

grandchildren. In the early 1940s, she joined St. Paul AME Church in East Orange. She has remained a faithful member since that time. During her membership, she has devoted her attention to the Pastor's Aide Club, Missionary Society, and Georgia Circle. A firm believer that "prayer changes things," she has made a believer out of many of her relatives.

While she is proud and boastful of the accomplishments of her children—Willie, my successful barber; Evelyn, a retired teacher/librarian; and Mary, a member of the East Orange City Council; she is always quick to remind them to remember where they came from and not get "too big for their britches." Her nine grandchildren have profited from her inspired motivational talks using the Prodigal Son as her text to teach the value of love. As a teenager, I remember visiting the Koonce home. It was a place that always seemed to have young people around. I am sure that was because we all had a tremendous amount of respect for Mrs. Koonce. She instilled values in all of us, not just her children. She always seemed to extend herself.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending Mrs. Koonce our best wishes for a wonderful birthday.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD "HOWIE"
HERBERT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring your attention to the contributions and leadership of Howard (Howie) Herbert, a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Howard Herbert moved to Albuquerque at the age of 20, in 1950. After building a reputation in sales and management Howie began his career as an entrepreneur. He opened the first discount store in the southwest, calling it Albuquerque Discount Club. Gas was sold for seven cents a gallon to those who had the Albuquerque Discount Club deal. After two years he sold this successful business and moved on to land development and the appliance business—Herbert Distributing. Mr. Herbert was a founding member of Western Bank.

Howard Herbert experienced business success, but believes that it is all about giving back to the community. Over the years he has served on more than 30 committees and boards including the Governors Drug Council, Youth Incarceration Business Outreach Program, Board of Directors for Special Olympics, Goodwill Industries, Trustee of the 100 Club of New Mexico, state chairman of the Easter Seals program and New Mexico Mental Health, founder of the Christmas Basket Program in Albuquerque and co-founder of the Halfway House Rehab for Alcoholics, and the list continues.

Please join me in the recognition of economic and social contributions Howard Herbert has made to my home of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TROOPER FACES PROBE OVER OUTBURST

EUGENE, OR (AP)—A state police trooper accused of shouting racial slurs and obscenities during an incident in Eugene is facing a criminal charge.

Joseph Michael Jansen, 28, assigned to the Madras patrol office, was in town for a wedding when he allegedly caused the 2 a.m. ruckus Jan. 24.

Jansen, who is charged with disorderly conduct, is on "modified duty status" while police investigate, state police spokesman Lt. Gregg Hastings said.

"That type of behavior, whether on duty or off duty, is very serious and it's taken very seriously," Hastings said.

Jansen and another man were on the first floor of the Valley River Inn yelling racial slurs about blacks and Mexicans, according to a Eugene police report.

Jansen gave his badge and state police identification to the officers, who didn't immediately believe he was a trooper because of his behavior.

Officers said they tried to calm him down, noting that hotel guests were waking up to see what was happening.

They said Jansen appeared to be extremely intoxicated and continued to yell and swear, telling one officer to "shut up" when she asked him to quiet down.

As officers put him in a patrol car, they said, they warned him that the car had a recording device, but he continued to yell.

Jansen posted \$510 bail five hours later and was released. Hastings said Jansen is on paid leave, "duty-stationed at home," meaning he has to be available to perform paperwork-type duties during normal work hours.

Jansen, who was hired Jan. 1, 1997, could be fired, Hastings said. However, a decision isn't expected until the disorderly conduct charge is dealt with in court.

SCHOOL SAYS SYMBOL IN TILE IS NATIVE
AMERICAN, NOT NAZI

WALLED LAKE, MI (AP)—A swastika-like symbol embedded in the mosaic floor of a Walled Lake public school for 77 years has brought the district under fire this week from the NAACP and an attorney.

The symbol, covered by a throw rug in the entryway of the district's Community Education Center, is a foot in diameter and was placed in the floor when the school was built in 1922.

District officials said the symbol is from American Indian culture. Unlike the Nazi swastika, the arms of the symbol on the school's floor point counterclockwise.

"It has nothing to do with the National Socialist Party of Germany," Robert Masson, director of the center, told the Detroit Free Press for a story Wednesday. "The building and the symbol precedes the Nazis by a considerable amount of time."

School officials put a rug over the symbol in recent years because of "possible interpretation of its meaning as a swastika," Masson said.

Arnold Reed, an attorney representing a Walled Lake student involved in a scuffle with an administrator, complained about the symbol.

"When I pulled back that rug, I could barely move because fear gripped me. I felt like I didn't belong here," Reed told The Oakland Press. "You'd be hard pressed to find another African American who didn't feel the same way."

Lawyer H. Wallace Parker, who represents the North Oakland County NAACP branch, said regardless of its origin, it is identified as a symbol of racial hatred and should have been removed long ago.

Reed said he wants a plaque mounted to explain the symbol.

CLINTON PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton has issued his annual Black History Month proclamation, urging the Nation to "not only remember the tragic errors of our past, but also celebrate the achievements" of the American descendants of African slaves.

Clinton said Monday that this year's events should focus on the proud legacy of leadership blacks have built over their 350-year history in the United States despite the trauma of slavery and government-sanctioned segregation. He urged public officials, educators, librarians and citizens in general to draw from the power of this collective achievement as they seek to resolve racial problems.

Specifically, Clinton listed notable blacks from NAACP co-founder W.E.B. DuBois to Martin Luther King Jr., and said all Americans could draw from the "skills, determination and indefatigable spirit" they displayed as the were "shaped but not defeated by their experience of racism."

In his proclamation, Clinton referred to February as "National African American History Month."

THE VACCINATE AMERICA'S
CHILDREN NOW ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative PHILIP ENGLISH to introduce the Vaccinate America's Children Now Act.

This legislation seeks to lower the excise tax on vaccines from \$.75 per a dose to \$.25 per a dose.

Congress imposed the vaccine excise tax in 1986 after forming the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to provide compensation to children who develop complications due to vaccination.

In the beginning, various tax levels were set up for each vaccine and the amount of tax was based on best guess estimates.

Due to a building surplus in the fund, in 1993, the House Ways and Means Committee, directed the Administration to study the fund and report back to Congress with recommendations regarding the surplus.

The report, which included the approval from all areas of the public health community, called for a new flat tax of \$.51 per vaccine.

With the surplus now over \$1.25 billion (twice what it was in 1993) the time has come to lower the tax to \$.25 per dose.