throughout my district about the terrible social harm that will result from this unjust policy. Russian Jews in the northern part of my district who came to the United States as refugees from Communist anti-Semitism; hard-working elderly Portuguese immigrants who came to this country and worked hard for some time before illness struck them; Indo-Chinese residents who came to the United States because they had been supportive of our efforts during the Vietnam war—these are examples of the decent, hard-working, wholly innocent people who are victims of last year's grave error.

The Massachusetts Legislature is trying to address this, but it is an outrage for this Congress to impose on the States the financial responsibility that ought to rest at the Federal level. States have enough financial problems without being forced to serve as a backup for Federal callousness. Mr. Speaker, the Massachusetts Senate, composed of elected officials who live day to day with this problem and fully understand it, expresses the point very well and I congratulate Senator Linda Melconian for taking the lead on this issue and I ask that the resolution adopted by the Massachusetts Senate be printed here.

RESOLUTIONS URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RESTORE FEDERALLY FUNDED BENEFITS TO LEGAL IMMIGRANTS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, in August of Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-six, the United States Congress enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, so-called; and

Whereas, Congress in said Act forbade use of Federal funds to provide benefits for financially needy immigrants lawfully residing in the United States; and

Whereas, legal immigrants pay taxes and contribute in many ways to the productivity and vitality of our communities; and

Whereas, the United States was founded and built by immigrants; and

Whereas, because Congress has abdicated its financial responsibility, the financial burden of the action by Congress falls unfairly on the States and needy residents of the States; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate respectfully requests that the President and the Congress of the United States restore to the States the authority to provide Federally funded benefits to needy, lawful residents of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate respectfully requests that the United States Congress and the President restore to the Commonwealth adequate Federal funding to allow for the provision of benefits for financially needy immigrants lawfully residing in this Commonwealth; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States of America, the Presiding Officer of each branch of the United States Congress, and each member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FARMER, CIVIL RIGHTS FREEDOM FIGHTER

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, the civil rights struggle was a pivotal point in American history. It not only changed the course of our Nation, but how we look at each another today. In the annals of history, names of heroic citizens are sometimes overlooked, as is often the case in turbulent times. It is for this reason that as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased that my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, reserved this time today. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the few living trailblazers in America's struggle for civil rights, Mr. James L. Farmer.

Mr. Farmer was a founder of the Congress of Racial Equality, or CORE, which was a pioneering organization in nonviolent protest. Through Mr. Farmer's design, execution, and leadership, a form of peaceful protest—known as Freedom Rides—was organized throughout the South as part of the movement that led to desegregation and passage of the Civil Rights Act.

James Farmer grew up in the shadow of segregation in Mississippi. As a child, he felt the weight of racism and knew that he would eventually help bring segregation to its knees. He was right. As the son of a clergyman and the first African-American Ph.D. recipient in Texas, James Farmer grew up steeped in religion and education. He was supposed to follow his father's path to the pulpit, but could not bring himself to preach before a church that was segregated, as his was. But it was during his education at Howard University School of Divinity that he was moved by the teachings of Mohandas Gandhi, and the seed of nonviolent protest was planted firmly in his mind.

In 1942, Mr. Farmer organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Chicago, and it