

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK TEXAS FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF KILLEEN AND BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the First National Bank Texas for 100 years of service to the people of Killeen and Bell County.

Originally known as the First National Bank of Killeen, it was organized with capital stock of \$25,000 on Feb. 27, 1901.

It has provided uninterrupted service to Central Texans through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the construction of Fort Hood, the Cold War, 18 U.S. Presidents and the dawn of a new millennium. The bank also has been a trendsetter: the city's first elevator was located in its lobby in the 1960s and the bank introduced the first automated teller machine to the area in the 1970s. The bank continues to innovate in the areas of retail and Internet banking.

Today, February 27, 2001, the bank, now known as First National Bank Texas, will celebrate its 100th year anniversary with a community-wide celebration.

The bank, the oldest bank in Bell County, has had its ups-and-downs but ultimately it has flourished over the years. It now employs more than 1,100 Texans across the state, with 690 in Bell County. The bank is one of the largest nongovernmental employers in the area. Modern reminders of early bank leaders C.R. Clements and Will Rancier are with us today in the form of the C.R. Clements Boys and Girls Club and Rancier Avenue.

I ask Members to join me in offering congratulations to the First National Bank Texas on a century of growth and service to Central Texas families and businesses.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SSI MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2001

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, many States have decided to increase the amount of money welfare recipients can earn before their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit is reduced. This strategy produces two very beneficial effects: It rewards and promotes employment and it helps working families escape poverty. Unfortunately, the primary Federal program that helps low-income disabled and elderly Americans has not pursued a similar strategy. In fact, the income exclusions for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program have been frozen in time for nearly thirty years.

In 1972, a general income exclusion (GIE) for SSI was set at \$20 a month, meaning the first \$20 of outside income did not count dollar for dollar against the SSI benefit amount, which is currently \$530 a month for an individual. This GIE is usually applied to Social Security income, which of course is based on

past employment. In addition, an earned income exclusion was also established in 1972 to allow a disregard of the first \$65 a month, plus half of the remaining earnings. Neither of these provisions, which reward past and current work efforts, have been increased in the past three decades. If they had kept pace with inflation over that time period, the GIE would be worth \$80 a month and the earned income exclusion would be set at \$260 a month.

I am introducing the SSI Modernization Act to reduce these work disincentives, as well as to decrease obstacles to saving and pursuing an education. The bill would increase the GIE to \$40 a month and the earned income exclusion to \$130 a month, and then index those amounts to inflation in future years. To encourage individuals to save for their future, the bill also would increase the SSI asset limit from \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple to \$3,000 for an individual and \$4,500 for a couple. Furthermore, the legislation would increase the disregard level for small amounts of income received on an irregular basis, and it would simplify the treatment of educational grants and scholarships under SSI income and asset rules. Finally, the bill would postpone eligibility redeterminations for SSI recipients turning 18 years of age, if they are attending a secondary school and are under the age of 21. This last provision recognizes that applying a work-based eligibility standard (under which adults are considered) is not appropriate for a disabled youth still attending high school.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this effort to update the SSI program and to increase incentives for working, saving and pursuing an education. Having waited almost thirty years to address many of these issues, we cannot afford to wait any longer to reward work and to improve the quality of life for our Nation's disabled and elderly.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING REPRESENTATIVE NANCY HOLLISTER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas, Representative Hollister will serve as vice-chairwoman of the House Energy, and Environment Committee.

Whereas, Representative Hollister has been named to two other committees—Public Utilities, and Retirement and Aging.

Whereas, Representative Hollister has continuously demonstrated her commitment and love for her family, her community and her country, I am honored to call her a friend.

TRIBUTE TO REABER NELL LUCAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, although death is a part of life, often times it becomes difficult to accept. Last week, Ms.

Reaber Lucas, a dear friend of mine, passed away. Ms. Lucas was born on July 4th, 1946 in Amite County, MS to Willie, Sr. and Ora Lee Wesley Harden Lucas, who both preceded her in death.

Reaber graduated from Bettye Mae Jack High School in Morton, MS and attended Milwaukee Area Technical College where she studied Social Work. Later she attended Jackson State University majoring in Accounting. Utilizing her background in Accounting and Social Work, Reaber served as Branch Director, Division of Community Services for the State of Mississippi Department of Human Services, until her retirement in 1997. Reaber thoroughly enjoyed serving as a community activist as an active member of the Hinds County Federation of Democratic Women and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Reaber devoted her life to Christ at an early age, and joined Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Meadville, MS. After the family moved to Morton, MS, she joined Christian Triumph Missionary Baptist Church. While Reaber lived in Milwaukee, WI, she became a member of St. Matthews Methodist Church. After relocating to Jackson, MS, she continued to be faithful to God and became a member of New Hope Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Jerry Young, where she continued to serve until her death.

One of the many attributes Reaber possessed, was her ability to empower and organize. Reaber's energetic work ethic and responsibility to her community was the primary reason for many of the African-American elected officials, myself included, currently representing Jackson, Mississippi. Reaber believed that African-Americans should have a voice and the only way to insure that was to help them exercise their right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, it's only fitting that I recognized Ms. Lucas during Black History Month. Without her assistance, I can't be certain that I would be here today as a Member of Congress. Reaber was an asset to her family, community, city and state. She will be truly missed.

A TRIBUTE TO NASA EMPLOYEES AT MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the NASA employees and contractors at Marshall Space Flight Center for their role in the successful delivery of NASA's Destiny Laboratory Module, the second of the U.S. pressurized modules, to the International Space Station. I am proud to say that the extremely talented men and women of the Boeing Company built Destiny in my district at the Marshall Space Flight Center. This includes the successful design, development, assembly, integration, and testing of Destiny, as well as its delivery to Kennedy Space Center in November 1998.

The Destiny Laboratory, the long-awaited centerpiece of the Space Station, will allow the United States and its international partners to perform fundamental science experiments

around-the-clock in the microgravity environment of space. This state-of-the-art module has a capacity of 24 rack locations, of which 13 are especially designed to support important scientific research. Once these racks arrive on later Shuttle flights, scientists can begin fundamental long-term research in space that can help improve the quality of human life back on Earth. Some of the first experiments will focus on the growth of proteins in the absence of the effects of gravity, hopefully leading to a better understanding of the true structure of harmful viruses that develop under strong gravitational effects on Earth. The Station will also allow researchers to study how the human body is affected by long-term exposure to the low-gravity environment of space, which is a crucial first step in establishing a human presence elsewhere in our solar system.

Mr. Speaker, while *Destiny* is primarily intended to be the key U.S. science facility on board Station, the addition of this engineering marvel to the current Space Station configuration on-orbit will also expand the Station's power, life support, and attitude control capabilities. It will enable the transfer of flight control responsibilities from the Russians to NASA personnel, providing command and control capability for NASA's Mission Control in Houston. The Station had been under Russian command and control since the launch of the Russian-built *Zarya* Module in November 1998. The addition of the *Destiny* Laboratory, which is 28 feet in length and 14 feet in diameter, will also give Station occupants more habitable space than was available aboard *SkyLab* or *Mir*.

The launch of *Destiny* now allows NASA to focus on providing other high priority capabilities necessary to complete the ISS. One of these capabilities will be provided by the U.S. Propulsion System, and is necessary to eliminate our dependence on the propulsion systems on board the Russian Service Module and the regular launch of Russian Progress vehicles. It is also time for NASA to aggressively move forward with the U.S. Habitation Module, which would provide safe living quarters for the full complement of seven Station inhabitants. This is the module that will provide for the crew and enable a full vigorous science research program to bring about the expected return on the taxpayer's investment in this unique national resource. Mr. Speaker, the Habitation Module and much of the Propulsion System will be built at the Marshall Space Flight Center by Boeing—the same highly skilled team that also constructed the U.S. Unity node—and therefore I believe they will be in good hands.

Mr. Speaker, North Alabama has a long heritage of spacecraft construction, starting with the rockets that placed men in Earth orbit and eventually on the Moon. I am proud to congratulate the world-class Space Station team in North Alabama for continuing this proud heritage of excellence with the development of the *Destiny* Laboratory Module. I expect it to be one of the highlights of this year's space program.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE MUST APPLY TO PENTAGON ALSO

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, in an area where we talk about our military budgets in almost unbounded terms—whether it's the hundreds of billions of dollars of accounting entries in Pentagon books that can't be supported, or the multiple billions of dollars that Congress added to the Pentagon's coffers in recent years beyond what the administration requested—it's easy to lose any sense of scale about this spending or the sacrifices we make for such largess. Therefore, I submit into the RECORD the following piece by John Isaacs, President of the Council for a Livable World and one of the most thoughtful voices in America on the subject of rational national security spending.

PENTAGON UPSET WITH \$14 BILLION BOOST (By John Isaacs)

President George W. Bush's recent decision to use the Clinton Administration's defense budget request for fiscal 2002 has set off a wave of criticism. Big defense spenders are angry that the \$310 billion request for Department of Defense programs is only a \$14 billion increase from last year's budget. Only in Washington would a \$14 billion raise be considered "paltry." To put it in perspective here are some comparisons:

How much is 414 billion?

It's more than the defense budgets of all the state of concern—Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, Sudan and Syria combined (\$12.8 billion).

It's greater than total federal spending on law enforcement activities including the FBI, DEA and the INS (\$13.6 billion). President Bush just announced he will cut the Justice Department budget by one billion dollars.

It's equal to the entire budget of the U.S. Treasury Department.

It's more than the federal government spends on higher education (\$13.8 billion).

It's almost as much as the non-military international affairs budget (\$15 billion).

It's equal to all federal government expenditures on water resources, conservation and land management, and recreational resources combined (\$14.3 billion).

It's greater than the Gross Domestic Products of 40 individual nations including: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Angola, Estonia, Chad, Cambodia, Niger, Madagascar, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, Qatar and Papua New Guinea.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF CAROLINE MULLEN AND CARLOS ESPINOSA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Caroline and Carlos are to be united in marriage;

Whereas, they will declare their love before God, family and friends;

Whereas, this momentous day will begin their years of sharing, loving and working together;

Whereas, may Caroline and Carlos be blessed with all the happiness and love that two people can share and may their love grow with each passing year;

Whereas, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Caroline and Carlos on their recent engagement. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Caroline and Carlos many years of happiness together.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE TOWN OF HAD- LEY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the town of Hadley, New York, February 27, 2001.

I have always been proud of the heritage and physical beauty of the 22nd Congressional district of New York which I have the privilege to represent. To savor the history and character of the picturesque towns in the Hudson Valley and Adirondack Mountains is the reason that I return home every weekend.

We often forget that the real America is the small towns and villages that are rich in pride and culture, and not the bustle of Washington. It is these small towns and villages where the great traditions of this country were founded. I would like to talk about one of these great towns today.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Hadley, New York in Saratoga County will be commemorating 200 years of existence since they separated from the nearby towns of Greenfield and Northumberland back in 1801. Hadley is one of the many beautiful river towns that we have in New York State. Located at the southern gateway to the Adirondacks and where the Sacandaga River meets the Hudson River, Hadley has endured many transformations.

Like so many of the small river towns, Hadley has seen the rise and fall of the mills. Hadley has been transformed from a mill town to a power source with two dams located inside of the township providing electricity for many New York State residents. Even though many things have changed there, like everywhere else, there is something that still remains an unmistakable part of the town's character. That is the distinct small town charm and the good citizens of Hadley. This can be seen throughout all areas of the town, including the churches, the fire department, and the fields where children play and farmers work. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the neighborly hospitality is one thing that thankfully hasn't changed in Hadley. The pride and values of the citizenry is one of the most admired traits of small towns, not only in New York's 22nd district, but throughout America.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the 1628 citizens of Hadley for their commitment to their values and their hard work in organizing a celebration of their heritage. I offer a full written history of the Town of Hadley that I am submitting into the RECORD. therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride to ask all members of the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the citizens of Hadley on the towns' 200th birthday and also in wishing them many more years of good fortune.