

Next year he'll make more than twice as much as all of our Presidents will for all their terms combined.

Amazing, isn't it.

But: Jordan will have to save 100% of his income for 270 years to have a net worth equivalent to the net worth of Bill Gates, owner of Microsoft.

HONORING MARY A. BUNCH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak in praise of a special woman whose life is an inspiration to others and who is a cornerstone of the African-American community in Yonkers. Because of this and for many other reasons, Mary A. Bunch has been named Grand Matriarch of the 1997 African-American Heritage Celebration.

Mrs. Bunch was born in Florida in 1925 and knew at an early age that she wanted to serve people. While still young she was influenced by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Howard Thurman, two eminent educators who became her mentors. They encouraged her to pursue her education and after she graduated from the Brylin-Haven Christian School for Girls in Florida, she moved to the Bronx. There she married Thomas Bunch, now deceased, and they had four children.

She was active in her children's education and worked in many areas with young girls, including the Girl Scouts, and also in the Salvation Army. In 1965, the Messiah Baptist Church was one of the first to host the Head Start Program and Mrs. Bunch was one of the first to work in it. She quickly rose to head teacher and was the first individual in Yonkers certified as a child development associate, someone qualified to teach with young children.

She taught until her retirement 3 years ago. Even now she continues her good works at Rosary Hill with the incurably ill, with seniors at the Nepperhan Community Center, and at the Messiah Baptist Church School.

For her many achievements, her basic decency and her inspiration to the young she richly deserves this honor.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE BROWN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of great integrity and virtue, Mr. Jesse Brown, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

On January 22, 1993, our Government gained the dedication and hard work of a great leader when Jesse Brown began his position as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Brown directed the Government's second largest Federal department, responsible for the distribution of benefits to those who took up arms in defense of our country.

He received his educational degrees from Chicago City College where he was an honors graduate, Roosevelt University, and Catholic

University. In 1965 while serving as a member of the Marine Corps, he was wounded on a patrol mission in Vietnam. Shortly after he returned, he was elected the executive director of the Disabled American Veterans Association. Today, Secretary Brown is a member of several organizations including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans, and many others, all which seek to fulfill the same purpose, providing for those that risked their lives to uphold democracy.

Under Secretary Brown's leadership, the benefits for veterans whom were prisoners of war has expanded. Secretary Brown also initiated the research on the causes of the mysterious Persian Gulf war illness. Adding to his accomplishments he hosted the first national summit for homeless veterans and established grants for those whom volunteer to house homeless veterans. In addition, under the leadership of Mr. Brown, the military healthcare system has expanded to fully cover the needs of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues salute Mr. Jesse Brown for his dedication over the last 5 years to the enrichment of the Veterans' Affairs Department and his service to all veterans in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AVERY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to the late John E. Avery, who was a valued and respected member of the Honey Grove, TX, community until his death on July 2 at the age of 87. Mr. Avery spent virtually his entire lifetime in Honey Grove and nearby Dial, where he was born and attended school and church.

The only time he left the Honey Grove area was to serve his country during World War II. He served as a sergeant in the 865th Squadron of the 494th Bomb Group of the U.S. Air Force. Following the war, he returned to Honey Grove, married Pauline Wishard and devoted the remainder of his life to his community.

Mr. Avery served as Fannin County commissioner of Precinct 3 for 20 years, from 1948 to 1952 and from 1961 to 1976. In recognition of his outstanding service, he received the Road Hand Award from the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation. In 1969 he was named Outstanding Citizen of Honey Grove.

Mr. Avery was a member of the Texas Historical Commission for 20 years. He was a member of the North Texas Tuberculosis Association, the Honey Grove Chamber of Commerce, American Heart Association for Fannin County, Friends of the Sam Rayburn Library, and Friends of Bertha Voyer Library. He was vice president of the Oakwood Cemetery Association and the Northeast Texas Resources Conservation and Development Association.

In addition, Mr. Avery was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also an elder at the Dial Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline; daughter and son-in-law, Mary Alice and Steve Glover of Paris; two granddaughters, Allison and

Amanda Glover; one sister, Lena Smith of Paris; and other relatives. I visited with Pauline just last week, and I will miss the many visits and telephone calls that John and I enjoyed.

John Avery will be missed by his family and many friends in Honey Grove and Dial, but he leaves behind a legacy of devotion and service that will be remembered for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege to know this outstanding citizen of the fourth district of Texas, and it is a privilege for me to pay my last respect to him today.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD A. SMITH, ROCHESTER, IN, ON COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF AMERICA

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow Hoosier, Ronald A. Smith of Rochester, IN, who is nearing the completion of his 1-year term as president of the Nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents of America [IIAA]. Ron is president of Smith, Sawyer & Smith, Inc., an independent insurance agency located in Rochester.

At the State level, Ron served as chairman of numerous committees and held several elective offices in the Independent Insurance Agents of Indiana, culminated by a term as president. In recognition of his invaluable contributions, his peers named Ron the 1992 Indiana Agent of the Year.

Ron began his service to the national organization by serving as Indiana's representative to IIAA's National Board of State Directors from 1987 to 1993. At the same time, he served the national association as chairman of its Membership Committee.

Ron was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1993. In the time since, he has exhibited a spirit of dedication and concern for his 300,000 independent agent colleagues around the country.

Outside the IIAA, Ron has served the insurance industry as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Institute for CPCU and the Insurance Institute of America and a member of the Board of Directors for the Insurance Education Foundation, Inc.

Ron's selfless attitude also extends to his involvement in Rochester-area community activities. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Rochester Telephone Co. and Airvac, Inc., and is a member of the Rochester Community School Building Corp.

In the past, he served as chairman of the Fulton County United Way, president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Grace United Methodist Church.

I congratulate my fellow Hoosier and activist citizen for a job extremely well done. Although he is stepping down as IIAA president, I am confident his selfless service to IIAA, his colleagues, and his fellow citizens of Rochester will continue into the future.