had to fight in the Middle East today, we would have a lot of Americans coming home in body bags because we are short on ammo, short on spare parts, and short on technically knowledgeable people in extremely critical areas. We need more money. We need it desperately.

ASTROS WIN FIRST GAME

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think there is some good news that we have just heard, and I am delighted to be on the floor with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), and that is that the Astros have just won the first game of the division that will lead them on to the World Series.

Though we see no Georgians on the floor because they are playing the Atlanta Braves, I am prepared to offer a bet of some good Texas barbecue that the Astros will win.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. The gentlewoman and I have both talked to the gentleman from Atlanta, Georgia (Mr. LEWIS). He and I talked a little bit. He knows my affinity for Diet Coke, and I bet him some venison sausage from Texas against a case of Diet Coke. It looks like I may get that Diet Coke from Georgia.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with barbecue and venison on the table, I do not think we can miss. I look forward to a victory.

CLAUDE BUDDY YOUNG SHOULD BE INDUCTED INTO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage the Pro Football Hall of Fame to induct an extraordinary athlete called Buddy Young, a Chicago hero and graduate of the Wendell Phillips High School in my district.

As Chicago Sun Times columnist Steve Neal recently observed, Buddy Young was among the greatest NFL running backs of the modern era.

From 1944 to 1946, Buddy Young was an All American halfback for the University of Illinois' fighting Illini. In his first season as a college football player, Young was runner up for the coveted Heisman Trophy. As one of the most electrifying players on the team, he tied renowned football legend Red Grange's college record for touchdowns.

In 1947, Young led the NCAA college all star football team in an astounding upset victory over defending pro football champions, the Chicago Bears. Due to his outstanding performance during the game, Buddy Young was selected as the game's MVP.

Following his college football career, Buddy showcased his athletic talents on a number of pro football teams. He is best remembered as a standout offensive threat for the Baltimore Colts where he set a kickoff record that is still standing today.

Also, Young's 27.7 per yard kickoff return average is currently ranked fourth in all-time pro football record books. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Young's record and play as a Colt was so superior that the franchise retired his number, an accolade afforded to only eight other Colt football players.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that, of the nine Baltimore Colt football players to have had their numbers retired, Buddy Young is the sole player who has not been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Although well known for his great football accomplishment, Buddy Young has excelled in other aspects of his life. As the director of player relations of the National Football League, Young was the first African American to become an executive in any major sports league.

Additionally, while in college, Young won the NCAA Division I track and field championship in the 100 yard dash, the 220 yard dash, and he set a world record in the 60-yard dash.

Already, Mr. Speaker, Buddy Young's athletic achievements have earned him induction into the College Football, Chicagoland, and the Rose Bowl Halls of Fame.

It is now both fitting and warranted for the Pro Football Hall of Fame to induct this athlete of athletes into its cherished halls.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I again encourage the Pro Football Hall of Fame selection committee to induct Claude Buddy Young into its prestigious and historical group of athletic legends. Only then will Young's place in athletic history be rightfully immortalized alongside other legends of the great game of football.

EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as I travel my district in central New Jersey, I am constantly confronted with the growth of these communities. Young families are moving into new houses and school principals get phone calls daily from parents who are moving into the area. The opening days of school are challenging for school principals. Some schools in my New Jersey district have kindergartens that are twice the size of the senior class.

Communities across the State and the Nation are struggling, struggling to address the critical need to build new schools and renovate existing ones to make up for years of deferred maintenance and to accommodate rising school enrollment.

Urban and rural and high growth suburban areas all face different and difficult school modernization problems.

The General Accounting Office estimates that $112 billion is needed just to repair existing schools across the Nation. Twenty-four hundred new public schools will be needed by 2003 to accommodate 1.3 million new students and to relieve overcrowding.

With schools bursting at the seams, new schools being constructed every year, property taxes are reaching astronomical rates. These growing communities need relief. Communities in my New Jersey district are voting down needed construction because they cannot afford even higher property taxes.

That is why, together with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), I am working for legislation to ease the burden for fast growing communities as they construct new schools.

The interest on school construction bonds is a big item. Even on a short-term, 15-year tax exempt bond, the interest on the bond may be an additional 65 percent of the value.

Under our legislation, the Federal government would provide tax credits equal to the interest the local communities would pay to investors on these bonds. This emergency Federal assistance would help communities like mine and others across the country meet the needs of our children.

Let me give my colleagues an example from my district to illustrate that we are facing a serious situation. In Montgomery Township, Somerset County, in 1990, their school enrollment was about 1,500 students. Now Montgomery has to provide seats for 3,500 students, an increase of 134 percent in 10 years. Enrollment is expected to rise another 1,500 students over the next 5 years.

The residents of Montgomery have been very supportive of their school system. However, the strain of paying for an annual operating budget coupled with the payment for new buildings is testing the pocketbooks of even the most ardent supporters of public education. They need our help. In some towns in my district, there is now the added expense to rebuild and repair after Hurricane Floyd.

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These days school construction and modernization also includes technology infrastructure. Our schools need to keep up to date on technology to ensure our students are ready for the jobs of the 21st century. Employers depend

on talent, skills, and creativity of their workforces for their success. Companies, communities, and students all benefit from a vital and a successful educational system.

Many high-tech firms in my district in central New Jersey already invest in the local schools. They have much to offer, especially in technical areas of science and math. The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce has a program called Tech Corps New Jersey which recruits business volunteers with expertise in computer technology to work with schools that need assistance in the area of education technology. I believe we need to encourage these partnerships where businesses can invest in their local communities.

Businesses can easily help schools keep up to date with their technology infrastructure. The E-rate, which supports discounted internet wiring and services to schools and libraries, is a good example of effective Federal local partnership which can help finance technology infrastructure in our schools.

Certainly local taxpayers bear the responsibility for educating their children, and local taxpayers shoulder most of the cost, but the education of our youth is a national responsibility, similar to national defense, and it is time the Federal Government steps up and accepts our responsibility to local districts for the education of our children.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK OF FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mr. Speaker, I want to submit for the RECORD an article that ran in the Sunday September 26 edition of the Miami Herald. This article talks about the achievement the gentlewoman from Florida has made and the obstacles she had to overcome to get to Congress. She was the first African American female to serve in the Florida Senate. And when we both were elected to Congress in 1992, this marked the first time in 127 years that an African American from Florida had been sent to Congress.

This year marks 20 years of service for Congresswoman MEEK. Her constituents are proud of her hard work and the results she brings to her district. She has fought for fairness in the appropriations process, and I am proud to recognize the gentlewoman for her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am so delighted to hear that the gentlewoman is paying tribute to our colleague, and I hope that the gentlewoman will allow me to mention that she has taken a leadership role in heading the task force on census for the Congressional Black Caucus and that she has been very diligent in her legislative duties here.

I really compliment the gentlewoman for making a record of this because the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is a very worthy person.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON).

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I also want to add my congratulations to our colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK), and I commend the gentlewoman for bringing this to the floor and putting on RECORD her achievements.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. THURMAN).

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I really would ask all of my colleagues who have not seen this article to read this in the RECORD. It is a wonderful tribute to a woman who has served in her State legislature and is very much admired.

People just came to her to get information and to get help. She was my chairman on the education subcommittee in appropriations when we served together, and she was fairer than anybody I have ever seen because she understood the entire State of Florida, what it meant for rural areas to have funding as well as the urban areas.

We just all love her in Florida, and we all respect her and admire her for the work that she has done. So I would really hope our colleagues do read this article because it is fabulous.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for yielding to me, and I too would add my voice to the accolades that are being paid our good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

I first met her some, and she may not want me to tell how long ago, 25 or 30 years ago, and I got to know her. I followed her career over the years, and my friends in the State of Florida all have said to me what a great person that she was there in the Florida legislature.

When I came here in the class of 1993, it was a great pleasure for me to be here and to have the opportunity to serve with her. It has been a service that I have enjoyed tremendously, and I can truly say that I do not believe that I would be standing here as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus had it not been for the great support and guidance that I received from her since being here in this body.

The people of Florida should be very proud of her. I am pleased to see it here that her hometown newspaper has paid her such a tremendous tribute. It is one that is well deserved.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. In closing, Mr. Speaker, my favorite saying is, ''Let the work I have done speak for me.'' And certainly Mrs. MEEK's work speaks for itself. In fact, I recommend that she look at serving 20 more years. 20 more years of service from the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) would be a great tribute to Florida and to this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the article I referenced above follows:

[From the Miami Herald, Sept. 26, 1999]

REPRESENTATIVE MEEK MAKES 20-YEAR MARK—MIAMI CONGRESSWOMAN DISPLAYS DEFT POLITICAL TOUCH

(By Andrea Robinson)

WASHINGTON.—Though a morning of angry wind and rain has transformed the nation's capital into a virtual ghost town, an intrepid band of Washington luminaries heads toward a meeting room in a basement of the Capitol.

Among the celebrity attendees: House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, Sen. Bob Graham, Attorney General Janet Reno and U.S. Reps. Charles Rangel and James Clyburn, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The draw? U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Miami, who has summoned an obedient cadre of political figures to speak to a group of her visiting constituents. ''We're here because Carrie told us to be here,'' Labor Secretary Alexis Herman says.

This year, Meek marks 20 years of public service, 13 of them in the Florida Legislature. She is the first black Floridian to win a seat in Congress in recent history, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, a four-time congressional winner whose only general-election opponent earned just 11 percent of the vote.

Over the past 12 months, Meek is credited with boosting her district by helping to secure notable federal allocations—$130 million in employment-zone tax incentives; $35 million in housing grants to rebuild public housing; $2.2 million to jump-start a Little Haiti program for troubled children.

But most remarkable, political observers say, has been Meek's ability to play politics in more than one arena. Meek—an unapologetically liberal Democrat—has managed to solidfy her standing not only with members of her own party but with those across the aisle.

''She's got a nice way, but she's no pushover,'' says Rep. E. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale. ''She has a velvet glove, but sometimes she can have a fist in it. She's so likable that it's sometimes disarming.''

BOLDLY STEPPING FORWARD

Once a neighborhood activist, she has become a power broker.

Carrie Meek has never been timid. When she started in politics, she was audacious.

In the Legislature, Meek regularly intensified floor debates, once threatening to camp out on the doorstep of a colleague who was reluctant to increase funding for Jackson Memorial Hospital.