

Following his tenure at HUD, he worked to formulate training programs for managers of government-assisted housing and certifications for managers of elderly housing programs, as the founding president of National Center for Housing Management, created by presidential executive order. His longtime work, commitment and expertise in the area of equal housing initiatives and home ownership for all Americans, was recognized with his election to the board of directors of Fannie Mae.

Samuel J. Simmons's service to this nation began decades ago, when he worked with the Detroit NAACP and Michigan State labor and employment groups while our nation was beginning to address the injustice and inequality that African-Americans faced in the workplace. When he arrived in Washington, he brought energy and determination to the Post Office Department, where he fought for fair appeals procedures that would adequately address the grievance and advancement issues of minorities. For his hard work and results produced, he received a Meritorious Service Award.

Samuel J. Simmons spent his lifetime selflessly working to improve the access that the most vulnerable Americans have to employment, housing and affordable healthcare, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CLEMENTINE
WRENN ODOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mrs. Clementine Wrenn Odom is often referred to as "The Tax Lady," because in the late 1940's she began to help farmers with their income tax filings and soon found herself in the tax business. For her services, a farmer would often give her ham, bacon, vegetables or other perishable items. She received so much that she purchased a freezer! When asked what she charged, her reply was usually "whatever you can afford to give me" and to this day she has served four generations of families.

She was born February 15, 1916 in Smithfield, Virginia to Fred Douglas and Norma Whitehead Wrenn. Although formal education for African-Americans ended after 6th grade, she attended boarding school in North Carolina and then went on to attend Virginia Union University and graduated from Virginia State College. Her teaching career came to an end when she married Mr. Woodrow Odom, a Hampton Institute graduate who came to Isle of Wight County as an agricultural extension agent. In 1960, Mrs. Odom accompanied her husband to Ghana, West Africa where he was Extension Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture.

She established the first Head Start Center in Isle of Wight County, Virginia and neighboring counties. She taught in a one-room school for 12 years in Surry County, Virginia until 1937 and never let a child's need go unmet. When the African-American students at the school wanted to form a band, she went to the music director at Virginia State College for guidance and organized the fundraisers and got several of the instruments donated.

Mrs. Odom is an accomplished musician and mastered the piano and pipe organ at an

early age. She taught piano lessons in her home and was organist and director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including Woman of the Year (twice) and the "Pinnacle of Success" award; but she still considers her family her greatest achievement.

She has three daughters and a son, ten grandchildren (one deceased) and one great-granddaughter. Her children and eight of the nine grandchildren are college graduates, several with advanced degrees.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all my colleagues today will join me in paying special tribute to not only an everyday ordinary woman, but also a woman who has done extraordinary things in her time! I yield back the balance of my time.

SMALLPOX VACCINE COMPENSA-
TION AND SAFETY ACT OF 2003

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative WAXMAN in co-sponsoring the "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003".

The smallpox vaccine helps the body develop immunity to smallpox. The vaccine is made from a virus called vaccinia which is a "pox"-type virus related to smallpox. The smallpox vaccine contains the "live" vaccinia virus—not dead virus like many other vaccines. For that reason, the vaccination site must be cared for carefully to prevent the virus from spreading. Also, the vaccine can have side effects such as fever and body aches to much more serious and life-threatening side effects. People most likely to have serious side effects are: people who have or had skin conditions (especially eczema or atopic dermatitis) and people with weakened immune systems, such as those who have received a transplant, are HIV positive, are receiving treatment for cancer, or are currently taking medications, such as steroids, that suppress the immune system. In addition, pregnant women should not get the vaccine because of the risk it poses to the fetus. Women who are breastfeeding should not get the vaccine. In the past, between 14 and 52 people out of every 1 million people vaccinated for the first time experienced potentially life-threatening reactions to the vaccine. It is estimated that 1 or 2 people in 1 million who receive the vaccine may die as a result. Careful screening of potential vaccine recipients is essential to ensure that those at increased risk do not receive the vaccine.

The Administration's smallpox vaccination program began on January 24, 2003 with a much lower participation than expected and lower than is needed to adequately protect our nation against a bioterrorist threat. The low participation rate is due to the Bush Administration's failure to create a compensation program for the health care workers who will be injured by the smallpox vaccine. The Institute of Medicine reported that the lack of a compensation program could seriously impact the program's goal of increasing terrorism preparedness in the United States. The Adminis-

tration has included protection for the vaccine manufactures and hospitals but seems to have forgotten the people who could suffer the most—the volunteers who are performing their patriotic duty by volunteering to participate in the vaccination program.

We need legislation which includes funding to states to provide for education, screening, medical surveillance, and treatment; protection against discrimination in the workplace, and compensation for those harmed by adverse reactions. The "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003" creates a no-fault compensation program modeled on the existing childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. This program has been extremely beneficial in providing compensation to the families and children who have been injured or suffered by routine vaccination. Smallpox vaccine compensation will cover the people vaccinated or who are injured by coming into contact with someone who has recently been vaccinated for their unreimbursed medical expenses and lost wages.

In addition the "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003" will establish state grants to help with the costs of a safe vaccination program which includes pre-screening, education, follow-up care, and health care for people experiencing side-effects. This legislation would provide medical leave for health care workers and first responders who get sick from the smallpox vaccine and will make it unlawful to discriminate against workers who opt not to participate in the vaccination program.

The "Smallpox Vaccine Compensation and Safety Act of 2003" will help to establish a safer vaccination program and provide a safety-net for the inevitable injuries due to vaccination. Ultimately, this should enhance participation in the Smallpox Vaccination Program and help reach the goal of preparedness against a bioterrorist smallpox threat.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER L. REISHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I honor Roger L. Reisher of Lakewood, Colorado. Mr. Reisher's entrepreneurial endeavors and ambitious goals led him to found FirstBank forty years ago, creating the largest banking organization in Colorado. His ambitions to succeed, and his community involvement, have made Roger a valuable asset to the Lakewood community.

Roger was one of seven children, and became the first person in his family to attend college. He graduated from the University of Colorado with aid from the GI Bill, after serving in the Army. After gaining some experience in banking, Roger moved to Lakewood and eagerly began a new endeavor in 1963 when he opened First Westland National Bank. His business has created positions for 2,000 employees at over 100 offices, making a difference in their lives as well.

In 1988, Roger's colleagues created the FirstBank Scholars program at CU. This program has created an endowment of over \$1.6 million that is funded by FirstBank employees