

My bill, the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, would authorize the Library of Congress to commission eminent historians to assemble a written history of the House. The history is intended for Members, staff, and the general public. Copies will be provided to each Member and will also be sold to the general public by the Library of Congress. It is expected that there will be no cost to the federal government for this book. The bill lets the experts at the Library decide whether the cost of this book should be paid for by selling it or through the raising of private funds.

The bill would also allow the Library to update and expand the collection of oral histories of members given to the Library by the Association of Former Members of Congress, and it is hoped that the oral histories will be made available in digital format so they can be downloaded from the Library's Internet Web Page. Additionally, the bill contains two sense of the Congress provisions, which state that orientation programs for freshman members of the House should contain a seminar on the history of the House, and that the Speaker of the House should conduct a series of fora on the history of the House.

I am introducing this bill with over 240 original co-sponsors, including the Speaker of the House, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, and the Democratic Leader, the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT. I sincerely appreciate their endorsement and encouragement.

I am including a copy of a letter in support of this bill from the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, for which I am very grateful. I would like to urge the rest of my colleagues to support this bi-partisan effort in order to ensure that we do our best to preserve the history of this great body in which we serve.

THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS  
June 22, 1999.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON,  
*U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. LARSON: I very much appreciate the opportunity to review the final version of your draft bill authorizing the Library of Congress to oversee the preparation of a written history of the House of Representatives. I believe the legislation you have developed allows the Library to bring together a number of necessary elements to produce an authoritative publication that will fill a void in the annals of the Congress, and I support both the bill's goal and substance.

Your legislation will allow the Library's publishing office and curatorial staff to work together to develop the project, identify primary source material in our collections, and explore various options for its publication. As I indicated in my comments on an earlier draft of the legislation, I envisage appointing a scholarly advisory board, including historians as well as current and former Members of Congress, to assist in the selection of one or more historians to provide the text of the book, and to continue to be involved through the publication stage. The legislation provides sufficient discretion for the Library to work out the details of funding, publication, marketing and distribution in a manner consistent with the best interests of the House of Representatives.

The legislation also reflects the appropriate roles of the Library of Congress and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress in the collection and preservation

of oral histories of the Congress. These will undoubtedly prove invaluable to some future historian in continuing the narrative begun by your legislation.

I would like to extend again my offer to hold a lecture series on the history of the House of Representatives in the Members' Room, as a way of both stimulating interest in the published history and drawing together Members, former Members, historians and the Library's incomparable collections for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. BILLINGTON,  
*The Librarian of Congress.*

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANK D. STELLA

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 28, 1999, a large group of people from a wide variety of walks of life will gather to spend some time with, and pay tribute to, a distinguished citizen of Michigan—Frank D. Stella. In many cases, those in attendance will be meeting one another for the first time. They may have little in common in terms of their occupations or their political affiliations and they will come from virtually all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

What they will have most in common is their friend, Frank Stella, the warmth of his friendship, and the depth of his humanity that each has witnessed over the years.

Frank Stella has been involved in a unique breadth of community activities, incessantly finding time from his highly successful entrepreneurship as Chairman and CEO of F.D. Stella Products, which he founded after his return from service in World War II. The following are just a sample of his activities over four decades: Board of Trustees at the University of Detroit-Mercy; Chairman, Merger Committee, Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital and Samaritan Hospital; Chairman, Wayne State University Advisory Board; Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, Michigan Cancer Foundation; Board of Directors, Hispanics Organized to Promote Entrepreneurs (H.O.P.E., Inc.); Board of Directors, Detroit Renaissance; Board of Directors, New Detroit, Inc.; Board of Trustees of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC; National Committee for the Vatican Judaica Exhibition; Chairman, Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Save Orchestra Hall, Inc.; Board of Directors, Michigan Opera Theatre; Board of Directors of the Detroit Round Table (Christians and Jews); Board of Trustees, WTVS/Channel 56—Detroit Public Television; and Member of the Board and Executive Committee, Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall.

I have been particularly privileged to work with Frank Stella in an arena that embodies his love of life—music. He was instrumental in the efforts to save Orchestra Hall. That magnificent and historic amphitheater for the sound of music was threatened by a wrecker's ball. Frank Stella jumped into action with others and today its unique acoustics spread the joy of classical and other music, instead of being replaced by a proposed fast food estab-

lishment. He also has been instrumental in the development of the Michigan Opera Theater.

Frank Stella's life has been a testament to the American truth. Diversity is a source of strength. Pride in one's heritage empowers our nation, especially when it is blended with an appreciation for the heritage of all others.

On June 28, hundreds of friends will gather—in Frank Stella's style—with informality, no long speeches, no pretenses, some good food and exuberant cheer. Proceeds from the dinner will not go for fancy personal gifts but to help others, the next generation, through the F.D. Stella Scholarship Fund at the National Italian American Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It is so fitting they be placed in the proceedings of this institution, which embodies Frank Stella's faith in American democracy and is built on the kind of political activity in which he has participated but which in the end can rise above all partisanship.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 242, I was present, but inadvertently failed to be recorded as voting. I should have been recorded as an "aye" vote.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BARBARA BOUDREAUX

### HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

### HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DIXON and I, rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Barbara M. Boudreaux, a dedicated public servant who is ending her service today as a member and Vice President of the Board of Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District. We are proud to join her many friends and colleagues today in honoring and celebrating her many years of exemplary service.

Barbara's remarkable record includes not only eight years as a member of the Board of Education, but more than thirty years of service as a highly respected career educator. During the span of her career she has been a teacher, a training teacher, a vice-principal, and a principal.

She also has served the district as a mentor for teachers, as a leader of the district's Academy for Administrators, and as an assessor of promotional examinations for principals. She was also an evaluator of textbooks, and assisted in development of the district's handbook on preventing and controlling anti-social behavior among our youth.

Barbara always understood that the health of our educational institutions is closely linked

to the health of our communities. She has been, and continues to be, heavily involved in the life of our community.

In 1991, Barbara was elected to represent District 1, on the Board of Education. During her tenure, the Board was faced with some of its most difficult challenges. One of the most pressing of these were the problems of infrastructure and the need to modernize older facilities, and build new campuses in underserved communities.

Barbara realized that these barriers to learning had to be removed. Under her leadership, the Board placed a school bond initiative, Proposition BB, on the ballot which would address the district's infrastructure needs. More important, she reached out to the larger community and invested the hard work and persuasive power required to obtain the unprecedented two-thirds voter margin required for passage.

Armed with resources from the bond measure, the Board has set out to repair and renovate older schools, build new schools and reduce overcrowding. As a result of her tireless efforts, classrooms that were once too hot, have been retrofitted with air conditioners creating a more conducive learning environment for the school children.

Barbara understood, however, that more than cooling the classrooms would have to be done to help our children succeed. So she marshaled the needed funds that will ultimately put computers in all of our classrooms. And, when the district's under-achieving schools were identified, she made sure that there was a special intervention of resources and talent that has resulted in higher test scores.

As Barbara prepares to leave the Board of Education, she can take great satisfaction in knowing that she leaves the district in better shape than when she was first elected, and that the foundation for a successful future has been built.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Boudreaux has made an important difference for our children in Los Angeles. We appreciate this opportunity to honor the exceptional legacy she leaves, and to salute her distinguished contributions to the Los Angeles community. We know our colleagues join us in wishing her and her husband Albert and their family a future that is full of good health and prosperity.

SAN PIETRO APOSTOLO PAYS  
TRIBUTE TO ANGELINE BONFORTE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 26, the Saint Peter Society (San Pietro Apostolo) of Long Branch, NJ, will pay tribute to one of our leading citizens, Mrs. Angeline Bonforte. It is a great honor for me to join in recognition and raise of someone who has contributed so much to our community.

Angie Bonforte's motto is "never stop." Seeing all that she has accomplished, and con-

tinues to do, makes it clear that these are the words she lives by. The daughter of Dominic and Florence Pingitore, Angeline was born in Little Falls, NY. The family moved to Long Branch, and Angeline graduated from Long Branch Senior High School. She went on to earn a B.S. degree from Trenton State Teachers College, and then pursued a distinguished career as an elementary school teacher at Star of the Sea School in Long Branch for 25 years. In addition to being a teacher, she also became a real estate agent.

Angeline married Rocco Bonforte and they have two daughters, Mary Ann and Carol Lynn. Mr. Bonforte is also one of Long Branch's best known and most celebrated citizens, having served as Police Commissioner of our City. While steadfastly supporting her husband's political endeavors, Angeline Bonforte has been a leader in her own right. He served as President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Amerigo Vespucci Society, President of the Women's Democratic Club of Long Branch and the Women's Democratic Club of Monmouth County. She has also served as a Trustee of the Long Branch Public Library and has been associated with several civil and local clubs and activities.

While Angeline is "officially" in retirement now, she is still extremely active, including her involvement on a daily basis in Carol Lynn and Don Chetkin Art Gallery in Red Bank, NJ. When here in the nation's capital, she is at work in her granddaughter's business.

Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to include in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some of the achievements of Angeline Bonforte on the occasion of her being honored by San Pietro Apostolo.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DENNIS J.  
REIMER

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of General Dennis J. Reimer, the United States Army's 33rd Chief of Staff, who retired on June 21, 1999. General Reimer's career has spanned over 36 years, during which time he has distinguished himself as a soldier, a leader, and a trusted advisor to both the President and the United States Congress.

As Chief of Staff, General Reimer has prepared our Nation's Army well for the challenges of the 21st Century. He leaves the Army trained and ready, a superbly disciplined force that supports our Country and its interests in 81 countries around the globe. In a period fraught with leadership challenges, General Reimer has defined and inculcated the Army's values of "Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage" throughout the total force. As a result of his efforts, he has created a seamless force which maximizes the unique and complementary capabilities of its three components—Active, Army Reserve, and National

Guard, creating a "Total Army." He can take great pride in the Army's accomplishments, under his leadership, as well as its current state of preparedness.

General Reimer has created the vision and set the stage for the Army of the 21st Century, a strategically responsive force. Throughout his career, General Reimer has distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions with American Forces stationed both overseas and in the continental United States. In Asia, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam and a tour in Korea. In Europe, his assignments included serving at the Commander, Division Artillery and the Chief of Staff of the 8th Infantry Division.

General Reimer's stateside assignments have included serving as the Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colorado, and as the Commanding General, Forces Command, at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Since June 1995 General Reimer has served in his present assignment at the 33rd United States Army Chief of Staff. He has served with great distinction. I would like to offer my congratulations to General Reimer on a job well done, and to wish him and his wife, Mary Jo, much continued success in their future endeavors.

IN THE INTRODUCTION OF V.I.  
LEGISLATURE REDUCTION ACT

**HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN**

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which was submitted to me, by the members of the Legislature of my Congressional District, to make it possible for the Virgin Islands Legislature to reduce its size. This proposal was also introduced in the previous Congress but was not acted upon in time to become law.

Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands and the other U.S. Territories continue to strive for full local self-government. While we have achieved local self-government in many ways already, from time to time, those of us that have not yet adopted a local constitution, have to petition Congress to make changes in the general law, or Organic Act, which governs us. This bill is one of those times.

In a resolution petitioning the Congress to reduce the number of Virgin Islands Senators, it stated that the people of the Virgin Islands is represented by a 15 member Legislature which is among the highest ratio of legislators to constituents currently existing in any U.S. jurisdiction. The bill that I introduce today does not proscribe what the number of Virgin Islands Senators will be but leaves it up to the legislature and people of the Virgin Islands to decide.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.