

ashamed of my roots to confront that kind of elitism, so I stewed and said nothing. But a few months ago at a teaching conference I attended, a colleague made a similar comment. He said that most of his Pell students are slackers; that they take advantage of government hand-outs; that they don't have what it takes to make it in a white-collar world. This time I could not keep quiet. I told him that most of my Pell students are even more driven than my middle- and upper-class students, with a lot more riding on the success of their papers than a letter grade or the refinement of their creative-writing skills. Most of my Pell students are working toward not only a degree and a decent job, but also a fundamental shift in the direction of their lives. They want to worry not about paying the bills, but about whether their kids are more suited to playing soccer or the violin. When you're mired in poverty's problems, you don't have the luxury of worrying about basic "quality of life"; it wouldn't occur to you to even use that phrase.

I am not rich now by any means. But most of the time I am happy, and I am productive, and I am not ashamed. I thank you, Senator Pell, for your gift of education—on behalf of myself, my students and all the rest of the people out there who might yet get a shot at a life better than the one they were born into.●

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I rise in recognition of Women's History Month—a time to honor the many great women leaders from our past and present who have served our Nation so well. They have worked diligently to achieve social change and personal triumph usually against incredible odds. As scientists, writers, doctors, teachers, and mothers, they have shaped our world and guided us down the road to prosperity and peace. For far too long, however, their contributions to the strength and character of our society went unrecognized and undervalued.

Women have led efforts to secure not only their own rights, but have also been the guiding force behind many of the other major social movements of our time—the abolitionist movement, the industrial labor movement, and the civil rights movement, to name a few. We also have women to thank for the establishment of many of our early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions.

In Maryland, we are proud to honor the many women who have played such critical roles in the development of our State heritage. They include Margaret Brent, who, in 1648, became America's first woman lawyer and landholder, and Harriet Tubman, who saved thousands of lives during the Civil War through the Underground railroad. Other great Maryland women include Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadasah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America and Dr. Helen Taussig, who developed, in 1945, the first successful medical procedure to save "blue babies."

Now more than ever, women are a guiding force in Maryland and a major presence in our business sector. As of 1996, there were over 167,000 women-owned businesses in our State—that amounts to 39 percent of all firms in Maryland. Maryland's women-owned businesses employ over 301,000 people and generate over \$39 billion in sales. Between 1987 and 1996, the number of women-owned firms in Maryland is estimated to have increased by 88 percent.

During Women's History month we have the opportunity to remember and praise great women leaders who have opened doors for today's young women in ways that are often overlooked. Their legacy has enriched the lives of us all and deserves prominence in the annals of American history.

With this in mind, I have co-sponsored legislation again this Congress to establish a National Museum of Women's History Advisory Committee. This Committee would be charged with identifying a site for the National Museum of Women's History and developing strategies for raising private funding for the development and maintenance of the museum. Ultimately, the museum will enlighten the young and old about the key roles women have played in our Nation's history and the many contributions they have made to our culture.

However, we must do more than merely recognize the outstanding accomplishments women have made. Women's History Month also is a time to recognize that women still face substantial obstacles and inequities at every turn. Access to capital for female entrepreneurs is still a significant stumbling block, and women business owners of color are even less likely than white women entrepreneurs to have financial backing from a bank. A female physician still only earns about 58 cents to her male counterpart's dollar, and female business executives earn about 65 cents for every dollar paid to a male executive. At every age, women are more likely than their male contemporaries to be poor, and the average personal income of men over 65 is nearly double that of their female peers. Tragically, the incidence of AIDS among black and Hispanic women and teenage girls is far out of proportion to their percentage of the population.

On the other hand, we have made great strides toward ensuring a fairer place for women in our society. The college-educated proportion of women, although still smaller than the comparable proportion of men, has been increasing rapidly. Black and white women's death rates from heart disease have dropped significantly since 1970. Women are now the majority in some professional and managerial occupations that were largely male until relatively recently.

Mr. President, as we begin a new millennium, it is my hope that our progress in securing women's rights will accelerate. As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to the women of this Nation and to insuring full equality for all of our citizens.●

RECOGNIZING PHYLLIS MARCKWORTH OF THE PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of a local educator, Phyllis Marckworth, from Port Townsend in Washington State. Phyllis has been brought to my attention for her devoted efforts in singlehandedly taking charge of efforts to create an integrated system of technology throughout the Port Townsend School District. Indeed, Superintendent Gene Medina credits Phyllis' enthusiastic efforts for literally transforming the fundamental nature of student learning in the district. It is individuals like Ms. Marckworth that should remind all of us here in the U.S. Senate of the indispensable role that the innovation of local educators play in our children's education.

Phyllis is the kind of rare and special educator which schools across this country cherish. She serves as a teacher, a technology administrator, and a staff developer. Thus, her contributions to the better education of students of Port Townsend are noteworthy for several reasons: first, her incredible zeal in tirelessly laboring on behalf of the students she serves. In 1993, she was coordinating plans to purchase computers and telephones for the Port Townsend District. Rather than follow the tradition path of initial hardware investment to supply individual classrooms, Phyllis embarked on a bolder and eventually more rewarding task of assembling an entire telecommunications network for all the students in the district to utilize and learn from. That network has since become the backbone of the improved communication and learning in Port Townsend that all schools hope technology will bring to our classrooms.

Secondly, her visionary innovation in implementing an integrated system of technology within the Port Townsend school district has resulted not just in a "technology curriculum" but technology that is fully integrated within the entire district's curriculum. This integration has resulted in better education for students who now understand and utilize technology as a part of every aspect of their lives and learning, not just a computer that is used for typing term papers or biology lab reports.

Finally, this integration which Phyllis sparked has also corresponded with a direct focus on developing the ability

of staff throughout the Port Townsend district to make technology a part of their classrooms. Hence, teachers can make technology a part of the whole education process rather than simply a small piece student learning. Too often technology is brought in to the classrooms of today without the training necessary for our teachers to best use that technology to train our students for tomorrow. Phyllis Marchworth has met that challenge head on and has made her district and its students better because of the creative and dedicated way in which she has done so.

It is individuals like Phyllis Marchworth that make education across this country and in our local schools great, not more rules and regulations from Washington, DC. As we in the Senate work on important education legislation, I hope my colleagues will remember the innovative work of educators like Phyllis Marchworth who show how local communities create education success stories when we give them the flexibility they need and deserve. ●

BRUMIDI IN NEW YORK

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to call the Senate's attention to works of an artist with whom we are all quite familiar. Constantino Brumidi is famous for having painted much of the fine murals here in the Capitol. What is not as yet known, however, is that his other major body of work, in fact the only other great body of work in the United States, is at the Our Lady of the Scapular & St. Stephen's Church (St. Stephen's) in New York City. Located on 29th Street and Third Avenue on Manhattan's East Side, St. Stephens is home to many Brumidi masterpieces, including a mural of the crucifixion which is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world. At one time, St. Stephen's was home to the New York City Arch Diocese and the largest Catholic Church in New York.

Unfortunately, many of the paintings and murals have fallen into disrepair and are in need of restoration. The church has undertaken a campaign to raise the funds necessary to complete this task. I am hopeful that some government funds may be available as well, perhaps through the Save America's Treasures program. Our own Barbara Wolanin from the Architect of the Capitol's office is familiar with St. Stephen's and their efforts to preserve their collection of Brumidis. I invite my colleagues to visit St. Stephen's the next time they are in New York and see the other body of work by the artist we have all come to love.

Mr. President, I ask that an article written by members of St. Stephen's about their Brumidi collection be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI—ARTIST OF THE CAPITOL—CLASSICAL ARTIST AND DECORATOR OF ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

In a new publication, Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol, Barbara Wolanin (curator for the architect of the Capitol) and a host of other scholars present the first in depth biography of this important painter whose work at the Capitol has recently been restored.

In addition to "The Apotheosis of George Washington" which adorns the Capitol dome in the Rotunda, Brumidi painted in the House of Representatives Chamber, the President's Room, the Senate Reception Room, and throughout many of the corridors of our nation's Capitol. The first floor Senate corridors of the Capitol are known as the "Brumidi Corridors."

Ms. Wolanin brings to our attention the fact that a large body of Constantino Brumidi's work is in a Catholic church in New York City. The Order of Carmelites, who serve the parish of Our Lady of the Scapular & St. Stephen's Church in the Rosehill District of Manhattan, have invested over a million dollars of their own funds to restore the exterior of their Romanesque Revival church built to the designs of the architect James Renwick Jr. in 1854 (Mr. Renwick also designed the Smithsonian Castle and the Renwick Gallery). This initial investment has halted deterioration of the many frescoes, murals and decorative elements by Brumidi on the church's interior walls.

Brumidi's mural of the Crucifixion behind the main altar of the church is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world. Brumidi's frescoes of David, the Madonna and Child and St. Cecilia on the south wall, once neglected and in danger of irreversible damage, have been restored by Constance Silver of Preservar in an effort to understand the composition of the underlying wall and the materials and techniques Brumidi used. The goal of the Carmelites is to fully restore the baroque interior of the church, which may be the only one of its kind in America.

Examples of "trompe l'oeil," Brumidi's scheme of architectural illusion which originally united all of the artistic and architectural elements of the church, have been exposed for study and may be seen on the partially restored south wall.

From the mid 1850's through the early 1870's when not working at the Capitol, Brumidi traveled to New York to work at St. Stephen's. Today, the parish serves a small and thriving community. In the 19th century, however, due to a massive immigration of Irish fleeing the Great Famine, St. Stephen's Church became, for a time, the largest and most influential Catholic parish in the United States. ●

THE NURSING HOME RESIDENTIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1999

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, one week ago today, the Finance Committee unanimously voted to support legislation to protect from eviction nursing home residents who rely on Medicaid. Our bill, S. 494, the Nursing Home Residential Security Act of 1999, is supported by both the nursing home industry and senior citizens' advocates.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 540, companion legislation to our bill, by a vote of 392 to 12. I call on my colleagues now to join me

in voting in support of this important legislation. Let us send it to the President and make it the first piece of health care legislation to become law this year.

Our legislation prohibits nursing homes that withdraw from participation in the Medicaid program from evicting the Medicaid residents who are already in the facility. Essentially, we provide for a phase-down rather than an immediate termination of participation in Medicaid.

Sixty-eight percent of all nursing home residents eventually end up on Medicaid. Our bill protects these vulnerable senior citizens and individuals with disabilities from finding themselves evicted. The bill goes a long way toward assuring residents and their families that they will continue to receive quality nursing home care without fear of inappropriate eviction.

S. 494/H.R. 540 is a modest but important proposal that will promote the peace of mind of millions of Americans. I ask my colleagues for their support. ●

IN MEMORY OF LOUISIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE AVERY ALEXANDER

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, with the passing this week of Louisiana state Representative Avery Alexander, our nation and my state of Louisiana lost one of its most legendary and respected citizens. For most of his 88 years, Reverend Alexander gave himself selflessly and completely to the service of others—as a dedicated and caring minister, as a fearless and principled civil rights leader and as a tireless and thoroughly honorable public servant.

To those who knew him, "The Rev," as he was called, was a nothing short of a living legend and the very embodiment of the courage, passion and vision that characterized the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. In a day and time when standing up for your rights as an American meant taking your life into your hands, Avery Alexander and his allies took to the streets and helped transform our nation. Avery Alexander and his contemporaries in the civil rights movement helped give our nation a new birth of freedom and for that we are internally grateful.

Yet long after the great civil rights marches and protests of the 1960s and well into his ninth decade of life, Reverend Alexander was still as passionate and committed to the cause of human rights as he had always been. It wasn't that long ago—three years to be exact—that the people of Louisiana were treated to the familiar image of Avery Alexander on a ticket line in Baton Rouge, protesting changes to the state's affirmative action laws that he believed were unfair and unwise. When Avery Alexander believed in something, especially civil rights, he gave it