

years of service on the nation's highest court, Blackmun practiced law in the Twin Cities for nearly 20 years.

As Blackmun himself always said, he will be remembered most for his controversial authorship of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Despite the philosophical, moral and theological retribution that he experienced for his decision, Justice Blackmun believed, "The right of privacy * * * is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." Blackmun had the strength of his convictions and the courage and integrity to pursue and implement such judgment.

Justice Blackmun was a man of constant adaption and change, adjusting to the times gracefully. During his early days on the court, he was considered among its most conservative and he was referred to as "The Minnesota Twin" of fellow East Sider and kindergarten classmate, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, for their identical voting patterns. By the end of his first decade on the court, however, Blackmun's independent streak became apparent and he was ironically considered among the court's most liberal. Justice Blackmun wrote for the court when it ruled that Congress has the power to enforce local compliance with federal laws requiring overtime pay for more than 40-hour work weeks and became the lone dissenter advocating for the rights of Haitians to have hearings before being forced to return to their homeland. As a Member of Congress, most of our efforts and utterances are seldom put to work, but it was a real honor to have Justice Blackmun employ my comments in an objecting dissent brief to the severance tax policy.

In the twilight of his life, at the age of 88, the retired Justice even tried his hand at acting, playing a cameo role as a supreme court justice in Steven Spielberg's "Amistad." It was a natural role for this great American jurist.

Justice Blackmun's spirit will live on through his contributions to society. He leaves a wonderful legacy. Blackmun is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and three daughters. My sympathy and best wishes to them.

RIFFENBURGH ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Riffenburgh Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help a family in need during the holidays. Sadly, a local family's home was destroyed by fire. I commend the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special efforts. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to the Lund family in light of this recent tragedy, and to other families less fortunate than most. That the school produced so much for these needy families is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these

good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

SOCIAL SECURITY INVESTMENT
FUND ACT OF 1999

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. MARKEY and I introduced the "Social Security Investment Fund Act of 1999" with Mr. POMEROY, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. MATSUI. This bill gives legislative form to the need to provide workers with a reasonable return on their Social Security payroll taxes while maintaining the guaranteed benefit foundation of the current Social Security system. It would authorize the investment of a portion of the Social Security surplus in the private sector—a diversification strategy used by nearly every other public pension fund in America. It would restrict this discretion, however, to a very conservative form of investment called "index funds." Management would be passive, not active, and the return on investment would mirror the return of the market as a whole, not individual stocks. In this way, the system would benefit from a higher rate-of-return while protecting the system against the shock of market downturns.

The main features include:

An addition of 6 years of solvency to the Social Security System without resort to benefit cuts, payroll tax increases or government borrowing.

The locking-up of Social Security surpluses for Social Security only.

Assumption by the government of the risks of ups and downs in the market so that retirement benefits remain guaranteed.

The structure of the investment program is as follows:

1. *Independence.* We establish the Investment Board as an independent agency. Its activity is self-funded, and its authorization explicitly forbids muddying the pursuit of its fiduciary duty with social, political or religious objectives.

2. *Limited Risk.* The amount to be invested in stocks would remain far less than the amounts already invested in the market by public pension funds—a small fraction of the market as a whole.

3. *Professionalism.* The Board hires fund managers already engaged in managing money in the financial markets for private investors.

4. *Conservatism.* Each fund manager invests only in equity index funds that mirror the market broadly (e.g. the Wilshire 5000) so that the government is at no time engaged in the business of picking winners and losers.

5. *Diversification.* The total amount allocated to each fund manager is limited so that no one controls a disproportionate share of the overall activity of any single company.

6. *Neutrality.* In proxy battles, the fund managers would not decide how to vote the shares. The shares would instead be voted

automatically through "mirror voting", where the fund's votes are cast in the same proportion as the votes cast by all other shareholders.

NATIONAL TRIO DAY

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of National TRIO Day—celebrated each year on the last Saturday in February—to recognize the importance of the Federal TRIO Program.

"What is TRIO?" To millions of disadvantaged Americans the answer is quite simple: "TRIO equal opportunity."

TRIO identifies aspiring students from poor families, prepares them for college-level work, and helps them define and achieve their goals.

TRIO plans a critical role in leveling the educational playing field in our country.

Since 1965, over 10 million Americans have benefitted from TRIO programs, which include—Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Service, Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program, and Educational Opportunity Centers.

In my Congressional District—in western and central Massachusetts—TRIO serves 2500 students each year at 8 separate colleges and universities.

TRIO has helped many of my constituents lift themselves out of poverty and climb into promising careers as teachers, lawyers, doctors, journalists, and business owners.

TRIO means opportunity to young people across the country who would otherwise not be able to attend college and pursue their dreams.

I urge this Congress to recognize the national success of TRIO programs, and to renew our commitment to educational opportunity.

THE INCREDIBLE READING RALLY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Beaumont Teachers Association and the Literacy Volunteers of America for their terrific work performed in raising money for the adult literacy programs at the Literacy Depot in Beaumont, TX, this week.

Since 1996, Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) has raised national awareness of literacy issues and funds to provide a solution through the Incredible Reading Rally. Developed collaboratively among literacy program managers, volunteers and LVA national leadership, the Incredible Reading Rally involves thousands of adults, school children, businesses, and organizations around the country each February.

Kick-off events have ranged from gala evenings and public appearances by Garfield the