

his family or to the sport, and there will never be another quite like him. His years of selfless volunteering have earned him a long and plentiful retirement.

Mr. Speaker I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting a remarkable man on the conclusion of his great career, and in wishing Vince, his wife, and their family many years of good health and happiness in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIRED SENIOR
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF HOUSTON
AND HENRY COUNTIES

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the House a very special group from my congressional district celebrating a milestone of public service to the people of Southeast Alabama.

I am speaking about the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Houston and Henry Counties in the Alabama Wiregrass region. This month this organization celebrates 25 years of community volunteerism and selfless public service.

Founded locally in 1973, the RSVP provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for people who are retired or semi-retired. During the past quarter century, the RSVP's volunteers have impacted Houston County, Alabama with 2 million hours of service. If you were to convert that to a monetary value, it would exceed \$10 million.

Federally funded by the Corporation of National Service and sponsored by the Zonta Club of the Dothan Area Incorporated, the RSVP is making a difference in the lives of many Alabamians. I am very proud to salute the RSVP of Houston and Henry Counties as they commemorate 25 years of helping others. I join all my colleagues in wishing them 25 more productive and beneficial years of community service.

EARTH DAY RECOGNITION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of 4-H while growing up in eastern Connecticut, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the results of a recent national poll conducted by 4-H and Honda, which shows the American people are demanding more vigilance from the U.S. government and industry in safeguarding the environment.

According to the EarthView survey released this week, teenagers and baby boomers agree that government and industry are falling short of their environmental obligations and that time is running out to protect the Earth from permanent environmental damage.

Sixty-three percent of teens and 64% of boomers agree that government leaders are not concerned about the future impact of today's environmental problems.

Eighty-two percent of teens and 76% of boomers think government leaders should do more to control pollution from the oil and chemical industries, even if that increases the price of oil.

The American people have rejected the extreme policies of the anti-environmentalists in Congress. In fact, every poll conducted since the 1994 election, which includes questions about the environment, demonstrates the vast majority of the American people support the progress of the past twenty five years. Moreover, a majority of Americans continue to reject the false choice between the environment and economic growth. Public opinion aside, the Republican Party is committed to rolling back important protections which guarantee every American can enjoy a healthy environment. I have opposed these dangerous attacks on the House floor as well as a former member of the Resources Committee.

I remain committed to preserving the fundamental tenets of our most important environmental statutes. While we have made tremendous progress over the last generation, we must remain vigilant. The American people do not believe we have gone too far and that it's time to turn back the clock. We need to continue our efforts to improve water quality to ensure our children will be able to enjoy our precious natural resources like the Quinebaug and Shetucket rivers in eastern Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We must preserve endangered plants and animals for their aesthetic, economic and pharmacological benefits. National standards must be maintained to ensure every American, regardless of where they live, will receive certain basic protections and to guarantee taxpayers in our state do not see their investments rendered meaningless by actions of our neighbors. Finally, changes to major statutes must be fully debated before the American people and not brought about through backdoor tactics.

Finally, I would like to submit for the RECORD an op-ed piece by William Strauss and Neil Howe which appeared in USA Today regarding this survey. Be assured that I will continue to fight to preserve, and further, the gains of the past twenty-five years and I hope you will join me in the fight.

GRANDPA SURE WOULD LIKE THIS EARTH DAY
(By William Strauss and Neil Howe)

The original Earth Day, April 22, 1970, took place when the fabled "generation gap" between young boomers and their middle-age parents was at its widest. Back then, eco-activists openly loathed the pro-construction mind-set of the dominant "can-do" G.I. generation.

The times, they are (again) a-changin'. A new generational wave is about to break over the environmental movement as the boomers' own "can-do" kids come of age, according to a new poll.

ENTER THE 'MILLENNIALS'

Today's teens are the front ranks of the Millennial Generation, 1980s babies who are now populating American middle and high schools. Whereas their boomer parents were better talkers than doers, these Millennial kids are doers first, the poll says.

Millennials are no more like Generation X than inner-driven Xers were like boomers. Through the 1980s and early '90s, Gen X teens commonly viewed Earth Day not as boomer-style "eco-awareness," but rather as an occasion to do something personal, local and manageable. They'd recycle, pick up litter or tidy up a park. All that was useful, but it

narrowed the crusading spirit of the original Earth-Day activism.

Earth View, a new poll conducted by the National 4-H Council and Honda, compares the environmental views of 1,000 American teen-agers ages 13-18 with those of 1,000 of their parents, now in their 40s and early 50s. The poll reveals that the "eco-awareness" of Earth Days gone by soon may be supplanted by "eco-action."

Consider this. Three out of five boomer parents believe their own generation cares more about the environment than their kids do. Talking isn't doing, though. Millennials agree that their parents' generation cares as much about the environment as they do, but they see their own generation as far more inclined to take concrete action.

Where boomer parents are somewhat more likely than their kids to have donated to eco-causes or to have boycotted polluters' products, more Millennials have actually cleaned up or measured pollution, the poll shows.

Today's teens are more willing than their parents—or than teens a decade ago—to dig into their pockets. Seven in 10 say they would support shelling out 50 cents more per gallon for gasoline to make the air cleaner. Nearly eight in 10 would pay 50 cents more per compact disc to fund plastic-recycling programs.

Where the Earth Days of the '70s reflected a distrust of technology—recall the burying of automobiles—the Earth Days of the next century are likely to celebrate it. Aging boomers and Millennials overwhelmingly agree that technology can play a major role in safeguarding the planet.

ACTIVISM REVIVED

More than their parents, today's teens feel an urgency about the environment. Yet the Earth View poll also shows them to be more optimistic that they can do something about it. Fully 86% believe that it's their generation—and only 9% believe that it's boomers—whose actions today will matter most in 20 or 25 years.

If current trends continue, eco-activism early in the next century could become a modern version of what it was in the 1930s. That's when uninformed workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps cut trails, planted trees, and built enormous flood-control and power-generation edifices.

And who were those civic doers whose attitudes remind us of today's teens? The same G.I. Generation that won World War II—and then came home to create suburbia and give birth to the boomers.

The boomers' own environmental visions may be achieved by their children, whose attitudes resemble the boomers' parents. Yet it's the G.I. generation's grand constructions that the original Earth Day activists so often condemned. How ironic.

Neil Howe and William Strauss are co-authors of *Generations*, 13th-Gen and *The Fourth Turning*.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY CHAPTER OF SIGMA DELTA PI

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to epsilon Kappa, St. John's University's Chapter of sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Society which, for seventy-seven years has been promoting Hispanic culture and language in the United

States. In light of the act that we are honoring Hispanic heritage and culture, I am choosing to make this tribute in my native language Spanish.

Hace exactamente setenta y siete años en Berkeley, California, se creó una asociación honoraria para reunir estudiantes universitarios sobresalientes en literatura y cultura tanto española como hispanoamericana para formar parte de esta cofradía dedicada a promover el pasado y presente glorioso del mundo hispánico: lo español, lo indígena y lo africano. A partir de ese momento, su propósito ha sido preparar nuevas generaciones para que se sientan orgullosos de sus raíces e iniciar a estudiantes de otras culturas a apreciar lo maravilloso de lo nuestro.

Es muy importante tomar en consideración los ataques en contra de comunidades étnicas como la nuestra, que quieren preservar su identidad a través del lenguaje y cultura. Me estoy refiriendo a la legislación que comunmente es reconocida como "English Only", que fue presentada en la Cámara de este Congreso para establecer el inglés como idioma oficial de este país. Si esta legislación hubiese sido aprobada, nos habría prohibido hablar nuestra lengua en esta Cámara de Representantes o en cualquier sitio público. Es importante que organizaciones como Sigma Delta Pi continúen con su esfuerzo en preservar la cultura hispana y, de esta manera, complementen a la cultura general de este país.

Successful organizations like this cannot promote themselves alone. They need the guidance and vision of talented leaders like Professor Marie-Lise Gazarian-Gautier, a renovate scholar in literature at St. John's University, Coordinator of the Graduate Spanish Program and Moderator of Epsilon Kappa. St. John's Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. Dr. Gazarian is affiliate with universities in Paris-France, Moscow-Russia, and Santiago the 1945 Chilean Nobel Prize Laureate. She is also author of several books, among them: "Gabriela Mistral: La maestra de Elqui". In addition, she serves as Foreign Correspondent for several literary journals abroad and has hosted a nationwide series on "Contemporary Hispanic Fiction" produced by WCBS-TV and St. John's Television Center. In 1996 she was appointed Judge of the Selection Committee for the Poet Laureate from Queens. She currently serves as Vice President for the Northeast of Sigma Delta Pi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me today in honor of the seventy-seventh anniversary of Sigma Delta Pi and the invaluable contribution its chapters are making throughout the Hispanic Culture and society throughout the United States. We wish Sigma Delta Pi continued success and recognize St. John's University's Chapter, Epsilon Kappa, for its outstanding work in promoting Hispanic culture in America.

HONORING MISS ERNA ELDER ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great teacher, Miss Erna Elder, on

her retirement from St. Mark's Lutheran School in Steeleville, Illinois.

She has shared her many talents with her community for the past 42 years. Miss Elder joined the St. Mark's staff in the fall of 1957 and taught both the first and second grade classes. For twenty-four of the past forty-two years she also served as the school's secretary during the summer months. In 1979, Miss Elder also served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Illinois District Teacher's Conference. During the 1986 school term she served as the acting Principal.

Miss Elder served St. Mark's in many other capacities over the years, such as Walther League Counselor, basketball scorekeeper and several committees benefiting the St. Mark's community. She has also had the pleasure of watching St. Mark's grow from having just five class room teachers for grades 1-8 to eleven teachers for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8.

Miss Elder is an alumnus of St. Mark's having attended grades 4-8. She is a graduate of Sparta High School. From there she went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where she majored in Elementary Education.

In 1992, Miss Elder received the honor of being named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Over the years, Miss Elder has taught 846 students. As the first grade teacher for the majority of her 42 years of dedicated service to St. Marks she has influenced many young lives.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Miss Erna Elder on her retirement after many devoted years of service to the children of St. Marks and the entire community.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT
APRIL 22, 1998

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to vote on a piece of legislation which will make it more difficult for the government to raise taxes. The Tax Limitation Amendment is good for American taxpayers because, ultimately, it will allow hard-earned wages to stay where they belong—in the hands of those who earn them.

If this amendment to the Constitution is passed, a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate will be necessary before any tax increase is imposed on the American public. Mr. Speaker, isn't this exactly what our forefathers intended when they included the concept of "no taxation without representation" in the Declaration of Independence?

Fourteen states already require a supermajority in order for their state legislatures to raise taxes. These states have proved that tax limitation does work—when taxes are limited, big government spending remains low and economies and the job base flourish.

Tax limitation already exists in the House of Representatives, but only through the end of this Congress. Let's preserve this statute, which works for government and works for taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues

to listen to the American public, to regulate taxes and to support the Tax Limitation Amendment.

WORKING TOWARD ECONOMIC
SELF DETERMINATION: A NEW
AGENDA FOR AFRICA

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues and concerned citizens of an important event taking place in the 15th Congressional District of Michigan. On Friday, April 24, 1998, I will join the Constituency for Africa, Africa World Expo Inc. and the Detroit Minority Business Opportunity Committee in hosting "A New Agenda for Africa: Augmenting Business Opportunities with Africa," a conference designed to help build successful trading partnerships between small and medium-sized American businesses and Africa. The conference, to be held in Detroit, Michigan, follows two monumental events in the history of this country's relationship with Africa: this body's passage of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and President Clinton's groundbreaking visit to six African nations.

On March 11, 1998, Congress voted 233 to 186 to support the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This bill sets forth a much-needed new U.S. economic and trade policy toward the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, encourages closer economic cooperation with this region, and supports debt reduction for the poorest African countries. This legislation was developed on a bi-partisan basis with the 48 Presidents and ambassadors of the sub-Saharan African nations themselves. Last December, I had the honor and privilege of participating in a Presidential mission on economic cooperation to six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This bill complements, rather than supplants, continued, effective aid to Africa. Aid to Africa has been cut by 25 percent; the passage of this bill is but beginning toward establishing economic self-determination and self-sufficiency for sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference will feature a number of experts on African trade issues, and will spotlight American business operators who have successful ventures in sub-Saharan Africa. Conference participants will hear first-hand accounts of the trade environment in sub-Saharan Africa from Mamadou Seck, Senegalese Ambassador to the United States; Koby Koomson, Ghanaian Ambassador to the United States; Mr. Banji Milambo, an economist with the Republic of Zambia; The Honorable Ackim Nkole, Deputy Minister of the Republic of Zambia, Dr. Ng'andu Bwalya, Director General of the Zambia Investment Center and Mr. Gerry Munyama, commercial officer for Namibia. It is my honor and privilege that these ambassadors and experts have taken the time to educate all Americans about trade and business opportunities in Africa.

I warmly welcome these and all of the participants for this important conference and encourage American business owners to consider Africa as they enter our increasingly global economy. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to enter these remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.