

strengthened our Nation's child support enforcement system, but that does not address situations in which non-custodial fathers want to support their children but do not have a job. In short, our current programs and policies do not make a clear enough distinction between deadbeat dads and dead broke dads.

To address these two critical issues, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Welfare to Work program. The bill would provide \$1 billion in FY 2000 to help long-term and hard-to-employ welfare recipients join the work force and to help non-custodial parents support their children. The legislation would extend the Welfare to Work (WtW) program established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which provided \$1.5 billion a year in FY 1998 and FY 1999 for states and local communities to help move a long-term welfare recipients in high poverty areas into jobs and help them succeed in the work force.

By providing greater flexibility to States and localities, the legislation would make substantial improvements to the original WtW program. The focus would continue to be on long-term recipients or the fathers of their children, but the program would be considerably simpler to operate. For example, under this proposal, eligible participants would be those which meet at least one, rather than two, barriers to employment. Furthermore, the list of barriers would be expanded to include with disabilities, those who are homeless, or those who have been victims of domestic violence. In addition, the first barrier listed in current law, which requires that the recipient not have a high school diploma and have low skills in reading or math would be split into two categories in order to serve those who gained a degree but whose low skills still form a major barrier to employment. And finally, the bill would allow States to offer vocational education to WtW participants and allow services to be provided to children aging out of the foster care system.

Noncustodial fathers will also face simpler eligibility requirements, so long as they agree to establish paternity and to pay child support once they are employed. The importance of non-custodial fathers in children's lives is often forgotten, except when it is time to collect child support. The majority of children on welfare live with a single parent, and only about 20% of them receive child support from their noncustodial parent. The vast majority of these noncustodial parents are either unemployed or only able to obtain intermittent, low-wage employment. Assisting these fathers in finding and keeping employment and increasing their earnings is therefore critical to enhancing child support payments and to increasing their involvement in their children's lives. For these reasons, at least 20% of new formula funds would be targeted to noncustodial parents.

Under this proposal, as under current law, about 75 percent of Welfare-to-Work funds will be allocated to States on a formula basis, with 85 percent of these funds passed through to local Private Industry Councils of Workforce Boards. The remaining 25 percent of the funds will continue to be awarded on a competitive basis by the Department of Labor to support innovative projects by a variety of private and public organizations.

In 1998, the first year of the WtW program, 44 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received Welfare-to-Work formula grants. Approximately \$368 million in competitive grants have also been awarded by the Department of Labor to 126 grantees in communities throughout the country. A third round of competitive grants will be awarded in 1999, with high priority for applications which focus on recipients or non-custodial parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, substance abuse problems, or a history of domestic violence. It is worth noting that there was only sufficient resources to fund one out of every ten applications for the first two rounds of the competitive grant program.

In Baltimore, Maryland, part of which I represent in Congress, the City Office of Employment Development received a 1998 competitive grant of \$3.3 million to provide comprehensive services to recipients and non-custodial fathers in public housing. Participants will work for 6 months in supported jobs (while also getting life skills training), and then be placed in unsubsidized employment. Baltimore is also the headquarters for three major national efforts supported by \$16.5 million in Welfare-to-Work competitive funds. The efforts are managed by Marriot International, by Johns Hopkins University, and by the Enterprise Foundation. In each case, these nationally recognized organizations will be testing innovative, work-oriented strategies focused on job retention, skills development and career advancement.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare to Work program helps the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients make the transition to employment. I urge all of my colleagues to support this extension of the program to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform not only in reducing dependency but also in reducing poverty.

IN HONOR OF THE 1ST ANNUAL
DONOR AWARENESS BIKE-A-THON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon which will occur on Sunday, April 25. This event, which consists of an eleven mile course around Lake Quinsigamond, will raise awareness and money for the University of Massachusetts Memorial Blood Donor Center, the HLA Registry Foundation, Inc., and The New England Organ Bank. Individuals and their families who have donated or received blood products, bone marrow and organ and tissue transplants will be there to bike for and/or lend their support to the issue of supply and demand for these "Gifts of Life."

As we draw attention to this event, the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon, it is important to remember that every day in the United States fifteen individuals die for lack of an organ, ten die for lack of a compatible bone marrow match, and countless others are dependent upon blood transfusions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to commend the organizers and participants of this event for their great efforts.

HONORING JOSEPH A. ZACCAGNINO
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Ms. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor one of New Haven's most respected community leaders. Today, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League will honor Joseph Zaccagnino with the 1999 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Through his leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Yale New Haven Health System, Joe Zaccagnino has significantly improved and enhanced the health care services available to our community. Yale-New Haven Hospital is an internationally renowned medical center, no doubt due in part to his talented leadership.

The face of health care in New Haven has changed for the better under Joe's direction. We have witnessed the opening of the Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, the creation of six school-based health clinics, a substantial investment in AIDS care services, and the provision of over \$27 million in free health care annually. The number of people who have benefitted from Joe's commitment to health care is incalculable. It is rewarding for all of us to know that because of his work, thousands of children and people in need are receiving the care they deserve.

Among his most significant accomplishments, Joe led the development of the Yale New Haven Health System, Connecticut's largest and most comprehensive integrated health care provider and financing system. The entire region is now able to benefit from a broad range of quality, comprehensive health care services, ranging from primary care to long-term and home health services. Joe is widely recognized as an expert in our community in developing and implementing successful health care policy. He has a vision that is balanced with the skill and expertise to carry it through.

Joe has also demonstrated his deep commitment to the Greater New Haven community through his service to a variety of local organizations. He is a former board member of the United Way, the YMCA of Greater New Haven, and the International Special Olympics Summer Games and currently serves on the Boards of the University of Hospital Consortium, National Committee for Quality Health Care, New Haven Regional Leadership Council, and New Haven Savings Bank. Joe spearheaded an innovative initiative pairing the City of New Haven and Yale University with the Anti-Defamation League to extend cultural diversity training programs into the community.

It is with great pride that I rise today to honor my good friend Joseph Zaccagnino for his outstanding service as he receives the 1999 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award. His dedication to quality health care and service to the community is an example to us all. I join family, friends and the city of New Haven to congratulate Joe for this honor. I

wish him continued success and prosperity, and thank him for the difference he has made in our community.

QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER NO. 1,
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR,
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION
CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and celebrate the Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, of the District of Columbia, on the occasion of its 125th birthday.

The Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, is a female organization that is part of Free Masonry, and was the first Eastern Star Chapter for women of color. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community involvement and improvement, the provision of scholarships for our youth, support of our public schools, and service to the indigent. The chapter was organized in the home of its founder, Sister Georgiana Thomas, on December 1, 1874 by Brother Thornton A. Jackson, Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, F. and A.M., who received the Degree of Adoptive Rite of the Eastern Star from Brother C.B. Case, a deputy and agent of Robert McCoy, 33°, the Supreme Patron of the Rite of Adoption of the World. The chapter's first Worthy Matron was Sister Martha Welch and the first Worthy Patron was Brother Thornton A. Jackson.

In 1875, Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, F. and M. presented the chapter with its first badges, known as Rosettes, emblems of power, honor, and ability. W.P. Thornton A. Jackson wished the chapter success and prosperity, and admonished the members to wear the badges with dignity, keeping ever before them the memory of the five heroines, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. Queen Esther Chapter was under the complete directives of Pythagoras Lodge No. 9 from 1874 until 1892, when the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was organized.

The history of Queen Esther Chapter is rich in tradition and honors. The first among them being Sister Georgiana Thomas, P.M., after whom the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was named, Sister Marie I. Smith for whom the Marie I. Smith Court of Cyrenes was named, and Phyllis S. Byrd, P.M. who became P.G.W.M., P.I.G.M., and after whom the Phyllis S. Bird Youth Fraternity was named.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of this body to join me in wishing the Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, a future that is as glorious as its past.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF FR. ALCUIN
MIKULANIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father Alcuin Mikulanis, Associate Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Slavic Village.

Father Alcuin, as he was known to the many parishioners he served, had ministered in the Cleveland area since 1984. During these years, he was well known in the Polish community not only as a compassionate and dedicated Pastor, but also as an accomplished singer. In fact, he was frequently called to sing introductory prayers and benedictions at meetings and gatherings.

Fr. Alcuin was a man of many talents, and he shared them graciously with his parishioners in the several states where he served. For example, from 1958 to 1962, in addition to being Vocations Director of his Franciscan Province, he was Director of a Polish radio program entitled "Christ the King Hour." Recordings of Polish folk songs and Christmas carols from this program is still in high demand after 40 years. While serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Meridian, MS from 1963–1966, he was involved in the civil rights activities of the time.

In Ohio, he served as Chaplain of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis at Marymount Convent. Later, as Associate Pastor of the historic St. Stanislaus Church, he was able to focus directly on the Polish ministry of his new parish. Fr. Alcuin witnessed the completion of one of his dreams last year with the restoration of St. Stanislaus Church on its 125th anniversary as a parish.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Fr. Alcuin.

HONORING THE OAKLAND HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the Oakland High School football team of Murfreesboro, TN. The goal the team achieved is winning the State 5–A football championship this past season.

These men of Oakland High trained vigorously and played tirelessly. They deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each team member, head coach Marty Euerard, assistant coaches Donnie Webb, Lebron Ferguson, Mike Cantrell, Mark Burke, Joey Freeman, Chuck Swafford, Todd Williamson, managers Alicia Garcia, Laura Austin, Katie Wright, Amanda McDougal, Matt Bingham, trainer Mike Gross, video technician Brian Josey, the team doctors

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and school Principal Ken Nolan. I know they won't soon forget this milestone.

The players are true champions. They are Alvin McDermott, Jeremy Harrison, Dejuan Hathaway, Kendrick Roper, Decarlos Carneal, Roland Ogletree, Trey Mosby, James Smith, Robbie Knight, Wardell Alsup, Desmond Rhodes, Matt King, Victor Stevenson, Mark Drew, Colby Wright, B.J. Malone, Mario Lyles, Derrick Savannah, Tee Thompason, Aaron Wells, Freddie King, Cory Hixson, Chad Pfalmer, Mason Jones, Jamie Malletta, Jeff Weaver, Chris Counts, Gabriel Batten, Essex Johnson, Jeff Atkins, Greg Spray, Justin Hutchins, Chris Parrot, Newt Ealy, Jeremy Spivey, Josh Peay, Mitch Welborne, Tommy Lawwell, Jeff Harvey, Dustin Griswold, Troy Broughton, Brett Trott, Zach Hollins, Jay Adkins, Dustin Jones, and Luke Ferguson.

HONORING ROBSTOWN HIGH
SCHOOL BAND

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine the light on a performance later this week on the west side of the Capitol. I would like to invite all of you and your staff to hear the Robstown High School Band from my hometown of Robstown, TX.

Many of you have heard me talk about my hometown. Robstown is the biggest little town in Texas. Robstown has given the community, the state and the nation much of which they can be proud. Some prominent politicians at the local, the state and the national level hail from this big little town.

Robstown has thrilled us with their state baseball titles. The Cottonpickers baseball team is consistently underrated by the opposition from the bigger, more affluent school districts.

This week, however, Robstown High School sends its band to entertain us on the lower west terrace of the U.S. Capitol on April 23 from 1:30 to 2:15. The 120 young people in the band will be in the area on an educational trip during which they will see the museums and monuments Washington has to offer.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in welcoming the Robstown High School band to the U.S. Capitol.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
BEDARD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Bedard, who is retiring this year after nearly 38 years of service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Dick Bedard began his career where it counts the most—in the classroom, as a math and physics teacher. From there he moved into administrative positions, including Audio-visual Director, Director of Instructional Media, and, most recently School Plant Manager.