

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall vote 320 on May 14, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

## IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA GOODWIN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Barbara Goodwin. After working nearly 40 years with the County of Fresno, she has decided to retire this year.

During her tenure, Barbara worked tirelessly to improve Central California's transportation system. At retirement, she held the position of Executive Director of the Fresno County Council of Governments. We have had the pleasure of working with Barbara frequently and her dedication to the community is to be commended.

Due to her vast knowledge and attention to detail, Barbara was frequently called upon by State agencies to represent the Valley on transportation issues at forums and meetings. Over her distinguished career, Barbara has served on multiple statewide committees such as the University of California's advisory panel on transportation planning curriculum, and the task force on State transportation improvement program reform. In 2007 she was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Throughout her career with Fresno County, Barbara Goodwin has proven to be a highly effective leader who was always committed to excellent in public service. As she gets ready to spend much more time enjoying other relaxing activities, my colleague and I wish her continued success and best of luck for the future.

## HONORING TIAA-CREF'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of TIAA-CREF's 90th anniversary and to recognize the important contributions that this company has made to New York and across the country.

TIAA-CREF is a company with a rich and distinguished history. As a trustee of Cornell University in my home State of New York, philanthropist and businessman Andrew Carnegie was appalled by how many college professors could not afford to retire. He then established

the Carnegie Foundation to support pension plans for professors. Soon, he realized the Foundation's endowment was too limited for the increasing number of qualified professors and, in 1918, established the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association with an initial million-dollar subsidy from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. At the time, TIAA was the only large, portable, fully-funded private pension system in the country.

In 1952, TIAA created CREF, the College Retirement Equities Fund, the world's first equity variable annuity and today the largest equity mutual fund. That year, an editor of Fortune magazine wrote, "This is the biggest development in the insurance-investment business since the passage of the Social Security Act."

Now, TIAA-CREF is a Fortune 100 company serving 3.4 million active and retired employees of more than 15,000 institutions. TIAA-CREF is also one of the largest employers in the United States, employing almost 1,200 individuals in New York and over 7,000 Americans nationwide.

Headquartered in New York City, TIAA-CREF provides financial services for over 10,400 participants with assets totaling over \$1.3 billion in my home district and administers plans for 1,784 nonprofit educational, research, and health care institutions across New York State.

The important work that this company does in helping Americans plan for retirement and to save for a quality education is unparalleled. I am proud to be honoring them today and wish TIAA-CREF continued success.

## HONORING THE 18TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Memorial Day Week, May 21–26, is the 18TH Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting six-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events, that culminates in the world's oldest, most inclusive Black Pride Festival. Many consider DC's festival one of the world's pre-eminent Black Pride celebrations. The Festival consistently draws more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family, including performances by national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), the celebration's organizing body, chose the theme "Official 18: Empowered and Poppin'" to encourage the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities to vote, to combat homophobia, to promote health and wellness, to strengthen their communities, and to inspire Black LGBT people everywhere to live their lives with pride.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors, coordinates this annual event. BLGPD's 2008 Board of Directors consists of: Courtney R. Snowden, President; Ray T. Daniels, Jr., Vice President; Christopher Lane, Corresponding Secretary; Khalid Parker, Recording Secretary; Meagan Marcano, Treasurer; and the following Members at Large: Lisa Washington, Sterling A. Washington, and Shanika Whitehurst; and these Members Emeritus: Earl Fowlkes, James W. Hawkins, Eric E. Richardson, Clarence J. Fluker, and Cheryl Dunn, who lead BLGPD in its mission to build knowledge of and to create greater pride in the Black LGBT community's diversity, while raising funds to ameliorate and prevent health problems in this community, especially HIV/AIDS.

I ask this House to join me in welcoming all attending the 18th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, FOOD CONSERVATION AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. I'd like to thank the conferees who worked diligently, day and night for weeks, to craft this bipartisan agreement.

This bill provides an adequate safety net for our farmers and guarantees an affordable and nutritious food supply for the youngest and most vulnerable among us, all in a fiscally responsible way. This bill also helps producers of all commodities stay on the land they hold and love so they may continue with their livelihood, and encourages conservation of natural resources and land for use by future generations.

The bill before us today addresses many of the needs of those in southwest Georgia and Georgia's Second Congressional District, which I represent. The peanut rotation program in the conference agreement, which we paved the way for in the House bill last summer, will bring peanut growers into the next generation of agriculture by encouraging a cleaner, greener method of planting while ensuring an affordable and accessible supply to the markets that rely on U.S.-grown peanuts.

I'm also pleased that Congress has seen fit to include \$100 million for Pigford Claims. This funding will begin to make up for USDA's historical inability to govern our Nation's agriculture programs in a fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory manner.

Many in this legislative body believe this bill is not perfect; truth be told, I am among them. I have concerns about this legislation's ability to completely serve our family farmers in the face of skyrocketing fertilizer and diesel costs, an unstable commodities market that could