

Borkin, all of the students who applied and participated in the Conference, and the members of the Youth Violence Advisory Committee. Their dedication to ending youth violence serves as an inspiration and model to us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW YORK  
YANKEES

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 9, 1999*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate the Team of the Decade and the sports franchise of the century, the Yankees.

Mr. Speaker, for the 25th time in their glorious history, the New York Yankees are the World Champions. On Wednesday, October 27, the Bombers proved once again why they are the most successful franchise in the history of sports. As the Representative from the 16th Congressional District in the Bronx, home of the Yankees, I congratulate George Steinbrenner, Manager Joe Torre, and the whole Yankee team on a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, the Yankees overcame a lot of personal hardship to reach their collective goal. They played as a team and they won as a team. Today the Bronx is celebrating, New York is celebrating, and all across our country Americans realize that the best baseball is still being played in the Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating the Team of the Decade and the sports franchise of the century, the New York Yankees. Go Yankees.

TRIBUTE TO MYRTIE BOZEMAN

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 9, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a well-known and beloved citizen of Terrell, Texas—Myrtie Hargrove Bozeman, who died on September 1 at the age of 90. Known locally as “Myrtie,” she will always be remembered for her devotion to her community and for her widely-read column, “The College Mound News,” published in the Terrell Tribune. Her column, which ran for more than forty years, was a chronicle of the every-day activities of this close community.

Miss Myrtie was born at College Mound Community, the daughter of Neb and Maudie Baxter Hargrove, and lived there and in Terrell all her life. She attended school at College Mound and Wesley College. In 1930 she married Jake Bozeman, who precedes her in death along with their only child, Jack Bozeman.

Miss Myrtie was an active member of the College Mound Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women, the Kaufman County Children's Shelter, the Business and Professional

Women's Club, the Terrell Story League and the College Mound Cemetery Association. She also worked as a dispatcher for the Terrell Police Department and later as director of social services at Blanton Gardens of Dallas. She devoted her life to helping others, and her commitment to community service led to her being honored as Terrell's Citizen of the Year and as College Mound's Woman of the Year.

Survivors include her sisters, Maggie Yarbrough, Ona Tuggle and Oneta Ott; daughter-in-law Inace Bozeman Howied; granddaughter Lynne Bozeman Crews and husband Charles; Peggy Bozeman Morse and husband Frederick; and Debbie Bozeman; and great-grandchildren, Cara, Clint and Cassie Crews and Paige, Hilary and Jess Morse.

She is preceded in death by sister Viola Crouch, brothers Clarence, Willie, Frankie and Fonzo Hargrove and granddaughter Jenny Beth Bozeman.

Mr. Speaker, Myrtie Hargrove Bozeman's affection for those who lived in College Mound and Terrell was evident in her news columns and in her personal involvement in the life of those communities. She was very special to me. During my long years of public service, I kept in touch with Miss Myrtie. She, even in her last years, was modern and up-to-date in her thoughts and activities. She kept me aware of all of the pie suppers and silent auctions and church activities at the College Mount United Methodist Church. She had her own unique and friendly way of making everyone feel welcomed and wanted. We cannot replace her, but we can always remember her.

Mr. Speaker, Miss Myrtie will be missed by all those who knew her—and as we adjourn this legislative session, let us do so in her memory.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3196, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,  
EXPORT FINANCING,  
AND RELATED PROGRAMS AP-  
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 5, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the FY 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R. 3196, earmarks at least \$13 million to carry out the provisions of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, which I introduced with JOHN KASICH and Lee Hamilton and was signed into law last year.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act expands President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative—EAI—and provides a creative market-oriented approach to protect the world's most threatened tropical forests on a sustained basis.

Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits, literally affecting the air we breathe, the food we eat, and medicines that cure diseases. They harbor 50–90 percent of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. They act as “carbon sinks”, absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby reducing greenhouse gases. They regulate

rainfall on which agriculture and coastal resources depend, which is of great importance to regional and global climate. And, they are the breeding grounds for new drugs that can cure disease.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act builds on the EAI's successes in the early 1990's, and links two significant facts of life. First, important tropical forests are disappearing at a rapid rate between 1980 and 1990, 30 million acres of tropical forests—an area larger than the State of Pennsylvania—were lost every year. Second, these forests are located in less developed countries that have a hard time repaying their debts to the United States. In fact, about 50 percent of the world's tropical forests are located in four countries—Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, and the Congo—and these countries have in the aggregate over \$5 billion of U.S. debt outstanding.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act gives the President authority to reduce or cancel U.S. A.I.D. and/or P.L. 480 debt owed by any eligible country in the world to protect its globally or regionally important tropical forests. These “debt-for-nature” exchanges achieve two important goals. They relieve some of the economic pressure that is fueling deforestation, and they provide funds for conservation efforts in the eligible country. There is also the power of leveraging—one dollar of debt reduction in many cases buys two or more dollars in environmental conservation. In other words, the local government will pay substantially more in local currency to protect the forest than the cost of the debt reduction to the U.S. Government.

For any country to qualify, it must meet the same criteria established by Congress under the EAI, including that the government has to be democratically elected, cooperating on international narcotics control matters, and not supporting terrorism or violating internationally recognized human rights. Furthermore, to ensure the eligible country meets minimum financial criteria to meet its new obligations under the restricted terms, it must meet the EAI criteria requiring progress on economic reforms.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act is a cost-effective way to respond to the global crisis in tropical forests, and the groups that have the most experience preserving tropical forests agree. It is strongly supported by The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, the Environmental Defense Fund and others. Many of these organizations have worked with us very closely over the last two years to produce a good bipartisan initiative.

I am delighted that H.R. 3196 includes these funds that will be used to preserve and protect millions of acres of important tropical forests worldwide in a fiscally responsible fashion.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFFERSON  
THOMAS, A MEMBER OF THE  
“LITTLE ROCK NINE”

**HON. DEBORAH PRYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 9, 1999*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jefferson Thomas, a