

important life skills necessary to succeed, she has provided a tremendous service to society as a whole. Her legacy is written in the students she supported and provided for, and that legacy is immeasurable.

She could not have made such a tremendous impact and achieved her great accomplishments without the support of her family including her loving husband, Brian, and her daughter Shannon. While Shelley has retired from teaching, she continues her steadfast mission to improve her community by remaining active with Hospice, the Literacy Council and numerous other nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Shelley Kennedy has reached out to students with unique challenges and has motivated countless individuals to pursue a better and brighter future. We wish her all the best, and give her a heartfelt thank you. I ask you, and all of my colleagues, to join me in commending her outstanding accomplishments and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY DYER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a dear friend of mine, Jerry Dyer.

Jerry was a devoted and loving husband, father, son, brother and friend. His love was unconditional, just because you were there. He had his priorities in order. He was a good businessman but he knew that was not at the top of the list.

He always greeted life and business with great good humor. He enriched every life he touched, especially children. Jerry was a good citizen, and it is appropriate that he was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by his community. It is the highest honor to be recognized by your friends and neighbors.

I will always remember two stories Jerry loved to tell on himself. One about a man in Gillett that he loaned some money to buy some cows. The man bought the cows and they got out of the pasture one night, onto the highway and were destroyed by a truck. The man come in the bank the next morning and walked into Jerry's office and said "banker they done run over our collateral." Jerry just laughed his special chuckle and said "well let's see what we can do."

Jerry always worked hard to make his community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. We had been working together to improve main street in Gillett and one of the towns "characters" named "Doc" purchased a vacant lot right in the middle of the business section of the street and put a rather dilapidated trailer there. Then he took the bath tub out of the trailer and set it in the front yard. Every one that drove by saw this. Doc was in the bank one day and Jerry, in his diplomatic way said to Doc (part of Doc's charm was lack of personal hygiene) ; "Doc what are you going to do with your bath tub?" Doc says, "I need that space to store my spare tires in, but if I was going to take a bath, I would want a bigger tub than that."

Again Jerry just laughed and started trying to improve things in another way.

My friend Jim Ed Wampler said it best and it is the way we describe our very best in the wonderful place we call home, "he was a good man."

I think that says it all.

HONORING MADELEINE APPEL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Madeleine Appel, who is this year's recipient of the Houston Chapter of The American Jewish Committee's Helene Susman Woman of Prominence Award. Helene Susman was a widowed mother of two who became the first woman from Texas admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. When she died in 1978, she left a legacy of a commitment of Judaism, a belief in the importance of contributing to the community, and the need for individuals to act responsibly and with integrity at all times.

Madeleine Appel has demonstrated her commitment to her profession, community, and family in such a manner as to distinguish herself as a role model for other women to follow.

Madeleine Appel presently serves as Division Manager Administration in the City Controller's Office for the City of Houston. Her work experience with the City of Houston has included a number of positions: Administrator/Senior Council Aide, Mayor Pro-Tem Office Houston City Council from 1996-1997; Senior Council Aide, Houston City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley 1980-1995; and Administrator, Election Central, ICOSA, Rice University.

She began her career as a journalist working as an Assistant Women's Editor and Reporter at The Corpus Christi Caller and Times. Additionally, she worked as the Women's Editor and Assistant Editor for The Insider's Newsletter and as a reporter for The Houston Chronicle where she won the "Headliners Award." She received her B.A. from Smith College in political science and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Madeleine Appel's community involvement includes Scenic America, League of Women Voters of Texas and the United States, Houston Achievement Place, Jewish Family Service, League of Women Voters of Houston, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston Architecture Foundation, American Jewish Committee, City of Houston Affirmative Action Commission, and Leadership Houston Class XII.

Madeleine Appel has been married for 36 years to Dr. Michael F. Appel and she is the proud mother of two sons and two daughters-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madeleine Appel for her service to her community and to Houston. She is the best of public servants and an inspiration to others who want to engage in public service.

A BILL TO PERMANENTLY EXTEND THE WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT AND MAKE CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, together with a number of other colleagues, in introducing our bill, The Work Opportunity Tax Credit Reform and Improvement Act of 1999. The bill would permanently extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and make other changes discussed below.

After a number of improvements over the past few years, the program is being well received in providing employment, with training, for our disadvantaged. We believe the WOTC and Welfare to Work Credit (WTWC) programs have been very important in helping individuals become employed and make the transition from welfare to work. Such training can be costly and the credits provide an incentive to employers to hire the disadvantaged and provide the needed training while offsetting costs associated with the latter effort.

Of course, many believe that the program would be even more successful if it could be extended indefinitely. Employers, both large and small, could depend on the program and would be more likely to seek out potentially qualified employees. That change would benefit everyone.

We have proposed several other changes in the bill which would streamline and simplify the program. First, the Welfare to Work Credit program would be merged into WOTC, by establishing an additional category for WTWC. The separate Section 51A for WTWC would be repealed.

The bill would also standardize the definition of wages based on the current law WTWC definition. This change broadens the definition by including benefits paid to the employee. The bill would also apply the same 40% credit rate for both the WOTC categories (first year wages of \$6,000) and for the WTWC category (first and second year wages of \$10,000) in the interests of simplification.

Lastly, the bill would add "Section 501(c)(3)" organizations as a qualifying employer. The credit would be treated as an offset against employment tax liabilities otherwise due. It is believed that these organizations could hire and train many of the disadvantaged, and the credit would provide an incentive for such organizations to seek out these individuals. This provision would add a new avenue for moving individuals from welfare to work. Because this is a new change to the program, even though included in proposed legislation in the past, it is being proposed as a three year pilot project. This period will allow a period of time to determine if this feature of the overall WOTC program is effective and produces the desired result.

We urge our colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring this important legislation to extend and improve the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program.