

I challenge my colleagues to do their part to spread the word and celebrate this important holiday. Too often, the news of Flag Week is pushed aside for flashier stories, or relegated to the back pages on a slow news days. It is our duty to carry on the proud tradition of this week.

Mr. Speaker, progress in our country often originates from the efforts of just one man. The establishment of Flag Week serves as an important reminder of the same. In recognition of Vito Cannella's patriotism, and to honor the sacrifice of Americans through the ages dedicated to preserving our liberty, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Flag Week, 1998.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
HOUSTON PROJECT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the contributions to my district that Habitat for Humanity and its sponsors have made to my district over the past week.

Through the efforts of former-President Jimmy Carter, Habitat for Humanity, a handful of private sponsors, and several thousand miracle-working volunteers, 100 homes will be built for needy families this week in the city of Houston.

Houston was chosen as the site for this project because of its tremendous need for housing. Of the 1.7 million people that live in the city, 150,000 of them are considered to be "marginally" homeless. That number is completely unacceptable for America's fourth largest city.

Even when people are able to find housing, there is a good chance that it will be inadequate. Over 100,000 of the housing units in Houston are dilapidated, and 72,000 of them are officially overcrowded.

Yet as awful as those conditions are, there are still over 9,000 families on waiting lists for public housing. Unfortunately, the government cannot solve the housing shortage for all of them. Someone else needs to step up to the bat and help these people help themselves. Fellow colleagues, someone has.

Habitat for Humanity and the Jimmy Carter Work Project have come to bat for the people of Houston. With them, they brought an army of volunteers, and a fabulous group of sponsors.

The supplies needed for these 100 houses were all supplied by contributions from private corporations, organizations, church groups, and businesses. Many of these organizations also contributed manpower, either through their employees or their members. I am grateful to all of them. Specifically, I want to name those sponsors who made donations for the homes built in my district. They include: South Main Baptist Church; U.C.C. Celebration House; Presbyterian House—First Grace, Memorial Drive and St. Andrews; St. John the Divine Episcopal; St. Martin's Episcopal Church; Congregation Beth Israel; Congregation

Emanu El; Presbyterian House No. 2; the Shell Oil Company Foundation; Umland International House; the Junior League of Houston; Fondren Foundation; Exxon; St. Luke's Episcopal Health System; Notre Dame Alumni Association; Notre Dame Student Chapter; El Paso Energy; Continental Airlines; Newsradio 740 KTRH; The Brown Foundation; Apache; Friends of Habitat; Stanley Tools; Dow Chemical; Indianapolis Life; PMI; Paul Leonard House; Weyerhaeuser Co.; Churchs Chicken; the Aluminum Association; Southwest Airlines/Oprah Angels; the Farris Foundation Inc.; Houston Habitat for Humanity Revolving Fund; Houston Apartment Association; and Habitat World. To all the sponsors—You have all done a great service to this community, and to our future generations. I congratulate you all.

I also want to thank and congratulate a particular group of very special people—the Gibson Family. I worked alongside of Mr. and Mrs. Gibson for the better part of the day on Monday. They have two girls, both under the age of ten, and they have another child on the way. For the past few years, they have lived in a small apartment in a dilapidated building, the whole while, looking for ways that they could better their living situation. Like many families, they have searched for options that would keep them from having to send their hard-earned money to the landlord every month, knowing that they would never own a piece of that property.

I am happy to report to you that the Gibson Family, with the help of Habitat for Humanity and their sponsors, are on their way to owning their first house. They had to work hard, physically, to get this opportunity, but they seized it.

T.S. Eliot once said, "Home is where one starts from." With the help of President Carter, Habitat for Humanity, and thousands of volunteers and sponsors, the Gibson Family has a new start. It is a fresh chance to raise their children, and grandchildren in a way which every American deserves. I also want to congratulate the other 99 families who will also be receiving homes as a part of this effort. Each and every one of them deserves this tremendous opportunity as well.

As grateful as I am, for this effort to better the community in Houston, there is still substantial work to be done, and need left. There are still too many people who need adequate shelter. There are still too many cities who need adequate housing. There are far too many children growing up in unsuitable conditions.

I hope there are many more people, out there across America, who are willing to follow the example of the miracle-workers of Houston. I urge corporate America to follow the lead of the many corporate sponsors I named earlier, who put aside profit for the sake of humanity.

I pledge my loyal support to Habitat for Humanity and the people that make it work—the sponsors and the volunteers. I ask that my colleagues do the same. These people truly embody the best of the human spirit, and I applaud their heroic efforts.

JAPAN; IT'S TIME FOR REFORM

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, Japan's economy is in recession. As an editorial in the Thursday, June 18 edition of The Washington Post noted, "the fact that once again U.S. pressure was needed to spur a commitment to reform is one more sad indication of the abdication of leadership in Japan."

While Japan has been a strong and loyal ally of the U.S. since the end of World War II, that does not mean friends cannot provide constructive criticism. I have some constructive criticism for Japan.

As one of the world's largest economies, Japan has a responsibility to provide open and fair market access for imports. To this day, Japan continues to maintain restrictive barriers to its domestic market. While Japan has reduced tariff rates on imports to reasonable levels, non-tariff barriers continue to hinder imported goods and services from the U.S. and other parts of the world.

From 1996 to 1997, the U.S.-Japan trade deficit increased from \$47.6 billion to \$55.7 billion. Our trade deficit with Japan is the largest out of any other nation in the world, and it points to the systemic problems with Japan's market.

Now is the time for Japan to show real leadership to the international community by initiating wide-spread economic reforms specifically targeted to rescinding excessive and outdated government regulations. A U.S. Trade Representative report stated, "[Japan's] unnecessary regulations restrain economic growth, raise the cost of doing business in Japan, lower the standard of living for Japanese consumers, and impede imports." Japanese economists estimate that 40 percent of all economic activity in Japan is regulated by the government. The regulations included burdensome testing and certification requirements, outdated price control measures, and unnecessary and archaic standards.

While I understand that most of these regulations were implemented when Japan was still a developing nation when it was necessary to protect certain infant industries, they are no longer needed and, in fact, retards Japan's economic growth. A nation with a mature economy such as Japan's must jettison those outdated regulations in order to expand the economy. Japan's reluctance to do so has clearly caused its current recession. By placing archaic and unnecessary restrictions to imports, Japan has only wound up hurting itself.

The solution to Japan's economic problems, Mr. Speaker, is quite simple. The Administration must work with Congress to put more pressure on Japan to provide open and fair markets, and Japan must take the necessary steps to fully honor its trade agreements with the U.S. Only by implementing this and other reform measures can the Japanese economy recover from its current recession.

HONORING REVEREND DR.  
WASHINGTON L. LUNDY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Washington L. Lundy's 30th Pastoral Anniversary at the Evening Star Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Reverend Lundy is a native of McKenney, Virginia. Prior to his appointment at the Evening Star Baptist Church, Reverend Lundy had experience in pastoring at First Baptist Church in McKenney, Virginia. Following his appointment to the Evening Star Baptist Church, Reverend Lundy obtained a Bachelor of Sacred Theology and a Doctor of Divinity from Baltimore College of Bible in 1971 and 1975, respectively.

Since Reverend Lundy's tenure at Evening Star Baptist Church, many wonderful things have happened to both the church and the surrounding community. Reverend Lundy founded the Eastern Baptist Association School of Religion in 1989. The Reverend also led the congregation through a five million-dollar renovation and dedication in 1994.

Reverend Lundy's accomplishments do not end there. In 1991, C.S.B.C. Housing Development named him Father of the Year. Reverend Lundy also received the Contemporary Leadership Award in July, 1992, and the History Maker Award in February, 1995. In addition to this, Franklin Avenue, in Brooklyn, New York will soon be named "Dr. Washington Lee Lundy" Boulevard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting Reverend Washington L. Lundy on the occasion of his 30th Pastoral Anniversary at the Evening Star Baptist Church.

TRIBUTE TO THE MECHLER HALL  
SENIOR CENTER

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mechler Hall Senior Center for a decade of success working for senior citizens in the South Bronx.

On Wednesday, June 24, the Mechler Hall Senior Center will celebrate as a Tenth Anniversary Party at the Holy Family Church on Watson Avenue, where the Center is located.

The Mechler Hall Senior Center was established in 1988 as a non-profit, all-volunteer community-based organization to serve the needs of senior citizens in our community.

During the past ten years, the dynamic Mechler Hall Senior Center has been instrumental in providing the services that senior citizens need. It serves meals to 115 people daily and organizes activities for about 150 people. Its wide range of programs and services to the community include: counseling, seminars, workshops, dancing lessons, trips, aerobics, nutritional programs, knitting, and drawing lessons, among other activities.

It is a privilege for me to represent the 16th district of New York, where Mechler Hall Senior Center is located. I have witnessed first-

hand the exemplary work they are doing for our community, and I am deeply impressed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mechler Hall Senior Center for a decade of achievements in the Bronx and in wishing them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY ON HYPERTENSION IN BLACKS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks. Their Society is about to hold its 13th International Interdisciplinary Conference on Hypertension in Blacks, and I believe it is timely to recognize their efforts to publicize a disease that has disproportionately affected minority populations.

The International Society on Hypertension in Blacks encourages increased medical research efforts, supports hypertension awareness programs targeted to minority communities, and lends assistance to put an end to the alarming statistics that show the greater prevalence of severe hypertension in Africa Americans.

The International Society works to promote treatment for all. Hypertension affects one out of three African Americans compared to one out of four people in the general population. One of the challenges to prevention or control is to adequately address the physiologic, epidemiologic and genetic differences to develop strategies appropriate for each population.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks for their efforts to initiate such research forums at their annual conference and their work to spread information to community members.

FORMER REAGAN AND BUSH JUSTICE OFFICIAL CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION OF MR. STARR'S LEAKS TO THE PRESS

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD the following opinion editorial from today's New York Times.

KENNETH STARR STRETCHES THE RULES  
(By Ronald K. Noble)

What are we to make of Steven Brill's article contending that Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, and his deputy, Jackie Bennett, may have leaked grand jury information about their investigation of President Clinton?

Many opponents of Mr. Clinton want to dismiss Mr. Brill's article, which appeared this week in his magazine, Brill's Content. But that would be a mistake. These leaks may violate Federal laws and Justice Department regulations. The possibility of such improper disclosures must be investigated.

In his article, Mr. Brill wrote that Mr. Starr and Mr. Bennett had given reporters

background information—including accounts by witnesses who were to appear before a grand jury—regarding the investigation into Mr. Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr. Starr has issued two denials to the article. His first denial did not challenge Mr. Brill's facts; instead, the independent counsel challenged the conclusion that such disclosures were illegal and unethical.

In his second denial, Mr. Starr stated that his office "does not release grand jury material either directly or indirectly, on the record or off the record" and that it "does not release (and never has released) information provided by witnesses during interviews, except as authorized by law."

These denials beg the question of what Mr. Starr considers grand jury material, what he believes is authorized by law and what he and Mr. Bennett actually said to reporters. Indeed, before the Brill article appeared this week, many press reports had already attributed information about the investigation to the prosecutor's office.

We don't know all the facts, but Mr. Starr, as quoted in Mr. Brill's article, does not give us confidence about his interpretation of the law and Justice Department regulations. In the article, Mr. Starr said that certain disclosures do not violate a Federal criminal law that prohibits prosecutors from disclosing information about grand jury proceedings.

"If you are talking about what witnesses tell F.B.I. agents before they testify in the grand jury or about related matters," Mr. Starr said, that is "definitely not grand jury information."

Mr. Starr also said that the Justice Department's ethical guidelines allow disclosures when the public needs reassurance that an investigation is being conducted properly. Indeed, in the article, Mr. Starr suggested that it was his duty to make such disclosures if doing so would boost the public's confidence in his office.

But the laws on disclosure contain few loopholes. Last May, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that it is a violation of Federal law not only to release unauthorized information about what witnesses said to the grand jury, but also to disclose what witnesses said to prosecutors and agents in preparing for their grand jury testimony.

Moreover, Mr. Starr and his staff members are also covered by the Privacy Act, which prohibits disclosing confidential information about individuals. This law covers all Federal employees, not just prosecutors, who have access to such information because of their jobs.

Justice Department guidelines are no more lenient. To make a case for an exception, Mr. Starr seems to rely on a department rule that allows disclosure of "matters about which the community needs to be reassured that an appropriate law-enforcement agency is investigating the incident."

This is a stretch. The Justice Department specifically forbids prosecutors from answering questions about an ongoing criminal investigation or from commenting on its progress—including the serving of subpoenas before the documents have been publicly filed. And department guidelines on media relations state that no one in the department should release information that is likely to prejudice any legal matter.

In short, there are few situations where substantive information on an investigation can be released. And if information is released, it should be on the record. Any off-the-record conversation between prosecutors and reporters is by definition suspect. If the prosecutor is permitted to say what he is saying and is prepared to be held accountable for it—why not do so on the record?