

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES C. COOK, SR.  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Charles C. Cook, Sr., for his 36 years of exemplary service at the U.S. Government Printing Office, GPO.

Charlie came to the GPO in November 1969 and was assigned as a Compositor in the Monotype Section. In 1978, he was promoted to the position of Printing Specialist in the Composing Division, Office of Superintendent. In June 1979, Charlie was reassigned to the Customer Service Department, Congressional Information Division. It was here that Charlie truly honed his skills serving GPO's congressional customers. Over the years, Charlie worked closely with Senate and House committee staff, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and the Capitol Police on numerous projects. One of the most prestigious of these projects was the Presidential Inauguration. Charlie coordinated all the printing requirements for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the four inaugurations from 1989 to 2001.

In 1993, Charlie was promoted to Superintendent, Congressional Printing Management Division, and in 2004, he was called on by the Public Printer of the United States to serve as Strategic Marketing Officer. He has served in that capacity until his retirement.

On behalf of the entire Congressional community, I extend congratulations to Charlie for his many years of exemplary service to the GPO and the Congress. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
BARBARA BYRD BENNETT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Barbara Byrd Bennett, upon the occasion of her retirement that follows seven years of steadfast service and commitment as Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Municipal School District.

Ms. Bennett was born and raised in Harlem and was educated in the public school system. She graduated high school early at age 16 and earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English from Long Island University at age 19. She earned two Masters degrees, was a Penn Fellow at Columbia University during her doctoral studies and holds several honorary doctoral degrees. Ms. Bennett was an adjunct professor at several New York City universities

and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Cleveland State University.

Her life long professional focus on improving the state of struggling urban school districts is evidenced throughout her profession. Her career in education began in her hometown of New York City, where she taught at the elementary and high school levels. She later served as a school principal and District Administrator and served twice as Superintendent of two of the lowest performing school districts in New York City, Chancellor's District and Crown Heights District in Brooklyn. Her leadership is credited with dramatically improving academic achievement in both of those districts.

Ms. Bennett's tenure in Cleveland parallels that of her work in New York. Chosen as Superintendent of the Cleveland Municipal School District in 1998, she began the monumental task of lifting the Cleveland School District out of its decades-old state of failure and despair. During her tenure, Ms. Bennett implemented policies and programs that served to raise the grade throughout the system, including academic performance, financial stability and the restoration of school classrooms and buildings. Additionally, Ms. Bennett forged vital partnerships with parents, teachers and local and state leaders, thereby fostering an atmosphere of achievement and renewal through a unified effort.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Superintendent Barbara Byrd Bennett, whose leadership, dedication and service on behalf of every child of the Cleveland Municipal School District has become a source of hope and foundation for academic achievement today, and for the future of public education in Cleveland. I wish Ms. Bennett and her family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as she journeys onward from here.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RETIRED  
NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS  
JUDGE MATTHEW J. JASEN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2005, as New York's highest court prepared to sit outside of Albany for the first time in recent memory, I had occasion to recognize the professional career of retired New York State Court of Appeals Judge Matthew Jasen. During that extension of remarks, I was honored to take note of the many personal and professional accomplishments of Judge Jasen, in a manner consistent with the honors bestowed upon him by his successor colleagues on the Court of Appeals that day.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the House's attention to the passing of this great legal giant in New York State. Judge Matthew

J. Jasen entered into his eternal rest on February 4, 2006, at the age of 90.

Without seeking to be repetitive, Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that Judge Jasen was widely regarded as one of the sharpest legal minds of his era. Taking his seat on the Court of Appeals back in the days when that bench was still elected by popular vote statewide, Judge Jasen was the last western New Yorker to serve on the court, and his decisions were widely regarded as fair and impeccably researched. Rising to the position of senior associate judge before his mandated retirement in 1985, Judge Jasen was well known as a lawyer's judge—someone who knew the law, who understood both its limits and its full potential.

Following his retirement, Judge Jasen's career in law—even past his 80th birthday—continued to flourish and become all the more distinguished. His appointment by the United States Supreme Court as a special master to assist in determining the true border between Illinois and Kentucky along the Ohio River is but one example of how this keen legal mind continued its contribution to the jurisprudence of his State and Nation.

This past Sunday's Buffalo News editorialized the career of Judge Jasen, and it is that editorial with which I will close this extension of remarks.

On behalf of all Members of the House, I extend to the Jasen family our most heartfelt sympathy, as well as our appreciation for the many contributions made by Judge Matthew Jasen to the American way of life. Judge Jasen was the Court of Appeals' first Polish-American member, and it is fitting that I close this extension of remarks with the traditional Polish toast—"Sto Lat"—which literally translated means "100 years." While Judge Jasen could not give a chronological century to serve the people of this State and Nation, in effect he made good on that toast, and I am honored to pay tribute to his memory here today.

[From the Buffalo News, Feb. 12, 2006]

JASEN, GENERATION'S LEGAL STANDOUT

Sorrow flows at the passing of one of the most respected and skilled lawyers and judges of his generation. Former Court of Appeals Judge Matthew J. Jasen, who died Saturday at the age of 90, was both a brilliant legal mind and a respected adviser who guided the practice of law in this region and nationally.

Jasen was the first Polish-American and the last Western New Yorker to sit on the state's highest court, serving there for 18 years, becoming senior associate judge there before retiring at the legally mandated age of 70 (a mandate he upheld in writing the high court's opinion on its validity). He also was a highly regarded arbiter who, even in retirement, was called upon by the U.S. Supreme Court to work as a "special master" deciding such questions as the proper location of the Illinois-Kentucky boundary along the Ohio River. He was known for clear and concise opinions, and for his mentoring of lawyers and judges.

He was a forceful arguer and legal scholar whose fairly common early year dissents to Court of Appeals decisions in several areas

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

were later vindicated in subsequent court rulings, sometimes after his retirement. He won a string of legal honors, including a special Buffalo Law Review issue featuring accolades from the state's top judges.

Jasen should have been New York's chief judge; he was proposed for that post by a nominating commission in the late 1970s, but passed over by then-Gov. Hugh Carey for a more politically connected junior judge. As a conservative Democrat and fiercely independent thinker, Jasen had distanced himself from politics while serving on the high court; that cost him politically, but provides a truer measure of his worth as a judge.

Even during his retirement, New Yorkers benefited from Jasen's fair-mindedness and independence as he joined or led task forces and committees dealing with matters such as judicial conduct or traffic court fairness, and state agency adjudication procedures. Jasen was a champion of the rule of law, and a man who would have desired no other epitaph.

### RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE IS GOOD ECONOMICS

#### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a study completed last month by Alicia Sasser, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's New England Public Policy Center, contains good news for those of us who have been pushing for an increase in the minimum wage. Ms. Sasser's very careful and well-documented conclusion is that an increase in the minimum wage in the State of Massachusetts would have significant overall benefits for the people of the State. To summarize her conclusion, "increasing the minimum wage by \$1.50 in Massachusetts is likely to have a small impact on employment—roughly on the order of 1 to 4 percent of affected workers. In addition, according to the analysis presented in this report, the combined impact of the two wage increases (contemplated and pending legislation in Massachusetts) would result in an estimated net wage gain of approximately \$255 million. It should be noted, however, that the benefits of this increased wage gain may be diminished if employers respond by cutting hours or reducing their contributions to health insurance."

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that this is an analysis of what will happen in one State if that State alone raises the minimum wage. One of the potential negative effects is the loss of jobs for competitive reasons to the nearby State of New Hampshire, which does not have a minimum wage. What this means is that if we were to adopt a minimum wage increase on the national level, we would get, I believe, the advantages that Ms. Sasser's analysis, shows without that particular competitive disadvantage that comes from two States of virtually identical social composition right next to each other, having significant minimum wage differentials. While obviously there is international economic competition, it is not nearly as direct, especially in the industries that are affected by minimum wage increase.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend that Members read this report. It is too long for inclusion here in the RECORD, but it is New England

Public Policy Center Research Report Series, No. 06-1, issued in January. This analysis in my view—I do not impute it to either the Federal Reserve or Ms. Sasser—strongly argues in favor of Federal legislation to raise the minimum wage.

#### JOHN PEPPER HONORED AS A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Pepper, an international business leader, visionary, community activist and champion of education, who will be formally honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 16 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber has bestowed this award on distinguished members of the community annually since 1967. Recipients of this prestigious award are chosen on the basis of professional achievement, community service, leadership, compassion, and vision. Past honorees have included Neil Armstrong, Dr. Albert Sabin and Charles Scripps.

Mr. Pepper has inspired and impacted the lives of people in our community and across the globe. Throughout his career, he has led, trained and motivated people by his example.

In his 39-year career at Procter & Gamble, Mr. Pepper helped to shape one of the world's largest consumer products companies. He began with the company in 1963. In 1974, he became general manager of Procter & Gamble Italia, and in 1980, he became group vice president. In 1984, he was elected to the company's board of directors and, in 1986, became president. In the early 1990s, he led Procter & Gamble's expansion into Eastern and Central Europe and Greater China. Mr. Pepper was named chairman and chief executive in 1995. He retired from Procter & Gamble in 2002, and retired as chairman of the executive committee of the board in 2003. Following his service to Procter & Gamble, he served for two years as vice president for Finance and Administration at Yale University, his alma mater.

Mr. Pepper recently became chief executive officer of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. This role is especially fitting for him, since he has been instrumental in the creation of the Freedom Center and co-chair of its development effort.

Mr. Pepper has also dedicated his time, energy and leadership to improving education for our children. He has served as a hands-on leader for school reform, pushing schools across the socioeconomic spectrum to set higher standards. He was also a driving force, along with his wife, Francie, in the creation of the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, a nationally recognized program that provides youth employment, mentoring and tutoring for those in need. He currently serves as the Collaborative's vice chair.

In 1994, Mr. Pepper chaired Cincinnati's United Way campaign, and has served on numerous local and national boards, including the American Society of Corporate Executives, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, the Partnership for Public Service and the Na-

tional Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the National Alliance of Business, Xavier University, the American Chamber of Commerce in Brussels, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Mr. Pepper and his wife, Francie, have three sons and one daughter, and reside in the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate John Pepper on being named a Great Living Cincinnati.

#### HONORING DORIS WAHL

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Doris Wahl's 50 years community service and HIV/AIDS advocacy in Whittier, CA. Doris and her husband Wally Wahl, moved to Whittier 50 years ago where they raised four beautiful children, Michael, Margie, Christopher and Paul. For over 20 years, Doris was an active PTA member serving as president and chairwoman of several District Advisory Committees.

Over the years, Doris's community involvement extended to local government where she served as commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the city of Whittier and served twice as its chairwoman. Doris also served as president of the Whittier League of Women Voters, promoting civic participation in government and the political process.

On August 26, 1989, Doris lost her son Christopher due to complications with AIDS. Doris's loss and intimate involvement with the disease motivated her to found the Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project, WRHAP, 2 years later. What she learned during her son's illness and in subsequent years was that AIDS is not a disease solely driven by a virus but also by fear, loneliness and depression. It is for this reason that WRHAP provided a compassionate support group for those suffering with AIDS. Doris realized the true scope of the local epidemic when the support group grew to over 30 members after only 3 months. In 1993, 2 years later, WRHAP was incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

Since opening its doors, WRHAP has served thousands of people living with AIDS and provided HIV prevention information to over 12,000 youth. WRHAP currently serves over 100 persons living with HIV/AIDS, conducts over 1,200 outreach contacts per year, and provides over 500 confidential HIV tests.

Under Doris's leadership, WRHAP has become a one-stop resource for people with AIDS. WRHAP's clients receive case management assistance, mental health care, and support group therapy. Through collaboration with other agencies, WRHAP's clients can also obtain outpatient medical and dental care.

In August 2004, Doris founded the Christopher Wahl Youth Center in Whittier as a safe haven and HIV prevention resource for youth.

Doris has become a nationally recognized figure in advocating for appropriate services for people with AIDS, and she co-founded the Southern California HIV/AIDS Advocacy Coalition in 1998. Doris was twice selected as