

with hundreds of floats and marching bands, and a Festival of Nations with over 35 countries participating with native costumes, food, arts and crafts, and music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the County of Los Angeles on its 150th anniversary. Our golden history is reflected throughout the County and is a constant reminder of the wealth of opportunity that continues to grace the people of the County of Los Angeles.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. STEPHENS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding public servant from my home state of New Jersey, Mr. Robert E. Stephens, the Director of the Division of Operations at New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Mr. Stephens began his career with the State of New Jersey in 1975 as the Superintendent of Newark House, a community-based service center. In 1982, he became Assistant Superintendent for the Mid-State Correctional Facility. In 1984, he advanced to the position of Superintendent of the Mid-State Correctional Facility, where he remained until 1986 when he became Administrator of Northern State Prison. In 1993 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Operations, and in 1994, he became the Director of the Division of Operations.

During his tenure, Mr. Stephens has earned an excellent reputation as a professional of the highest integrity, competence and ability to bring people together. He is well respected for his outstanding leadership and for his many accomplishments over the year.

On February 18, 2000, friends, family and colleagues of Mr. Stephens will gather to honor him for his many years of service. I know that my colleagues in Congress join me in offering our appreciation to Mr. Stephens for a job well done and our very best wishes for continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR STEPHANIE JACKSON OF ASHLAND, KY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Stephanie Jackson of Ashland, KY, who is being recognized for outstanding service to her community. Ms. Jackson has been named one of Kentucky's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This honor is annually bestowed upon the most inspiring student volunteers nationwide.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America, in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, insti-

tuted their Spirit of Community Awards in 1995. These awards applaud young people who so generously donate their time and effort to bettering their neighborhoods and towns. In 5 years, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards has become the largest youth recognition program based solely on community service in the United States. I'm proud to say that Stephanie Jackson is one young lady who is certainly deserving of such recognition.

Ms. Jackson is at the age of 15, the founder of the Boyd County branch of the Kentucky Youth Council of Volunteerism and Service. Through this group, she has already implemented two service projects to better her community.

Stephanie Jackson is a positive example for young people across the nation, and I am proud to say, an indication of great things to come in Kentucky. It is with pride and gratitude that I congratulate her on being recognized for her dedication to community service.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHESTERTON HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Chesterton High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. On Saturday, February 5, 2000, the Chesterton High School Debate Team won its 11th state debate title.

Chesterton entered four Policy debate teams, four Lincoln Douglas debaters and five Congressional debaters. All 17 debaters broke out of the preliminary rounds and competed in the elimination rounds. Additionally, Chesterton won all three championships—Policy, Lincoln Douglas, and Congress—for a complete sweep of the tournament. No school in the state had ever accomplished this feat. Joel Cavallo and Paul Babcock survived the field of 44 teams to win the State Policy Debate title. In Lincoln Douglas debate, Matt Gregoline was named the top debater in a field of 66. John Jernigan took the Congressional debate title, outlasting 86 competitors.

In addition, I would like to recognize the other members of the State Debate Championship Team: Dave Blumenthal; Meredith Chase; Aaron Dartz; Eric Galamback; Katie Hurley; April Jenkins; Stephanie Kendall; Christian Nallenweg; Sherry Nelson; Dave Odefey; Mike Podguski; Owen Sutkowski; and Amber Zehner. The team's success is also due to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers and coaches. In particular, James Cavallo, Carol Biel and Kirsten Turnak should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches. Additionally, Chesterton Principal Janice Bergeson and Dr. Kenneth Payne, Duneland Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their strong support of the debate program. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort, deter-

mined preparation and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Chesterton High School Debate Team for their commitment to excellence as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders, and I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top!

CARTER G. WOODSON HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to be with you today.

As we gather here on this special occasion, we owe thanks for the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month, and most importantly, for the study of Black History, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Born to parents who were former slaves, Dr. Woodson spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at the age of 20. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.

Woodson, always one to act on his actions, decided to take on the challenge of ensuring the story of Black Americans was told in our nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Understanding and appreciating the African-American experience not only enriches our national life, but it also reminds all Americans of their ethnic roots and the uniqueness of the great American experience: the nurturing of mutual respect for different traditions and backgrounds.

Woodson choose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American Black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

It was Douglass who said, "We are one, our cause is one, and we must help each other; if we are to succeed."

And it was Lincoln who said at that famous address at Gettysburg, "we are highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The theme of this year's Black History Month is "Heritage and Horizons: The African-American Legacy and the Challenges of the 21st Century."