

FORWARD, UPWARD, ONWARD
TOGETHER—THE BAHAMAS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas celebrated the 25th anniversary of independence. On Saturday, July 18, an Independence Luncheon will be held under the direction of Consul General Dr. Doswell C. Coakley. The Honorable Minister of Tourism, Cornelius A. Smith will serve as the guest speaker. As a long-time world traveler who respects cultures and globalism, I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes on such an auspicious occasion.

As one of the premier independent nations of the world, we, recently celebrating our independence, can certainly relate. The 275,000 people who live on the 700 islands of The Bahamas are predominantly of West African descent. Their ancestors were slaves brought to the islands to work cotton plantations until 1834, when Britain abolished slavery in all of its territories. Most white residents are descendants of the first English settlers who emigrated from Bermuda in 1647 to gain religious freedom. Some are also related to the Loyalists who fled the southern United States during the American Revolution. After the abolition of slavery, life in the islands changed drastically. The plantations were dissolved, and both blacks and whites turned to the sea or tried to farm.

Bahamians have a rich cultural legacy. Religion is an integral part of Bahamian life. Even the tiniest village has a church, sometimes two. The citizen's religious zeal and high regard for education are evident. Music is also very important. Here you can hear the elements of African rhythms, Caribbean Calypso, English folk songs and the Bahamian Goombay beat.

Its government is a bicameral parliamentary government composed of a Senate and a House of Assembly, a Prime Minister, an Attorney General, and an independent Judiciary, including a Supreme Court and a Court of Appeals. I'm sure we all recall seeing pictures of Bahamian policemen who pride themselves on their starched uniforms.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to give a bird's eye view of the people and culture of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. As the world becomes smaller in terms of travel, I hope many of our citizens will visit our good neighbors to the South.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF MARILYN AND
CHARLES COX

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, there are a few occasions more joyous and historic in a family's life than a 50th wedding anniversary. On August 18, 1948, my parents, Marilyn Ann Miller and Charles Christopher Cox, were wed in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. They received

a papal blessing, and it was propitious: a half century later, their bonds of matrimony are stronger than ever.

Fifty years of marriage have produced five Cox children: myself, identical twins Kathy and Anita, Terry, and Molly. And the Cox children have given our parents nearly 9 grandchildren (I say nearly, because my wife Rebecca is due in just over a month with our third child). They are Nick Hammer, Sean Hedgecock, Christina Ziton, Trevina Joseph, Charles Cox, Katie Cox, Alex Ziton, and Christopher Joseph. Along with the rest of our extended family, we will all join with our parents and grandparents on this memorable occasion to celebrate their golden anniversary.

As each of us in Congress knows, leadership in all walks of life means, more than anything else, setting an example. For us, their children and grandchildren, my parents have been a marvelous example. We owe our values, our education, our caring and commitment for others, and our sense of honor, duty, patriotism, and social justice to the leadership in all of these things that they showed us. Their most fundamental lesson to us was the way they have, and continue to, lead their lives.

At the close of the 20th century, men and women in their 70's, like my parents, can expect to live much longer than those of their parents' generation. What's more important, they can expect to be productive and to enjoy life far beyond what was possible even 20 years ago. This is what social scientists now call the "second adulthood"—post-retirement years that extend for decades or more. As a result, we "children" are still counting on them to show us the way, even though their own parents' lives were necessarily very different. Well into adulthood, we're still learning, and still depending upon, our parents to help us lead our lives.

Mark Twain once remarked that he spent \$25 to research his family tree, and then he had to spend \$50 to cover it up. Not so for the Cox family. We're proud to celebrate our parents' 50th wedding anniversary on the floor of the House of Representatives, and in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. After all, our parents are a national treasure—and what better way to help them celebrate than to share the festivities with 250 million of their fellow taxpayers?

I know every one of my colleagues—particularly those from Minnesota, where our family was raised, and where my parents still live; from California, where my father was raised, and those citizens I am proud to represent; and from Virginia, Colorado, and Indiana, where the rest of the Cox grandchildren live—join me in wishing Marilyn and Charles Cox a splendid 50th wedding anniversary, and many more to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS OF 1998

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will reauthorize the

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act through the year 2001. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating and cooling assistance to almost 5 million low-income households each year, over 330,000 of which are in my home State of Pennsylvania.

Individuals and families receiving this vital assistance include the working poor, individuals making the transition from welfare to work, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and families with young children. In fact, nearly 70 percent of families receiving LIHEAP assistance last year survived on an annual income of less than \$8,000, spending 18.5 percent of their annual household income on energy costs.

While States, local government, and the private sector have demonstrated their willingness to develop creative and effective programs to address energy assistance needs, it has been determined that these programs alone cannot meet the significant energy needs of low income families in our nation. LIHEAP has proved that a successful relationship between government, business, gas and electric utilities, and community-based organizations can and does work.

In addition to the basic energy assistance program, this legislation also extends the authorization for emergency energy assistance, home weatherization, the leveraging incentive program, and the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Option (REACH). In order to find out more about how the REACH program is working, we ask the Comptroller General to conduct a study within the next two years on the effectiveness of this program. We also try to better define natural disasters and emergencies in the bill to speed assistance to individuals in the case of natural disasters and energy emergencies under the emergency energy assistance provisions of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Education and the Workforce plans to consider the LIHEAP program in the coming days. I invite Members of the House to join us in support of reauthorization of this important program.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to join with Chairman BILL GOODLING and others in the introduction of important legislation, the Community Services Authorization Act of 1998. This legislation reauthorizes the Community Service Block Grant program, and incorporates many positive changes into the program.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to States and local communities for activities designed to fight poverty and foster self-sufficiency. CSBG provides funds to 1,134 "eligible entities"—mostly local non-profit Community Action Agencies in 96 percent of all counties. The community action network is doing a very effective job at addressing the needs of high-poverty communities throughout the nation, but this is not to say that we cannot continue to make improvements in these efforts. We can and should expect no less than excellence in this and all

other federal programs. Working together we can make improvements in CSBG and related anti-poverty programs that will improve services for the poor in each individual local community. I believe that this legislation moves us in this direction.

The activities of local programs under CSBG vary widely depending on the needs and circumstances of each local community. Common uses of funds include the coordination of programs and services for the poor, and the provision of emergency assistance in local communities. CSBG funds are also spent on education (including Head Start), employment, housing, nutrition, health, income management, and emergency services—filling gaps in programs that are specifically designed to provide these services.

Over the years I have visited "CAP" agencies in my District and I know of the important work that they do in helping families break the cycle of poverty. At a time when we are having great success in moving individuals off of welfare into the workforce—leading to self-sufficiency, it is vitally important to provide local communities with the resources and the flexibility to respond to individual local needs to help supplement this effort. Following are some of the highlights in our legislation.

Local Control. First, this legislation builds on the strengths of local flexibility, local authority, and especially on the strengths of the local tripartite boards that oversee the CSBG program in each local community. The unique structure of these boards—including the direct involvement of low-income individuals in the community—is key to the success of these local efforts. This legislation maximizes the role of the individuals that are to be served in programs assisted under CSBG, in the design and delivery of such services.

Linkages and Leveraging. We will continue to encourage development of effective partnerships between governments, local communities, and charitable organizations (including faith-based organizations) to meet the needs of impoverished individuals. In our legislation, we hope to encourage a broadening of the resource base for programs directed to eliminate poverty, so as to secure a more active role for private, religious, charitable, and neighborhood-based organizations in the provision of services. CSBG's more than \$4 to \$1 leveraging of every federal dollar invested is exemplary. We want to build on this positive record.

We also continue to stress the importance of local community action programs in filling in gaps and in crisis intervention—providing a true safety net in each local community. This is especially important in making our welfare reform efforts successful.

Accountability. While we don't want to tell States and local communities what to do, we do need to have a better understanding of how federal funds are spent and what types of services are provided. Under this bill we have included a requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services work with States and local eligible entities to facilitate the development of a performance measurement system to be used by States and local grantees to measure their performance in programs funded through CSBG. This builds on a voluntary performance measurement system begun by HHS several years ago called "ROMA", and would allow local communities to determine their own priorities and establish

performance objectives accordingly. Each State and local eligible entity that receives CSBG funds would be required to participate in the performance measurement system by October 1, 2001. States would be required to annually prepare and submit a report to the Secretary on the performance results of the State and the local eligible entities.

Role Of Faith-Based And Other Neighborhood-Based Providers. The legislation recognizes the important role that private, neighborhood-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, play in the comprehensive delivery of services to individuals and families in poverty. Under the bill, we clarify that faith-based providers are eligible and important providers of services. We also encourage these organizations to have significant input into the design and implementation of the system.

Federal-to-State Formula. Because the formula in the Community Services Block Grant has been frozen in time since 1981, changes in poverty have not been reflected in the distribution of funds to States under the block grant program over the past 17 years. To address this concern, the bill includes a change in the federal-to-State formula, however only for funds that are appropriated in future years that exceed levels appropriated for CSBG in fiscal year 1999. In other words, if and when funding exceeds the level appropriated for CSBG in FY 1999, these additional funds would be distributed to States based on the formula that are contained in the original Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) based 1/3 on poverty; 1/3 on poverty; 1/3 on unemployment; and 1/3 on welfare.

New Uses Of Funds. Because CSBG is a very flexible block grant, we do not prescribe how funds in each local community must be spent. The bill does however include several new initiatives for which States and local areas may use CSBG funds. These new initiatives include: fatherhood and other community-based initiatives that are designed to strengthen the family and encourage parental responsibility; initiatives to strengthen and improve the relationship between local communities and law enforcement (which may include neighborhood and community policing initiatives); literacy initiatives (including family literacy initiatives); and youth development programs in high poverty communities (including after-school child care). The bill also prioritizes programs that are tied to welfare reform and that encourage self-sufficiency.

Finally, the draft bill retains existing discretionary programs established under CSBG, including the community economic development program that facilitates economic development initiatives in high poverty areas.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Services Authorization Act of 1998 is based in good public policy, and makes many positive changes to the Community Services Block Grant program. I invite Members of the House to join with me in support of this legislation, that will truly make a difference for individuals in need.

CONGRATULATING JEFFREY G. HAAS ON BEING NAMED OUTSTANDING PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Ms. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jeffrey G. Haas of Midland Park, New Jersey, on being named Outstanding Performing Arts Teacher of the Year at this year's American Teacher Awards in Los Angeles. This is an extraordinary national honor that recognizes that Bergen County is home to some of the finest teachers—and one of the best school systems—in America.

Mr. Haas is Director of Bands at Ridgewood High School, where he has held the post the past 10 years. During that time, the band program has grown from 50 students to more than 200. The program offers 12 musical ensembles, including the marching band, jazz ensemble, percussion ensemble and three curricular bands. The quality of musicianship and professionalism shown by his students throughout these groups is unmatched and a credit to his fine job in the classroom. Mr. Haas reminds me of "Mr. Holland" in the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus." He is a dedicated and hard-working educator who goes beyond the call of duty time and time again. His students respond with amazing effort and performances.

Mr. Haas believes music should be an important part of every person's life and attempts to expose his students to as many musical experiences as possible. Through his "guest artist" program he brings local professional musicians into the classroom to work with his bands. Members of the New York City Opera Orchestra, professors at the Manhattan School of Music and Broadway pit orchestra musicians have all demonstrated their talents in his classroom. He has also developed an annual jazz festival in which professional jazz musicians work with students during a day-long clinic and perform for the public at an evening concert.

Mr. Haas has combined his band programs with other educational disciplines. For example, he designed a marching band show based upon Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*, featuring a color guard dressed in black, original music and a student dressed as Poe. To present the subject matter properly, he asked a teacher from the school's English Department to teach a class about the poem to all band members.

As evidence of the quality of his teaching, Mr. Haas's bands have played at Lincoln Center and Disney World, in Washington, D.C., and Boston and have toured Canada and southern California.

Mr. Haas has been a guest lecturer at the University of Massachusetts, Montclair State University, William Paterson University and West Chester University. He was recently elected president of the New Jersey chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators and writes a regular column for *Temp*, the New Jersey Music Educators' Association magazine. He has served on the Education Committee of the John Harms Center for the Performing Arts and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center "Jazz for Teens" program. He