

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

Official Spokescat of the Rally, to celebrities like Miss America reading their favorite books to school children. Through the generous sponsorship of Ferrero USA, Literacy Volunteers of America is able to provide materials and supplies to its participating affiliates at no cost to the local programs.

Other corporate sponsors may contribute through either cash or prize donations. Friends and family can sponsor volunteers by pledging money for each hour per book read during the Rally period. Eighty percent of all monies raised by volunteers will stay in the local community and directly benefit individuals who need reading help. In addition to highlighting the importance of families reading together, this event gives participants a sense of accomplishment about their efforts to support literacy.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Beaumont Teachers of America and Literacy Volunteers of America for their fine work.

#### TAVELLI 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 Tavelli Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I comment the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much for the Salvation Army for the benefit of the needy 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO COACH DAVEY WHITNEY AND THE ALCORN STATE BRAVES

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me extreme pleasure to stand before you and recognize the accomplishments and success of one of Mississippi's finest basketball coaches, Coach Davey Whitney, men's head basketball coach at Alcorn State University. Coach Whitney was the first coach to lead a team from a historically black college or university (HBCU) to victory in the NCAA and NIT tournaments.

Alcorn State University, located in Lorman, Mississippi, was once known as a basketball powerhouse under the guidance of Coach Whitney. During his first stint as head coach, the Braves enjoyed 17 straight winning sea-

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

sons, nine Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles, three National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament appearances and two National Invitational Tournament (NIT) appearances. Then Coach Whitney retired.

Three years ago he was called upon to return and revive the winning program. Through hard work by Coach Whitney and his staff, along with the dedication of this young talented ball club, the Braves are currently enjoying their best season since 1986, the last time Alcorn won the SWAC title. Therefore, it is only fitting that in 1999, while Coach Whitney is on the brink of accomplishing that same goal with the very same program, that I take time out to recognize him.

At the age of 69, Coach Whitney's goal this time around is to get the basketball program back on its feet and train someone to replace him. Although some may view this as a wise decision, I know that there are many Braves fans out there who are lobbying for him to stay for as long as he wants.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Whitney exemplifies college basketball in every way. His track record shows that he has what it takes to be successful and stay successful in college basketball. Keep up the good work Coach and the best of luck to you and your ball club as you continue on your quest for greatness.

#### ELIMINATION OF AID TO TURKEY

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the action of the 105th Congress to withhold all aid for Turkey in the 1999 appropriations bills.

For the past 25 years, Turkey has brutally oppressed the people of Cyprus and committed atrocious human rights violations. Despite the condemnation of the international community, Turkey has refused to withdraw its troops from Cyprus or improve its record on human rights. The United States must take the lead in resolving this conflict in the Mediterranean. Not only is it our moral obligation to oppose unjust oppression and brutal human rights violations, but a lasting resolution to the Cyprus problem would also improve relations between Greece and Turkey, strengthen the peace and stability of the Eastern Mediterranean region, and serve important United States interests.

I have been delighted to work with Congressman JOHN EDWARD PORTER, a key member of the House Appropriations Committee and a great leader on these issues. Congressman PORTER and I introduced H.R. 388 and H.R. 1361 in the 105th Congress to address the situation in Cyprus. These bills proposed to withhold all American military and economic assistance to Turkey unless Turkey peacefully resolved the conflict with Cyprus and halted all human rights violations. I am very pleased that Congressman PORTER and I were able to achieve our goal when these funds were withheld in 1999 appropriations. I join my colleague in urging this Congress and the Presi-

*March 4, 1999*

dent to continue to deny aid to Turkey until these diplomatic and human rights requirements are met.

#### THE ETHERIDGE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACT

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the re-introduction of my legislation I originally introduced last year to assist fast-growing states to build new schools, reduce class sizes and overcrowding and foster an orderly and disciplined learning environment. To date, I have gathered more than twice as many original cosponsors this year than the bill enjoyed in the last Congress, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in signing on to this important legislation.

As the former Superintendent of North Carolina's schools, I know firsthand how important quality facilities are to our children's education. The General Accounting Office has identified more than \$112 billion in school construction needs across the country. The Secretary of Education has reported that the "Baby Boom Echo" will create an explosion of growth in the school-age populations in many states over the next ten years. In fact, the experts at the U.S. Education Department have projected that my state's high school enrollment will grow by 27.1 percent over the next ten years. Almost all of my Congressional District's nine counties have experienced tremendous growth this decade (Franklin County—19.6 percent, Granville County—9.9 percent, Harnett County—18.9 percent, Johnston County—25.3 percent, Lee County—17.1 percent, Nash County—17.3 percent, Sampson County—9.5 percent, Wake County—29.4 percent, Wilson County—2.6 percent).

Congress must assist the states to meet their school construction needs of the coming decade. My bill will use new tax credits to create \$7.2 billion in school construction bonds over the next ten years. These school bonds will be allocated to the states based on the growth we know they will experience in the coming decade. The Etheridge School Construction Act will complement the Administration's school construction initiative by using the same bond-leveraging tax credit but targeting resources to growing states. These targeted tax credits will provide resources directly where they are needed without adding any new federal government programs of bureaucracy. My state of North Carolina will qualify for about \$360 million in school construction bonds under this legislation.

By directing these bonds to the states with the most growth, we will provide desperately needed assistance to the states with the most critical needs and provide some relief to virtually every state. Specifically, the Etheridge School Construction Act will provide school construction bonds to these states at the following amounts: California—\$2.32 billion; Texas—\$840 million; New York—\$540 million; Florida—\$436 million; North Carolina—\$360 million; Georgia—\$303 million; Virginia—\$249