

we will also for the first time since 1962 observe Emancipation Day as a public holiday. The celebration commemorates the abolition of slavery in Jamaica 159 years ago. Its reinstatement is intended to recognize the significance of the struggle for and the achievement of emancipation by our ancestors and to preserve this in the collective memory of the Jamaican people.

Emancipation Day was one of the most significant transformative moments in the history of Jamaica, a central historical point of departure which forms part of the foundation upon which we build our nation. Our progression as a country from emancipation to independence and beyond demonstrates that indomitable Jamaican spirit engendered in the struggle for emancipation.

Jamaica continues to make progress towards economic development although confronted by internal and international problems. Despite the obstacles, the economy has been stabilized with encouraging growth in tourism, bauxite and agriculture. A stable exchange rate and careful monetary and fiscal management has dramatically reduced inflation and alleviated the pressures of the cost of living.

For the fourth consecutive year, Jamaica was voted the top Caribbean destination at the prestigious World Travel Awards. The introduction of the Air Jamaica hub in Montego Bay will help to promote significant economic activity in western Jamaica and broaden air transport options in the Caribbean. Our national airline is also expanding its North American routes to better serve overseas Jamaicans and to promote the tourist industry.

Jamaica continues to play a leadership role in international affairs. Prime Minister P.J. Patterson chaired the historic meeting between the CARICOM Heads of Government and President Bill Clinton in Barbados in May. This meeting was a positive step towards strengthening US-Caribbean relations by establishing the framework for continued intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation in matters of mutual interest. We reinforced our campaign against drug trafficking by concluding an Agreement to Suppress Illicit Maritime Drug Trafficking ("shiprider") with the United States in a manner which did not infringe on Jamaica's sovereignty.

In collaboration with our Caribbean neighbors, we continue to dialogue with the United States on NAFTA parity and seek a resolution to the banana dispute. In this co-operative spirit, I urge Jamaicans to join forces with other Caribbean peoples to address the implications of the new immigration legislation in the United States.

We have learnt from our historical experiences that we are stronger through collective action. In this regard Jamaicans in the United States continue to play a significant role in nation building. Your investments, remittances and contributions to social institutions have made a tangible impact on the lives of all Jamaicans at home. It is this kind of patriotism and initiative which creates the oneness which is Jamaica, a nation without borders. On this independence anniversary let us move forward with confidence, fortified by past achievements, and infused with hope. Together we can realize the enormous potential of our small but exceptional nation.

DR. RICHARD L. BERNAL,  
*Ambassador.*

## THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DENNIS LAMBERT AFTER 20 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

### HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and bid farewell to a valued member of my staff, Mr. Dennis Lambert, who after 20 years of distinguished service in the legislative branch of our Federal Government, has decided to retire. Dennis has served as my chief of staff since January 1995 when I first took office and has proven to be an outstanding administrator, a trusted friend, and faithful ally.

Dennis grew up in Kansas City, MO, and attended school in the Hickman Mills School District. He holds an A.B. in history from William Jewell College, a masters in public administration from New York University and a masters in liberal arts from Georgetown University. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Germany and the United States, specializing in communications. Dennis also taught school in Center School District in Kansas City, MO. He served in key staff positions for former Member of Congress, Tom Coleman [R-MO] from 1976 to 1992, initially as chief of staff and later as minority staff director on the House Agriculture Committee. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of the city of Washington, DC, and has worked closely with the Truman Foundation. Dennis is an experienced leader and team player; a fantastic negotiator and strategist; he is a master at innovative consensus building and I always marvel at his ability to remain so calm in the midst of any storm.

In my 3 years in Congress, I have come to rely heavily on Dennis' counsel and infinite wisdom. He has been a very loyal friend to me and to the rest of our staff, and we will miss him.

## TRIBUTE TO STERLING DOWLING

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young person from the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina.

Sterling Dowling, an Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School rising senior, has just been elected president of Boys' Nation, a week-long government and leadership training program that combines lectures and forums with visits to Federal agencies, institutions, memorials, and historical spots, held at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. At Orangeburg-Wilkinson, Sterling serves as corps commander of the Air Force Junior ROTC, is on the executive board of his student council, and serves on the student advisory board. He participates on the debate team, serves as an HIV/AIDS peer educator and is a member of Palmetto Project Operation HOPE for better race relations.

Sterling Dowling's success is not a recent occurrence. Before being elected as president

of Boys' Nation, Sterling served as governor of Palmetto [South Carolina] Boys' State. Sterling will return to Palmetto Boys' State next summer to serve as a youth counselor. Boys' State and Boys' Nation are both sponsored by the American Legion.

After graduating from high school, Sterling plans to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta or South Carolina State University in his hometown to major in English education. He intends to seek a degree at the North Carolina Central School of Law. In his last year in high school, Dowling said he plans to go forth armed with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sterling Dowling for his outstanding accomplishments and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

## HONORING THE LATE SENATOR BOB WILSON

### HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to praise one of the finest men ever to serve in the State senate of the State of Alabama, Senator Robert Terry Wilson, Sr. Senator Wilson was born in a mining camp in Dora, AL, on April 23, 1922. He was the third of seven children. Senator Wilson was raised in Jasper and then attended the public schools, as well as the University of Alabama, where he also graduated from law school.

During World War II, Senator Wilson was a brave man who served as a tail gunner in a B-26 bomber. He flew 65 missions over Italy and France during the hardest years of the war. For his heroism, he was decorated with many medals, including the coveted French, Croix De Guerre.

Although he fought many battles during the war, he also fought many more in the political arena, some great and some small. In the Alabama senate, he represented the poor, the downtrodden, and the forgotten of society. He always was an effective voice for the under-represented of our land, and did so with principle.

One of the few battles Senator Bob Wilson ever lost occurred last week when many years of cancer finally overcame him. I send my heartfelt wishes to his widow Ruth, and his children, Bob, Sue, Sally, and Alice. We will all miss Senator Wilson, and the arena of politics will be just a little bit less bright without him.

I am glad that I had the privilege and pleasure to serve with him in the Alabama Legislature.

## JERUSALEM BOMBING ABHORRENT

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am in shock over the terrorist suicide bombings that abruptly shattered the lives of over 150 innocent people and murdered 13 unsuspecting shoppers in a Jerusalem market

yesterday. The militant Islamic organization Hamas that has brazenly taken responsibility for this sinister act and demands that Israel free Palestinian prisoners must be dealt with appropriately as any other terrorist organization would be.

The agony and carnage that is now becoming an almost familiar scene on our television screens is a frightening reminder of the fragile peace that remains following the Oslo accord. The scenes of hell with bodies, blood, and horror strewn about in the old Mahane Yehud market in western Jerusalem surely wears on the souls of the Israeli people. The pictures of sobbing mothers and grief stricken children are once again trying to be used to shatter the forces of peace in the Middle East. Many Israelis in their anguish may even want to link the bombings with the peace process.

True tragedy like this strikes at the heart of the politics of peace that we have tried to forge since former President Jimmy Carter brought the parties to the table at Camp David. We Americans are separated from the terror and horror that has become a way of life in Israel. It is difficult to comprehend what Houstonians would feel like had this happened there.

But, somehow the shreds of peace need to be put back together. The peace process cannot evaporate in the blood of terrorist attacks. We cannot let these forces of evil gain the upper hand. We must keep the faith that the forces of good and the forces for peace can be revived. While the attention of the moment is focused on evil and death, peace and security needs to fill the void created by this nightmare.

I agree with President Clinton that, "There is no excuse and there must be no tolerance for this kind of inhumanity. The slaughter was aimed directly at innocent Israelis. And make no mistake, it was aimed at the majority of Israelis, Palestinians, and Arabs who want a lasting and just peace." The Clinton administration has certainly done a very credible job of trying to break the gridlock of the peace process.

In order to find security which is the underpinning of peace in the area, there has to be sustained cooperation by the Palestinians. There can be no revolving door policy when it comes to the capture and detainment of terrorists. Trust must be regained on both sides. To prevent the peace talks from collapsing we must begin to help to rebuild the trust that was exploded in the outdoor marketplace yesterday.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity before the House to pay tribute to an historic church community in the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

There were only 15 houses in the village of Portage, PA, when the Reverend Mr. Samuel Croft of Wilmore, MD, arrived to begin his missionary work in 1872. On August 21 of that year, 125 years ago next month, Luther's

Monumental Lutheran Church was chartered with 10 members. Two months later, on October 20, a small frame building, 28'-45', was dedicated. It now stands as the oldest church in Portage, PA.

In 1892, under the direction of the Reverend Mr. B.B. Collins, the congregation sought and was granted admission into the Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Synod. One of the conditions for admittance to the synod was the forming of a parish relationship with another church nearby, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Lilly, PA. These two churches today are known as the Lilly Portage Lutheran Parish.

In 1916, the Reverend Mr. B.R. Sheeder and the congregation had the frame building moved to its present site where a narthex and larger sanctuary was built and the entire building was bricked. Stained glass windows were installed. The original building now contains the nursery-primary Sunday school rooms. The original roof beams can be seen in the loft.

Luther's Monumental Lutheran Church became the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and is now known as the First Lutheran Church of Portage, PA. The longest pastorate, of 23 years, was served by the Reverend Mr. George I. Uhler (1925-48).

Serving as the church's pianist, choir director, and organist for over 50 years, Ms. Viola Hess is fondly remembered for her lifelong dedication. She passed away in the church while doing the work she loved.

Notably, the Reverend Ms. Karen Stiles was the first female pastor to serve the church, from 1987-89, followed by the Reverend Ms. Rochelle Melander.

Currently, under the Reverend Mr. Steven Claycomb, the church registry lists over 300 members and is continuing to grow. The membership is active in both the religious and the civic secular activities of the area. An array of church artifacts is displayed at the Portage Station Museum and will later be returned for display at the church.

Portage is located less than 20 miles from Johnstown, legendary for its tragic floods. The First Lutheran Church of Portage has endured through the horrible flood of 1889 in which over 2,000 lives were lost; since then it has helped to see its community through many types of hardship—from the hardscrabble days of the Industrial Revolution, when the area's miners and steelworkers endured long work hours, low pay, and abysmal working conditions, to the Great Depression. It has held its community together through the Nation's wars and seen it through more modern harshness—the decline of the steel industry that brought lasting economic hard times and crippling unemployment. It also saw another devastating flood, in 1977. Through it all, the First Lutheran Church has been a source of support and sustenance, spiritually and otherwise, to generations.

On Sunday, August 31, 1997, a dinner and mass of celebration commemorating the church's 125th anniversary will be held.

I'd like to congratulate the First Lutheran Church of Portage, its pastor and his congregation as they celebrate a 125 year tradition of serving God and their community. May the church grow and prosper for another 125 years.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2160:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the Wynn amendment to increase funding for equal opportunity complaint resolution in the Department of Agriculture. With over 1,400 discrimination cases pending, the USDA's Office of Civil Rights is underfunded, understaffed, and unable to fulfill its purpose. This amendment would transfer \$1,500,000 in revenue to the program for administrative and staffing assistance, and would enable the Department to fulfill its goal of eliminating racism within.

For years, the USDA has been discriminating against minority farmers. While the Secretary of Agriculture has acknowledged the problem and created the Civil Rights Program, it seems like little has been done. There are continued delays in investigations of discrimination complaints, inadequate minority representation in the Office of General Counsel, and an ongoing tension between the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Civil Rights. The number of discrimination complaints has more than tripled since 1991. It is time to put a halt to this disturbing statistic.

The Wynn amendment would provide money for additional staff to help combat the backlog of discrimination cases. The amendment simply caps the Market Assistance Program funding level and transfers its additional allocation for fiscal year 1998 to the Civil Rights Program. It is a small price to pay for such an important oversight.

In addition, we must continue to keep pressure on the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that this funding is put to good use and that the problem is attacked immediately. He must put his money where his mouth is.

I urge my colleagues to support the Wynn amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC K. FEDERING

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 1997*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today marks the last day of House service for Eric Federing as the Democratic director of communications for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Eric began his service to the House 10 years ago this week. In 1987, his first position was as press secretary and speechwriter to our former colleague, Norm Mineta. When Norm became chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Committee in 1993, he moved Eric to the committee to open and modernize its information services to better serve all of our colleagues and the news