

long commitment to the business and to Erwin. Both George Sr. and George Jr. served as Erwin past mayors and George Joseph, Jr. continues to manage the department store. He continues to be among Erwin's most effective and giving community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Louis Joseph used every minute of his long and productive life to make the world a better place. He was a respected and successful businessman, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

LEGAL AID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God with liberty and justice for all. Justice for all—yet every year when this appropriation comes up we have to debate funding for Legal Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind this chamber about the vital and indispensable role Legal Services plays in providing access to our civil justice system for all people who would otherwise be financially incapable of seeking justice in our courts of law.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make a decision right now about what kind of government we want to be. We can either decide to ensure justice for all Americans or we can have justice for all Americans with thick wallets. We can honor all of the men and women who have sacrificed corner offices and 6-digit paychecks to work at Legal Services offices, like the one down the hall from my Chicago office, or we can turn our back on them.

I know funding is tight. I know there is a war to pay for and hundreds of other worthy causes to fund. The money pot is only so big. But this is where we need to make our decision. We promise liberty and justice to all, not liberty and justice to all who have the resources to pay for it. We are talking about the most basic representation to those Americans who have nowhere else to turn to seek justice.

When we are serious about improving race relations, relationships between law enforcement and communities, when we are serious about reducing racial profiling on our streets and roadways, in our airports and in our courtrooms, when we are serious about the real pursuit of justice for all of America, we will secure the resources necessary so that everybody will have an opportunity to bridge the gap between those who have and those who have not.

We must provide access to the judicial system for every single person who seeks it.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ALLEN
MUIR, JR.

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I remember a very dear friend of

mine, Robert Allen Muir, Jr. of Staten Island, New York, who recently passed away. Bob was one of the kindest, most sincere and genuine people I have ever met—and I long considered him a member of my family.

Bob was a widely respected election lawyer who worked with candidates from both sides of the aisle, including Governor George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Steve Forbes and myself. Bob also was an aide to Mayor Lindsay and Congressman Freddy Richmond. He had a great legal mind and he put his expertise to use helping those leaders he felt could make a positive impact on New York City, State, and the nation. In addition, Bob was filled with common sense. He understood the concerns of average Americans, and he was able to express them in simple language that always made the point.

Bob was born in New York City and moved to Staten Island in his early 20s. He later lived in Brooklyn and New Jersey until finally returning to Staten Island and the New Brighton community in 2003.

A graduate of Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey, Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his law degree from Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan.

Besides a great friendship, Bob and I also shared another passion, the New York Yankees. Bob reserved his Friday nights during baseball season for trips to the Bronx to watch his beloved Bronx Bombers. He also enjoyed outings on his boat, cooking, and gardening. He and his wife, Ilsa, were set to begin their new life in their new home. Bob designed this beautiful home himself to resemble a traditional Colonial residence. Everything was looking great until the Almighty called him home.

Along with Ilsa, Bob leaves behind two daughters Karen and Heather. All who knew Bob were grateful for his kindness and compassion. He was always fighting for the most vulnerable among us. New York State and City are a better place because of Bob Muir. We miss him dearly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDU-
CATION ASSESSMENT TECH-
NICAL CORRECTIONS ACT (H.R.
5717)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will improve No Child Left Behind (NCLB) implementation while maintaining its important accountability provisions.

NCLB provides a crucial level of accountability for the results of study in the classroom. While this change was welcome on both sides of the aisle, this law did present some technical problems in its ground-breaking measurement and assessment of education achievement. I have worked closely with education specialists at the North Central Education Lab as well as local education professionals as part of my Education Advisory Board to gather data on NCLB implementation. This work resulted in a White paper detailing areas of concern to my local schools, coupled with practical solutions to these problems.

Specifically, this Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act focuses on highly-qualified teacher requirements, determinations of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), and NCLB sanctions. My legislation maintains NCLB's important accountability provisions while improving implementation of the law in these key areas.

Every child deserves an excellent teacher. Unfortunately, several schools are experiencing difficulty meeting the highly-qualified teacher requirements in certain hard-to-staff areas. Much like rural teachers were given relief through rules, teachers in "hard to staff" areas should be granted relief for the highly qualified teacher provision in the form of a two year extension. However, schools must demonstrate that they are working towards full compliance in order to qualify for the extension.

Secondly, I strongly support measuring AYP for students. However, current law does not measure individual student improvement, counts students under multiple sub-groups, and creates discrepancies between NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My legislation ensures that students are compared for consecutive years rather than two different classes for the same school year, places equal weight on each student, and clarifies Individualized Education Program status under NCLB. All these changes still maintain accountability measures under NCLB but provide more accurate assessments.

Now that this landmark legislation has been in effect for a few years, it is important we revisit its effects. My bill takes into consideration important practical concerns of my local school boards while staying true to the goals of NCLB. I am proud that this bill reflects the advice and counsel of the North Central Education Lab, my Education Advisory Board and the National Education Association. I want to pay special thanks to Dr. Paul Kimmelman, the chairman of our 10th Congressional district Education Advisory Board, who led much of this work.

Mr. Speaker, the Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act represents a strong bipartisan consensus, backed by school management and unions, to make the job of defining success and education achievement more accurate and useful.

HONORING REVEREND HOWARD
JOHNSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Howard Johnson for his dedication to the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church of Mobile, Alabama, where he has spent the last 24 years as pastor.

Reverend Johnson was born on June 26, 1940, in Jackson, Alabama. He was reared and educated in Clarke County. He became a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Citronelle, Alabama, and served there for 12 years. He received both an associate arts degree and bachelor of arts degree from S.D. Bishop State Junior College and Mobile College between 1975 and 1976. He received his master of divinity degree in 1979 when he