

Dante, now 81 years old and living in Clearwater, Florida, served in the House for 38 years, from 1954 through his retirement in 1992, representing South Florida with dignity, reverence for his office, and the rare ability to please all the members of his diverse constituency. He was one of the most respected Members during the time he served in Congress, and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with him and to learn from him.

Known as an outstanding legislator and negotiator, Dante fine-tuned his interest in foreign affairs with his particular focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. He conceived of the idea for the North/South Center, a scholarly institution for the free exchange of views to promote understanding, cooperation and democracy in the region. This idea became reality in 1990. Importantly, ahead of his time, Dante had the clairvoyance to see the increased interdependence of the two hemispheres, and that trend's connection with the City of Miami.

The North/South Center at the University of Miami has turned Fascell's ideas into reality. The school plays an invaluable role in helping the Administration and federal agencies conduct American public policy, and is called upon frequently to present its views. Moreover, it provides research, public outreach, and cooperative study opportunities on a variety of timely issues, as well as education and training programs for scholars and others throughout the Western Hemisphere.

I applaud the decision of the University of Miami to rename the North/South Center in honor of Dante B. Fascell. Its new name will ensure that the contributions of this fine public servant to the common good of South Floridians, and the nation, will always be at the forefront of our minds.

ALL-USA TEACHERS FROM
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HONORED

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five teachers from Columbus, Georgia, who have been selected from over 600 of their colleagues to be honored for their outstanding commitment to our children.

Coleen Cotton, Deborah Greene, James Pippin, and Amy Willis of Arnold Middle School are among the twenty-three teachers named to the "USA Today's All-USA Teacher Team." Nicknamed the "Dream Team," the four have worked together to integrate their school subjects (language arts, science, social studies, and math) in order to make learning relevant for their students. The symbol of their creation is a ball of yarn 37.5 feet in diameter.

An example of the yarn's usefulness as a learning tool was described in yesterday's USA Today. "The project has snowballed since the yarn ball was started seven years ago. Last year, Amy Willis' math classes calculated the mathematical qualities of the ball, predicted that year's expansion and estimated its weight. Debbie Greene's science classes learned about yarn's role in textiles, a Columbus industry. Jim Pippin's social studies classes investigated similar large balls of yarn and

twine. And Coleen Cotton's reading classes read some 'yarns.'"

I also extend my congratulations to Nan Pate of Brookstone School in Columbus on being awarded with an "All-USA Honorable Mention."

These five teachers from Columbus, Georgia, represent the kind of devotion and ingenuity that is needed to take our country and our children into the 21st century. It is these teachers, and others like them, who will strive to make our education system the best in the world. I thank them for their commitment, and I congratulate them on their excellence.

TRIBUTE TO THE POVERELLO
HOUSE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Poverello House on the occasion of its 25 year Silver Anniversary. The Poverello House is known throughout the Central Valley for its charitable work.

The Poverello House was started in 1973 when Fresno newcomer Mike McGavin began feeding 30 street people out of a van in Fresno's Chinatown. Today the Poverello House serves over 1000 meals a day at its downtown building. The program also distributes 65,000 meals a year to local churches. Mr. McGavin's vocation has grown beyond feeding the hungry. Now the uninsured receive free medical and dental care. In addition, recovering alcoholics and drug addicts live at Poverello House and homeless men spend the day there.

Mike McGavin's work with the poor began in the late 1960s in San Francisco, where he stumbled onto a coffee shop for the homeless. At the time he was a customer. With the help of the Franciscan priest who ran the program McGavin began volunteering. McGavin wanted to atone for the trouble he had caused as a teen in the Los Angeles gang and as a drug addict in San Francisco. Mike moved to Fresno and it is here that he began feeding the homeless of Chinatown. In 1981 a business man donated \$60,000 that went towards the purchase of buying a building in Chinatown. A \$1.3 million renovation doubled the building in 1992. The larger building now houses a resident program which allows 28 men to live at the house for a period of six months. In addition five men may stay at a halfway house northwest Fresno for as long as two years.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Mike McGavin and the Poverello House for 25 years of service to the community. Mr. McGavin has turned the atonement for his past into one of the finest charitable institutions in Fresno. I urge all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Mike McGavin and the Poverello House many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. SCHIFF

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on October 14, the Greater Cincinnati area lost one of its finest community and business leaders. John J. Schiff, the founder of Cincinnati Financial Corporation, passed away at the age of 82. A devoted family man, he was married to Mary Reid Schiff for 50 years and had three children. His business achievements and philanthropic acts left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him, on the insurance industry, and on the entire Cincinnati community.

Mr. Schiff epitomized the American dream and embodied the idea that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible. What began as a small business which employed only Mr. Schiff and an assistant, grew into a thriving company of 2,700 employees with yearly earnings of \$300 million.

Mr. Schiff was born in Cincinnati in 1916 and graduated from Ohio State University in 1938. After returning home from valiantly serving his country in the Navy during World War II, he founded his own company, the John J. Schiff Agency. It was then that he began to visualize a better, stronger, company.

With personal relationships, an unwavering work ethic, and intense loyalty serving as the foundation, he and his brother Robert, along with two other investors, formed the Cincinnati Insurance Company. The company focused on selecting the best agents to represent the company, and provided them with the highest level of service and support. He was dedicated to making life better for his associates, agents, community, policy holders, investors, and friends.

Mr. Schiff's business savvy was second only to his unwavering philanthropic efforts to better his community. He was dedicated to civic, educational, and artistic endeavors. Many organizations benefited from his zeal, including: the Museum Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Music Hall Association, the 1788 Club, Deaconess Hospital, the Salvation Army, and Shiloh Community Methodist Church, just to name a few. He was very active with his Alma Mater, Ohio State. He was recognized as a Great Cincinnati by the Chamber of Commerce, Man of the Year by the Insurance Board, and was presented the Founders' Day award by Xavier University, where he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Mr. Schiff's success is proof positive to all of us that with hard work, dedication and a strong will to succeed we can attain almost any goal we strive for.

TRIBUTE TO OWNER-OPERATED
INDEPENDENT DRIVER ASSOCIATION
AND PRESIDENT JIM JOHNSTON

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the Owner-Operator Independent Driver Association (OIDA)

represents over 40,000 small business professional truckers across America. On October 9, OOIDA celebrated 25 years of service at the grand opening of their new headquarters in Grain Valley, Missouri.

I would like to submit the following speech, which was delivered before the celebration by OOIDA Secretary Robert E. Esler, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This speech is a special tribute to recognize the hard work and dedication of OOIDA President Jim Johnston.

HELP!!! . . . This was the cry that was being heard from the East Coast to the West Coast. From the Northern border to the Southern border the sound resonated throughout the land. WE NEED HELP. Owner-operators, independents, and truckers in general were fed up with the way things were going in the early seventies. Fuel prices were escalating. Taxes were soaring. Rates were not keeping up with the ever-increasing costs. Government rules and regulations were becoming more and more unbearable. What can we do was the cry. Something has to be done. We can not continue on under these circumstances.

For as many questions there seemed to be as many answers. Owner-operator groups were springing up everywhere, each with their own agenda. Each group was sure that they could get immediate solutions to their specific problems. Either by public demonstrations or, as simple as it seemed, by calling on their local legislators. Surely, after bringing attention to their plight, the powers that be would see how wronged and mistreated they were and as if by magic make their problems go away. Oh how wrong they were. There were many pitfalls on the road ahead.

One such group was formed in 1973. This group went through some rough times getting organized. Trying to get a bunch of disgruntled truckers to agree on anything was like getting three lawyers to share the same viewpoint; it ain't going to happen. After a couple of years of floundering it became evident that they lacked an essential ingredient, leadership. Sure there were people elected to be leaders but none seemed up to the task. It got so bad that no one wanted to be in charge and lead. This is where the right man was at the right place at the right time. One man stood up and faced the challenge.

It was his vision that Owner-Operators should be treated as equals in the trucking industry. Not only from a governmental view point but also from the Motor Carrier industry as well. This became his focus and thus became his mantle. He has been able to do what no other person has done. And that is, take a group of owner-operators that were on a course to nowhere and turn them around. His leadership has enabled them to chart a course that has taken them to a position of being the largest, longest running, and most successful owner-operator group to date.

Where do such leaders come from? They come from the midst of our ranks. They have the unique ability to recognize a need, the vision to see a solution and the persistence to overcome obstacles. Each has a different style of leadership but they all have one specific element, focus. Focus on the job until it gets done. And without question they will all tell you the job never gets done. There is always a new task to face.

Such is a man named Jim Johnston who, nearly twenty-five years ago took a job nobody wanted. He faced the challenge. And, through years of dedication and hard work dramatically changed the course of events that now places the owner-operator on a level-playing field with all segments of the trucking industry.

On behalf of the Members, Board of Directors, and Staff of Owner-Operator Independ-

ent Drivers Association I would like to say, "Jim we all look forward to the next twenty-five years. Thanks for being the right man at the right place at the right time."

THANK YOU RAY AND JUDY
DANNER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to congratulate and express my appreciation to Ray and Judy Danner for their service to the people of Tennessee.

Forty years ago, Ray Danner came to Tennessee from Louisville, Kentucky to open a Shoney's Franchise in Nashville. During the next thirty years Ray grew Shoney's into one of the largest and most successful restaurant chains in our country's history.

Almost twenty-five years ago Ray was joined in marriage with Judy Danner. Together they have made unlimited contributions to the cultural, educational, and social fabric of their community.

In 1987, Ray retired from Shoney's and started the Danner Company, an investment and management firm. In a scant ten years, his venture has spawned more than forty companies, with over four thousand total employees worldwide and gross revenues in excess of five hundred million dollars.

Ray and Judy Danner represent the best of what our country has to offer. They firmly believe in the value of hard work, a loving family, a dedication to their community and a faith in God.

It is a pleasure to join their many friends in recognizing Ray and Judy Danner's service to Tennessee and I wish them the best in the years to come.

UAB RECOGNIZED AMONG
AMERICA'S BEST HOSPITALS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the University of Alabama at Birmingham is one of our Nation's premiere medical research universities, and one that I am proud to represent in the Sixth District of Alabama. This institution should be particularly commended for its recognition in U.S. News and World Report's 1998 Guide to America's Best Hospitals.

UAB is recognized as outstanding in five of the sixteen specialties rated by U.S. News and World Report. These specialties are cardiology and cardiac surgery, geriatrics, gynecology, pulmonary disease, and rheumatology. To be named as among the best within these categories out of the Nation's 6,400 hospitals is certainly an outstanding achievement which speaks highly of all the faculty, staff, and employees of UAB. The contributions this institution makes to the Sixth District, the State of Alabama, and people all over the country are highly commendable.

I recognize and honor UAB not only in the five areas acknowledged by U.S. News and

World Report but for all the outstanding contributions made in the areas of medicine and health care to the community and to the country. Congratulations to all of those at UAB who work daily to improve the lives and health of Americans.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, we are poised on the brink of a historic vote to help millions of our persecuted brothers and sisters of faith around the world. The words of our first President George Washington ring out across the years, as if written to us for this day: "I beg you will be persuaded that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny and every species of religious persecution."

Yesterday, with historic unity and courage, the Senate voted 98 to 0 stand against the horrors of religious persecution. I rise now, after more than a year of work on this bill, in heartfelt support for the International Religious Freedom Act. Let us finish the job. With one voice let us tell religious believers around the world that we have heard their cries and seen their suffering. And let us with one voice tell persecuting regimes around the world that we will not be silent, and that we will not let their crimes go unchecked.

Even as we speak, there are those suffering torture, imprisonment, rape, murder, merely because they seek to peacefully practice their faith. The International Religious Freedom Act creates a comprehensive and responsible structure for responding to that persecution. It is consistent with international and U.S. human rights law. It has many long-term avenues for change. The only option it does not allow is silence.

I commend my Senate colleagues DON NICKLES, who sponsored and provided such great leadership on this bill, and Senators JOE LIEBERMAN, CONNIE MACK, DAN COATS, and others, as well as all the staff who worked so hard. I commend my colleague FRANK WOLF and his staff Anne Huiskes for their hard work on the bill that laid such strong groundwork for this bill today.

What is so remarkable about this bill is its bipartisan nature. I know just how bipartisan it was, because my staff Laura Bryant was one of the principal drafters of this bill, together with my colleague from the other side of the aisle TOM DELAY's staff Will Inboden. They worked together for over a year with the staff of other Senators who share a deep commitment to freedom of religion, from both sides of the aisle, including John Hanford, Steve Moffitt, Elaine Petty, Jim Jatras, Cecile Shea, Pam Sellars, and many others.

My friend Senator COATS cautioned this morning, after the overwhelming vote, that we must not think this was easy. And it was not. There were many long hours, weeks and months of negotiations, not only within the Congress, but with the Administration and with religious and other groups. I want to commend