

Wallace, Dave Hood, and Bill Cross are an excellent example of how American ingenuity and hard work pay off, not only for their fellow colleagues, but also for the taxpayers of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MSGR. VINCENT E.
PUMA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention a true humanitarian, Msgr. Vincent E. Puma of Paterson, NJ.

For the past 13 years, Monsignor Puma has operated Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs, a haven for underprivileged citizens who need food to eat and a place to sleep. Monsignor Puma recently decided to step down from the helm of this worthwhile organization but will leave behind a legacy which has greatly enhanced the community of Passaic County.

Born in Brooklyn, Monsignor Puma has lived in New Jersey his entire adult life. He attended Saint Mary's Seminary and Immaculate Conception Seminary, and was ordained in 1951. Monsignor Puma worked as a pastor in Clifton and Paterson before starting work at a mission in Dover, NJ. He returned to Paterson in 1962 to organize a network of churches for Spanish-speaking residents. Eventually the church gave Monsignor Puma a parish in Paterson, however, the stay was not long as he left his post as pastor to begin helping the poor and destitute.

In 1982, Eva's Soup Kitchen was founded in the basement of a former convent. Today, Monsignor Puma's organization serves 160,000 meals per year. In addition to providing food for those in need, Eva's Kitchen organizes shelters for men and women, halfway houses for the drug-addicted, and a clinic for the poor. Constant fundraising by Monsignor Puma has led to the tremendous growth of the organization, which employs a staff of 35 full-time and 30 part-time employees. Volunteers from more than 110 churches and organizations also help in providing staff for Eva's Kitchen. The ultimate tribute to Monsignor Puma's relentless work is the new \$7 million headquarters that serves as the hub of Eva's operations.

On August 1, 1997, Monsignor Puma will step down and hand over the reins to his successor, the Reverend John T. Catoir. Although he will no longer be in the forefront leading Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs, Monsignor Puma will continue to be an integral part in the continued success of the Eva's Kitchen program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Monsignor Puma's family and friends, and the State of New Jersey in recognizing Msgr. Vincent E. Puma's outstanding and invaluable contributions to the less fortunate in our society.

GOP CONTRACT WITH AMERICA
HAS BEEN A BLUEPRINT FOR
ACTION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues this editorial which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald on August 4, 1997.

GOP CONTRACT WITH AMERICA HAS BEEN A
BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Democrats spent \$2 million attacking the Republican Contract With America in the congressional elections of 1994. The contract helped deliver the first GOP majority in the House in 40 years. Yet Democrats continued to malign it as a) typical cynical campaign rhetoric that would be abandoned or b) a mean-spirited contract "on" America that would go nowhere.

As the current budget agreement and the Taxpayer Relief Act move toward enactment, it's worth noting how many major policy changes can be traced back to the Contract With America.

The first provision of the contract was enactment of a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution. That effort failed. But the No. 1 issue on Capitol Hill these days is balancing the federal budget. Democrats as well as Republicans are congratulating themselves for approving a budget designed to achieve balance in five years. The ground rules of budget debate have shifted profoundly. The need for fiscal balance is no longer the issue; the debate is over how to accomplish it.

A corollary to the balanced-budget amendment was a grant of line-item veto power to the president, which Bill Clinton gladly accepted.

On taxes, the \$500-per-child income tax credit destined to become law was a major provision of the GOP contract. Other contract provisions in the current tax bill are: expanded individual retirement accounts for home ownership and education; a reduction in estate and capital-gains taxes; expansion of the home office deduction; and American Dream Savings Accounts—IRA-style accounts to which families can contribute up to \$4,000 a year.

Welfare reform was another priority in the contract. The crux of the proposal was the elimination of welfare as an open-ended entitlement and the establishment of a two-years-and-out rule. Clinton twice had vetoed welfare-reform bills. But in 1996 his top campaign adviser, Dick Morris, told him that as the 1992 candidate who had promised to "end welfare as we know it," Clinton might fatally wound his re-election bid by rejecting welfare reform a third time. Clinton signed into law the welfare policy derived from the Republican contract.

Roughly two dozen other proposals in the contract have become law. Among them are tougher enforcement of the death penalty, stricter review of government regulation of business, raising the tax-free earnings limit for people on Social Security, tax incentives for adoption and for care of a dependent old person, spousal IRAs and tax relief for small businesses.

The contract was a device unprecedented in national electoral politics: Here is a specific checklist of exactly what we propose to do: elect us and hold us to it. Advocates called it a straightforward masterstroke. Critics called it an ill-advised piece of political hokum.

Three years alter, there is no doubt that the GOP meant what it said in the Contract With America. Even the White House has embraced much of it. Much of what it contained is now the policy of the United States, thanks to the persistence and foresight of the Republican Congress.

DEDICATION OF ANVIL HOUSE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Foundations Bible College and Schools in Dunn, NC on the recent dedication of its Anvil House. The president and founder of the Foundations Ministries and Schools, Dr. O. Talmadge Spence, announced the official Day of Dedication of Anvil House on May 15 with a 4-day celebration which culminated with the 23d graduation class of the college.

The vision of this learning center around a worship sanctuary results after some 30 years of thought, and more energetically after Dr. Spence attended Oxford University. Six years and nine months of actual building has been involved with a little over 2 years in acquiring furnishings, furniture, decor, and art pieces for the learning laboratory experience. Anvil House phase 1, has been completed with 30,300 square feet of floor space including: 8 divinity halls on the north and south; exterior and interior gothic walks; the first floor Founder's Foyer, and the Whitefield Sanctuary which seats 950 persons. The second floor consists of a gallery, balcony, and the colonnade walk which leads from the balcony to the podium above the first floor chancel. The cantilever pulpit projects out into the sanctuary some 30 feet with the first floor sanctuary and the second floor balcony surrounding the entire pulpit area.

The Anvil House is dedicated to three histories as pictured by its historical time and decor: World civilization, church history, and remnant Christianity. These three historical views are seen in a parallel chronology running throughout the facility. World civilization is seen in all of the rooms and areas. Church history, mingled with the parallel history of world civilization, is illustrated by the gothic walk of 46 niches and over 100 art pieces. The divinity halls are designated by the following geographies, noting the ingredients of remnant Christianity: The French Room, noting the times of the Huguenots and the Waldensians; the Bohemian Room, the Hussites and Moravians; the Colonial Room, puritans and pilgrims; the English Room, Oxford Holy Club; the Welsh Room, the Welsh revival; the Swiss Room, the Swiss brethren and Zwingli; the Ulster Room, the dissenters and separatists; and the German Room, the Reformers and Luther.

The second floor balcony and colonnade will be the regular processional walk for the graduation class each year as they proceed to the pulpit of Whitefield Sanctuary to receive their diploma or degree.

In each of the rooms and other areas of Anvil House there is historical meaning everywhere. There are over 1,600 art pieces from all over the world. There are 688 fixed gothic arches in Anvil House besides another 500