

programs. It opened the doors of opportunity to women throughout the United States and spurred women across the world to fight for similar laws in their home countries.

She was the first woman appointed to the Detroit Recorder's Court, the first woman sent to Congress from her district, the first woman seated on the House Ways and Means Committee in 1954 and the first woman chosen to serve as Michigan's Lieutenant Governor. As the first woman and the first African-American to ever represent the Dallas, TX area in Congress, I have learned a great deal from her empathetic approach to public policy and political leadership. She never forgot that the bills we considered and the policies we crafted affected real people with real families. She always considered how a bill might affect our community's most disadvantaged families.

Martha's greatest legislative victory came when she engineered the inclusion of a ban on sex discrimination in the landmark 1964 civil rights legislation, which paved the way for a number of laws and Supreme Court rulings on issues ranging from equal pay to freedom from sexual harassment.

She displayed considerable political savvy in 1970 when she employed a little-known parliamentary tactic to blast the ERA out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it had been stalled for 47 years.

As a legislator, I admire Martha Griffiths. She earned the respect of her colleagues for both her intelligence and independence; they have described her as "tough as alligator skin" with "a steel-trap mind."

Mr. Speaker, Representative Martha Griffiths has been a clear, strong and consistent voice for women and women's issues. I am proud to stand here in honor of Martha Griffiths and her legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDDIE
VALENTINELLI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to the life and passing of Eddie Valentinelli of Grand Junction, Colorado. Eddie's passion for life was reflected in the time and effort that he devoted to the Junior College World Series (JUCO). As his family and friends mourn his loss, I would like to commend Eddie for his enthusiasm for the game and pay tribute to the impact that he had on his community.

Eddie attended every JUCO World Series game from the time the series began in 1958. He arrived at the ballpark at 5 a.m. every Saturday to help the grounds crew, loving to socialize with the players and coaches throughout the day. Fans have noted that the series would not be the same without Eddie's presence in his usual seat. Eddie's dedication to JUCO has extended beyond his own lifetime, as he had made the JUCO World Series Organization a major benefactor in his will. While the financial benefit from his contribution was welcomed, the sentimental value of the gesture is what individuals associated with JUCO will always remember.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to Ed-

die's dedication and commitment to his fellow Coloradans. Individuals like Eddie provide the strength of spirit and character that make this nation great. While he will be dearly missed, Eddie's spirit will live on through the lives of those whom he has touched. I extend my deepest sympathies to Eddie's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING MISS LUCILE BLUFORD
UPON HER DEATH, PUBLISHER
AND EDITOR OF THE CALL
NEWSPAPER

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mrs. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise today to honor Miss Lucile Bluford, editor and publisher of The Call newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri. Miss Bluford passed away Friday, June 13. She had been an employee of The Call for 71 years and editor/publisher since 1955. She would have been 92 years young this July 1.

Miss Bluford, as she was known by everyone, was a trail blazer and pioneer for civil rights and equality for African-Americans. She fought both personally and professionally to end segregation and advance opportunities for our community. Through her fight to access graduate journalism school for herself and other minorities and her leadership in the civil rights and journalism communities, Miss Bluford left an enduring mark in her advocacy for equality.

Miss Bluford graduated from the University of Kansas School of Journalism in 1932 and joined The Call shortly thereafter as a reporter. In 1938, she filed a mandamus suit against the University of Missouri Graduate School of Journalism for being denied admittance because of her color. Miss Bluford wrote and fought for racial and social justice ever since. She reported about the plight of those unfortunate enough to help themselves, the poor and disenfranchised. Miss Bluford had an effect on making our community and nation better aware of the inequalities existing.

Miss Bluford had the ear of those who were wealthy and those who were not, and conversed with the common citizen or those of stature. I met with Lucile many times and I always treasured her company and conversation. I invariably would leave with a much more valuable insight on the issues of the day as well as the rich history she lived—especially her struggles in the civil rights movement.

Miss Bluford's leadership and accomplishments have been recognized on numerous occasions, including receiving the Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri. Last fall she was honored by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce as "Kansas Citian of the Year for 2002." Awards she received throughout her career include the Distinguished Service Award from the national NAACP, an Honorary Doctorate degree from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Martin Luther King Award, University of Missouri Distinguished Service Medal of Honor, and the Rec-

ognition Award for Unsurpassed and Dedicated Service to the Community by the Northwest Missouri Division of the African Methodist and Episcopal Church.

One of the honors she cherished most was the University of Kansas establishment of the Lucile H. Bluford Scholarship Fund for students interested in studying journalism. This lasting legacy to Miss Bluford will provide future generations with the opportunity to fulfill their dream of journalism.

Miss Bluford has been recognized for her service to our community and nation. She had served as a juror Pulitzer Prize for Journalism, was a member of the National Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and had been selected to make a trip to Israel in 1972 with a group of American newspaper editors. Miss Bluford served on the Governor's Committee for "Jobs for Missourians," was a board member and Secretary of the Missouri Commission of Human Rights from 1957 to 1969, and served on the Governor's Task Force on the role of Private Higher Education in Missouri. She served on local boards of United Way, NAACP, Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention, Kansas City Cancer Society, Kansas City Area Hospital Association, Model Cities Day Care Corporation, Legal Aid and Defender Society, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City Cockeair Chair Board of Directors.

As publisher and editor of The Call newspaper, she elevated the awareness of the African-American community in relation to its role in the broader majority society. Miss Bluford was a dedicated journalist from her humble beginnings as a reporter to the position of publisher and editor—she never forgot her roots. I fondly remember how she would dutifully take notes on her reporter's pad with her ever present red pen. As a role model and a journalist, I remember Miss Bluford for her fairness and unassuming manner. She was never one to seek out the spotlight or glory. She spoke her mind to the powerful and stood by her beliefs without hesitation.

Miss Bluford has been an inspiration to me. Her dedication and commitment to public service served as an example to all of us who work to make our community better. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring her for her service to our community and the nation.

Miss Bluford can never be replaced, but her ideals and principals will remain as a fundamental foundation for our community. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family members, co-workers, and friends. All of our lives are richer for having known Miss Lucile H. Bluford.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATION-
WIDE GUN BUYBACK ACT OF 2003

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am encouraged to introduce the Nationwide Gun Buyback Act of 2003, NGBA, by the actions of the District of Columbia residents on Father's Day last Sunday. Citizens who had lost relatives and representatives of 20 advocacy and victim-support groups gathered at Freedom

Plaza, a stone's throw from the White House, to declare their own moratorium on murder for the Father's Day weekend.

Not only did their moratorium have important symbolic value; in fact there was only one murder last weekend. Of primary importance was the fact that the moratorium was symbolic and entirely citizen initiated. Residents themselves must take responsibility for crime and not regard criminal activity as a matter for the police alone. I am pleased that the D.C. Council and the Mayor responded with a resolution supporting the moratorium, but the event got its importance from its origin with residents. The moratorium was initiated by Kenneth E. Burnes whose son was murdered in his U Street store and became one of 233 residents killed in 2001. This year's homicide rate is 9 percent ahead of last year's rate. Almost all of the killings here and elsewhere are committed by handguns.

The bill, however, does not conflict with Member's positions on the controversial issue of gun control. The bill would simply allow people who desire to get guns out of their homes to do so without incurring criminal penalties for possession. Families, and especially mothers, have feared guns in their homes, but often do not know how to get rid of them. In most jurisdictions, a grandmother petrified that there is a gun in the house for example, or her grandson, who may possess the illegal weapons cannot turn it in without subjecting herself or her grandson to prosecution. This is reason enough for gun buyback efforts.

Like tax amnesty, gun amnesty puts a premium on the ultimate goal. When the goal is taxes, the government puts a premium on getting the amount owned. When the goal is guns, the premium is on getting deadly weapons off the streets and out of people's homes. This bill is entirely voluntary and does not compel anyone to give up a handgun, even one that is illegally held.

This bill would provide Federal funds to local jurisdictions to engage in gun buyback programs like the successful programs conducted by the District of Columbia a few years ago. Under the bill, funds would be distributed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD. After evaluation of proposals, added weight would be given to jurisdictions with the greatest incidence of gun violence. The NGBA would require that a jurisdiction certify that it is capable of destroying the guns within 30 days, that it can conduct the program safely, and that an amnesty appropriate for the jurisdiction will be offered. Not only individuals, but groups such as gangs could take advantage of the buyback provisions to encourage street gangs to disarm themselves.

This bill is necessary because, despite the extraordinary demonstrated success of the gun buyback program in the District, local jurisdictions have no readily available funds for similar programs. The District was forced to find money on an ad hoc basis and ran out of funds despite residents who still desired to turn in guns. Initially, the District conducted a pilot program using funds from HUD. Confronted with long lines of residents, the Police Department then took the program citywide, using drug asset forfeiture funds. Even so, after using \$290,000, the city ran out of funds, but not of guns, that could have been collected. The guns were a "good buy" but hard-pressed jurisdictions, especially big cities,

should not have to rob Peter to pay Paul when it comes to public safety. The Federal Government can play a unique and noncontroversial role in reducing gun violence by providing the small amount authorized by my bill, \$50 million, to encourage buyback efforts where a local jurisdiction believes they can be helpful.

The Nation's Capital has successfully demonstrated a faster and easier way to put guns under the control of law enforcement where criminals cannot use them and children and adults cannot misuse them. Gun buyback efforts are not new, but the recent, dramatic impact of the District's program has special bipartisan and natural appeal today because the program is voluntary and requires no change in local or Federal gun laws. A gun buyback bill is certainly no substitute for gun safety legislation, but my bill is based on demonstrated and successful experience in a number of cities that have achieved voluntary compliance by citizens with local laws.

The extraordinary success of the buyback programs in the District and around the country has shown that these programs should now be readily available to jurisdictions that desire to use them. In a market economy, efforts to buy back guns have special appeal. We may disagree on the various approaches as to gun violence, but Democrats and Republicans alike can agree to this sensible approach.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE FRIGETTO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress today to recognize the twenty-two years of service that Florence Frigetto has dedicated to the children of Montrose, Colorado. Florence is retiring after having served as the Director of Food Service for the Montrose County School District for the last thirteen years. As we mark her retirement, I would like to commend Florence for the devotion that she has shown to her students over the years.

Florence became the district's food service administrator after making meals from scratch for the local schools for nearly a decade. Florence's co-workers estimate that she has served or supervised nearly thirteen million meals over her career. In her time as a food service administrator, she has focused on maintaining the quality of the food along with its nutritious value. Florence, a respected baker, ensures that all the bread eaten by her students is freshly baked in the school's kitchen.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the contributions Florence Frigetto has made to the health and well being of Colorado's children. Florence will certainly be missed by the children under her care, as well as by her co-workers who have come to know and admire her remarkable dedication. Florence, I wish you all the best in your retirement and thank you for your many years of exemplary service.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JUSTIN SEAMAN OF CLAYSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an exceptional young man from Claysville, Pennsylvania, in my district. Mr. Justin Seaman has recently distinguished himself and has earned several honors as a talented and successful film producer and writer. Justin owns and manages his own film company, Nevermore Production, which has produced two movies that earned tremendous accolades for their powerful themes and serious messages. And while others have won awards for such accomplishments, what is unique about Justin, however, is the fact that he is still in high school. In fact, his projects have struck a chord with his friends and fellow teens, so much so that Justin has enlisted the support of many fellow students at McGuffey High School in producing his work. Films, like one Justin produced about the catastrophic consequences of drinking and driving are changing lives for the better. Using art, Justin is making a real difference in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the example one great young man is setting for teens across Southwestern Pennsylvania. Too often when we in Congress talk about teens, we focus on the negative influences affecting them today: drug addiction, alcohol abuse, teen pregnancies, and on and on. But young men like Justin Seaman are standing up for a generation. They are determined to set the right example and to do it with style. We ought to stop and recognize the positive influences of these young leaders more often in America. Our country is a far better place for being home to such inspiring and responsible young adults as Justin.

Justin's accomplishments have been recognized on a National level. Just last week he was invited to the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts along with hundreds of his peers from across the nation for special recognition. His recognitions include the Robert Morris College TVT Award of Excellence, the Critics Award for Excellence in acting, four national honors at the Scholastic Inc. Art & Writing competition, one gold award for a personal essay, "A Guarantee in Life" and last, but not least, a silver award as well as the American Visions award for his mixed media entry in Scholastic Inc.'s national competition. Justin's list of honors and awards confirms his dedication to furthering excellence in the arts and has rightfully earned him recognition as a leader in the competitive performing arts arena. Justin desires to direct films one day in hopes of reaching the caliber of renowned director, Wes Craven. This coming senior year, Justin has already lined up five films to produce. I have no doubt that Justin's ambition, drive and devotion to the arts will prove fruitful as he continues to pursue his dream of making films. I wish him the best of luck and all the success that his efforts award him and I thank him for being a true role model for teens everywhere across our country.