

world, has an obligation to take bold steps toward encouraging other nuclear powers to eliminate their arsenals and to prevent the proliferation of these weapons. That is why I have chosen today, on the 54th anniversary of the first test of a nuclear explosive in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to introduce the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999. The bill would require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction once foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar requirements.

My bill also provides that the resources used to sustain our nuclear weapons program be used to address human and infrastructure needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture, and the environment. By eliminating our nuclear weapons arsenal, the United States can realize an additional, "peace dividend" from which to fund critical domestic initiatives, including new programs proposed in the Administration's FY 2000 budget.

Many courageous leaders from the United States and from around the world have spoken out on the obsolescence of nuclear weapons and the need for their elimination. Those leaders include retired Air Force General Lee Butler and more than 60 other retired generals and admirals from 17 nations, who, on December 5, 1996, issued a statement that "the continuing existence of nuclear weapons in the armories of nuclear powers, and the ever-present threat of acquisition of these weapons by others, constitute a peril to global peace and security and to the safety and survival of the people we are dedicated to protect" and that the "creation of a nuclear-weapons-free world [is] necessary [and] possible."

Recent events on the Indian subcontinent demonstrate the urgent need for passage of my bill. Last year, in defiance of the non-proliferation efforts of the United States and the world community, India detonated several underground nuclear test devices, after it had refrained from doing so since its first nuclear test in 1973. Pakistan, a neighboring country with which India has fought three wars since the British colonial period ended in 1947, soon followed suit with its own nuclear tests. The trading of nuclear tests last year between India and Pakistan were a source of heightened concern as armed skirmishes persisted last month in the disputed Kashmir region adjoining those two nations.

The United States and the world community clearly must redouble their efforts to obtain commitments from India and Pakistan to refrain from actual deployment of nuclear weapons, as well as to contain other countries that aspire to become nuclear powers, such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, from moving forward with their programs. However, the United States will be far more credible and persuasive in these efforts if we are willing to take the initiative in dismantling our own nuclear weapons program and helping arms industries to convert plants and employees to providing products and services that enhance the wealth and quality of life of ordinary citizens. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999 and for the committees with jurisdiction

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

July 16, 1999

over the bill to mark it up quickly so that it can be considered and passed by the full House.

TRIBUTE TO LAVONNE LITTLE BISHOP

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in respect and remembrance of a gracious and remarkable lady in my district, Mrs. LaVonne Bishop, affectionately known as "Miss LaVonne" who passed away on July 10, 1999, at her home in St. Catherine's Village in Madison, MS. She was 95 years of age, and the widow of the late Herbert Bishop, a former mayor of Forest, and a banking official, who served for many years as the President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Forest, Mississippi, now known as Community Bank.

Miss LaVonne was born in Magee, MS and moved to Forest, MS at an early age. She graduated from Forest High School in 1920, and earned her music degree from Belhaven College in the mid-twenties. Upon graduation from Belhaven, she returned to Forest and taught music in the Forest school system until her marriage to Mr. Bishop.

For the greater part of her life, Miss LaVonne focused her efforts on building a strong church and community relations in Forest and Scott County. Very seldom was there a civic or community project developed within the city of Forest, or the county of Scott, that she did not have some input. Because of her efforts in community development, Forest was named a winner in the National Community Achievement Contest in 1960, and in 1962, Miss LaVonne was named Mississippi Club Woman of the Year. She also served as chairwoman for many Merit Programs sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce. Further, for many years, she served as chairperson for the Forest Miss Hospitality committee, and actively participated in drives that benefited the Hospital Auxiliary, the Cancer Fund, the Heart Fund, and the March of Dimes Fund.

At Forest Baptist Church, she was the church organist for more than 50 years. On a number of occasions, she served as President of the Women's Missionary Union, and was a teacher and pianist in the junior department. At St. Catherine Village, she was pianist for the choir and the residents of Siena, the nursing division of the Village. Up until her death, she and her piano partner, Grant Smith, performed periodic concerts in the area surrounding Jackson.

Miss LaVonne was very devoted to her family. If you wanted to see pride and joy at its apex, then start a conversation about her children, Neill (Mrs. Wade Barton) and Gene and their families, her late husband Herbert and his family, her parents the late Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Little and her brother Woodrow. Also, very dear to Miss LaVonne as her friend, Mrs. Alice Burke and her family, who worked at the Bishop household for many years.

Miss LaVonne's life and legacy can be summed up with one word LOVE; Love for God, Love for Family, Love for Friends, Love

for Country, Love for State, and by all means, Love for Forest and Scott County. She was truly a great Christian, and an American, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family, while at the same time, expressing my appreciation, and that of all citizens of the 3rd district for her life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE BALTIERREZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Joanne Baltierrez, who retired earlier this year from a seat on the City Council of the City of San Fernando. Joanne had a distinguished five-year tenure on the council, including a one-year term as Mayor. While in office, she was a courageous, visionary and independent-minded public servant, who worked very hard to represent her constituents well and to make a real difference in the quality of life for the citizens of San Fernando.

During her time on the City Council, Joanne compiled an impressive list of accomplishments for her constituents. She is especially and rightfully proud of her successful efforts to keep a Los Angeles county health clinic from moving outside of its San Fernando location. She did this in a particularly creative manner by arranging a land swap with the county that enabled the much-needed facility to remain within her city. Joanne also helped assemble a coalition with San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, the San Fernando Police Department and the courts to provide counseling and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Another of Joanne's innovations was a series of town hall meetings to allow members of the Council to better gauge the needs and concerns of their constituents.

Joanne has always given unstintingly of her time and talents to public service. Over the past decade, in addition to her work on the City Council, she has served as a recruitment coordinator for Los Angeles Mission College, Director of Community Services for the Volunteer Center of San Fernando Valley, Resource Coordinator for the Latin American Civic Association and Community Liaison for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Now that she has retired from the Council, Joanne has entered a new phase of her career in politics, serving as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. Joanne now puts her considerable abilities to work in representing the League throughout the community and promoting the growth of this highly respected organization through public relations and marketing strategies.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Joanne Baltierrez, whose commitment to her community and strong sense of justice are an inspiration to us all. I am proud to be her friend.