

of 94 when she moved to Columbia, SC, to be closer to her family.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 27, 1999 Ms. Gertrude A. Paris will celebrate her 100th birthday. Please join me in wishing her the happiest of birthdays and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK CAMPBELL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the work of a busy person is never done. This Friday, February 26, such a man is being recognized for his work in the labor community. Patrick Campbell will be acknowledged and paid tribute to for his leadership role within New Jersey's labor movement.

Patrick Campbell has been a member of Local 825, International Union of Operating Engineers since July, 1946. He has worked as an Apprentice/Engineer, Dirt and Crane Equipment Operator, Plant and Shop Engineer, Shop Steward and Lead Engineer. In 1971 he was elected to the Executive Board and appointed as a Business Representative. In 1976 he was chosen Business Manager and was appointed Trustee of Local 825's Pension/Welfare Fund Service Facilities. He has been re-elected Business Manager seven times. In addition to his functions as Business Manager of Local 825, he is a Vice President of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. He has served as Vice President of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Mr. Campbell is also Second General Vice President of the International Union of Operating Engineers. He also serves on joint committees of the Engineers/Teamsters, Engineers/Laborers and Engineers/Iron Workers. Additionally, he is President of the Northeastern Conference of Operating Engineers.

Pat Campbell has served on the Port Authority Development Advisory Committee of New York and New Jersey and on a committee of the Research Advisory Council for Public Service Electric and Gas Co. He is Chairman of Local 825's Political Action and Education Committee and one of the founders of Local 825's Registered Indentured Apprenticeship Program.

When it comes to service, Patrick Campbell shares his time and expertise with community organizations, as well. He has served as Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America, has coached Little League girls' softball, and has been Vice President of the Parents' Guild of Roselle Catholic High School. He served as a Navy Seabee in the South Pacific during World War II and has been a member of the Catholic War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Knights of Columbus. He is currently a member of the Council of Regents of Felician College of Lodi, NJ and the Housing Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure our colleagues will join me as I extend my best wishes and thanks to Patrick Campbell and family; his wife Adele, his four children and ten grandchildren.

THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS AND ITS UPCOMING CONFERENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and its groundbreaking efforts to advance public policy objectives in my home State of Texas.

As a former Member of the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate, I know first-hand of the Caucus's strong commitment in promoting education, economic development and public safety to ensure positive change. The Caucus's accomplishments include the passage of legislation to provide scholarships for low-income students, securing funding for the Lone Star State's black colleges and universities as well as provisions to ensure minority participation in the state's procurement program.

To kick off its legislative agenda for 1999, the Caucus will be hosting a statewide conference in Austin on March 10th-12th. Thousands of Texans from across the state are expected to attend the conference aptly entitled, Preparing for the Millennium. The State's 14 African-American House Members and its two Senators will be hosting the conference. They will be honoring the achievements of outstanding Texans in the fields of education, business, public services, entertainment, professions, and public safety. Governor George Bush is expected to attend the conference as well.

Delegates to the conference will be holding an "Education Summit" whose purpose is to identify problems and propose solutions to enhance the state's black colleges and universities. "Break-out" sessions will be held to discuss elementary, secondary and higher education issues. Other workshops will be conducted on health care, child care, economic development, electricity restructuring and environmental racism.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Caucus on its past accomplishments and in sending best wishes for a successful conference this year in Austin.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the National Right to Work Act of 1999 along with 86 original sponsors.

This Act will reduce federal power over the American workplace by removing those provisions of Federal law authorizing the collection of forced-union dues as part of a collective bargaining contract.

Since the Wagner Act of 1935 made forced-union dues a keystone of Federal labor law,

millions of American workers have been forced to pay for union "representation" that they neither choose nor desire.

The primary beneficiaries of Right to Work are America's workers—even those who voluntarily choose to pay union dues, because when union officials are deprived of the forced-dues power granted them under current federal law they'll be more responsive to the workers' needs and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this act is pro-worker, pro-economic growth, and pro-freedom

The 21 states with Right to Work laws, including my own state of Virginia, have a nearly three-to-one advantage over non-Right to Work states in terms of job creation.

And, according to U.S. News and World Report, seven of the strongest 10 state economies in the Nation have Right to Work laws.

Workers who have the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union have a higher standard of living than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. According to Dr. James Bennett, an economist with the highly-respected Economics Department at George Mason University, on average, urban families in Right to Work states have approximately \$2,852 more annual purchasing power than urban families in non-Right to Work states when the lower taxes, housing and food costs of Right to Work states are taken into consideration.

The National Right to Work Act would make the economic benefits of voluntary unionism a reality for all Americans.

But this bill is about more than economics, it's about freedom.

Compelling a man or woman to pay fees to a union in order to work violates the very principle of individual liberty upon which this nation was founded.

Oftentimes forced dues are used to support causes the worker does not wish to support wish his or her hard-earned wages.

Thomas Jefferson said it best, ". . . to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

By passing the National Right to Work Act, this Congress will take a major step towards restoring the freedom of America's workers to choose the form of workplace representation that best suits their needs.

In a free society, the decision of whether or not to join or support a union should be made by a worker, not a union official, not an employer, and certainly not the U.S. Congress.

The National Right to Work Act reduces federal power over America's labor markets, promotes economic growth and a higher standard of living, and enhances freedom.

No wonder, according to a poll by the respected Marketing Research Institute, 77 percent of Americans support Right to Work, and over 50 percent of union households believe workers should have the right to choose whether or not to join or pay dues to a labor union.

No other piece of legislation before this Congress will benefit this Nation as much as the National Right of Work Act.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass the National Right to Work Act and free millions of Americans from forced-dues tyranny.