

this meeting spot was quite inconvenient to access. Over the next several years, the Center relocated to several facilities including Eureka Hall, the Masonic Hall, Lippman Hall, Miller Hall and the estate of Heyward G. Hemmel.

The organization thrived throughout the first quarter of the century and offered numerous benefits of the surrounding community. During the 1920's the Rabbi Signer established the Jewish Center League for religious, cultural, physical and social purposes. In order to suit the diverse needs of the League, a new building was sought. With the help of local department store owner, Maurice Epstein, the cornerstone was laid on March 3, 1929 for a new multipurpose meeting space on Speedwell Avenue in Morristown.

In the 1950s, the Center enjoys a rather unique feature in that it housed Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Congregations with the building. As a result, it served as a model for like-sized communities throughout the nation.

The Morristown Jewish center has continued to grow throughout the century and continues its mission of the founders by being the religious, educational and social core of the Morristown Jewish community. Currently, 430 families comprise the membership of this prestigious congregation.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years, the Morristown Jewish center has prospered enormously in order to unite the community and will continue to do so for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to congratulate the members of the Morristown Jewish Center—Beit Yisrael, on this special anniversary year.

THE Y2K MILLENNIUM BUG

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 359 Days, 11 Hours, 32 Minutes, and 26 Seconds until the Year 2000 computer problem affects computers and computer chips worldwide on the morning of January 1, 2000.

As we know, many computers will be unable to process dates beyond December 31, 1999, making the year 2000 indistinguishable from the year 1900. The potential technological turmoil could cause computers to generate incorrect data or stop running. Credit cards, ATM cards, security systems, hospital equipment, telephone service, electricity, and paycheck systems could be affected. I don't think anyone is sure what will happen.

Fortunately, in the year 2000, we have a few days to recover after the Y2K problem hits because January 1st falls on Saturday. However, we lose one potential additional day because the New Year's Day holiday—by law—must be observed on the previous Friday, December 31, 1999.

I have re-introduced legislation that will provide the public and technology professionals with an additional day, prior to the start of the first workweek in January 2000, to work on re-

pairs on failed computer systems caused by the Year 2000 computer problem. My proposal will move the New Year's Day holiday in the year 2000 to Monday, January 3, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, congressional committees have been successfully working to prepare the nation for Y2K, and this is just another proposal that may help ease the difficulties we face. It is not a silver bullet to solve the problem. It is vital that all businesses and government agencies continue to mobilize and work to repair computers in the remaining 359 days before the Y2K problem strikes. This proposal simply ensures that businesses, the public and computer experts have an additional 24 hours to respond to problems that may arise.

STATEMENT ON THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the Articles of Impeachment before this House. I urge Members to step outside the passion of your convictions and think about our obligations to the Constitution, to our constituents, and our place in history.

Mr. Speaker, I hoped this moment could be avoided and that Members of the Judiciary Committee, after carefully examining the evidence, history and their consciences, would recognize that the charges do not rise to the level of an impeachable offense. With this vote, we have the opportunity, by censure, to live up to the Framers' vision and honorably close a sad chapter in our Republic's history, or open a new, more perilous one in which the private lives of public figures become fair game for scrutiny and prosecutorial entrapment.

The House Judiciary Committee process was unfair. It relied exclusively on material gathered by the Independent Counsel and failed to interview material witnesses or subject them to the rigors of cross examination.

Some Committee members abandoned the most fundamental precept of fairness—the presumption of innocence. While paying homage to the law and constitutional responsibilities, some of our colleagues are even pointing to the President's unwillingness to give up his constitutional right to avoid self-incrimination by demanding that he admit to perjury.

Can we call this process fair?

The shortcomings of our process: abrogation of basic tenets of jurisprudence; an unfair and flawed process; reliance on hearsay; abandonment of the presumption of innocence; and release of materials in a prejudicial manner indicate the need to exercise great caution.

Do we really think these charges rise to the level of impeachable offenses envisioned by the Framers? I fear we are falling victim to what Alexander Hamilton called "the greatest danger"—the danger of partisan impeachment.

Mr. Speaker, the American people and history will judge us!

As Members of the People's House, we must never forget that we were sent here by

the American people to represent them. The majority of Americans have resoundingly said they do not support the impeachment. A vote for impeachment under these circumstances would go against the fabric of representative democracy and would overturn the will of the American people—a grave measure indeed!

As we vote, let us reflect on our own experiences, perceptions of fairness, justice, and our understanding of the facts, to conscientiously apply the requisite tests to determine our vote. We can ill afford to so endanger the future of our democracy by voting to impeach the President of these United States.

You have the votes to impeach. But can your conscience withstand the scrutiny that history will bring to bear on your vote?

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD L. OWENS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in tribute to Mr. Howard L. Owens of Sacramento, California. Today, Mr. Owens will be presented the "Lifetime Health Care Advocate Award" by Health Access of California. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting him for this important accomplishment.

In 1984 Mr. Owens retired as Assistant Regional Director of the United Auto Workers after providing 35 years of health care advocacy for the working men and women of that union.

Since then, he has given an even greater amount of his time to the vital cause of health care advocacy. Mr. Owens has served as president and legislative chair of the Congress of California Seniors. Under his leadership, this organization has become a strong and constant voice for health care access and quality improvements.

Mr. Owens was also one of the chief proponents of Proposition 186, California's universal health care initiative which appeared on the 1992 ballot. Today he is a very prominent advocate for the Patients Bill of Rights in Congress.

He is the current president of Health Access California and has served in this capacity for more than five years. Additionally, Mr. Owens is the Regional Director of the National Council of Senior Citizens and the Executive Director of the Consumer Federation of California.

As a tireless advocate for these organizations, he directs their efforts to maintain and enhance Medicare coverage and supports other efforts to ensure that adequate health care is available to all.

Mr. Owens' many awards include the prestigious "Consumer Advocate of the Year" award which he received from the California Trial Lawyers Association.

In his efforts to keep energy affordable and accessible for all of California's citizenry, Mr. Owens has also devoted much time to his service on the boards of both Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Howard Owens. He is a fine advocate for the senior citizens and working families of California. I ask all of my colleagues to join with