

many other distinguished citizens of Arkansas are attending a memorial service in Fayetteville to celebrate and honor the life of Diane Blair, who passed away last month. I believe that Diane Blair also deserves a tribute in the Congress, because her influence and service impacted our nation as well.

Diane was first and foremost a professor of political science at the University of Arkansas, and it was through this role that she touched an entire generation of Americans. She literally "wrote the book" on Arkansas politics—Arkansas Politics and Government: Do the People Rule? still stands as the one and only authoritative treatment of the subject. Beyond her academic accomplishments, Diane is best remembered as a caring and thoughtful teacher. She engaged her students, and imparted her love of learning to them.

Moreover, through her example she inspired countless people to become active in the political system. She was the conscience of the Democratic party in Arkansas for years, but her grace and magnanimity attracted admirers from across the political spectrum. She was an outspoken advocate for women and education, and for progress in general.

Her accomplishments are manifold and diverse: chairwoman of state and national commissions, including the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; professor emerita; author and editor of two books; mother of five, grandmother of two.

The life of Diane Blair will be memorialized in many ways. The University of Arkansas will create a center for the study of southern political culture in her name. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has already named its new boardroom in her honor. However, the best memorial to Diane Blair exists in the hearts and minds of her friends, students, and loved ones. I am proud to count myself among this fortunate group, and on behalf of the Congress I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Diane Blair in their time of mourning.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY FRANCIS THOMAS, UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mr. Gary Francis Thomas upon his retirement from the United States House of Representatives Office of the Sergeant at Arms, after thirty-six years of service.

Mr. Thomas began his career in Congress in 1965 working for the Architect of the Capitol in the Labor Room, where he served for five years. Upon completing his work with the Architect of the Capitol in 1970, Mr. Thomas transferred to the Parking Office, where he is now completing his thirty-six year career.

Mr. Thomas began his career during the 89th Congress when Representative John W. McCormick was Speaker of the House and Lyndon B. Johnson was President of the United States. He has since served under eighteen Congresses and seven Presidents,

rising within the Sergeant at Arms Office to the supervisory level.

Mr. Thomas resides in the 4th Congressional District of Maryland, which I am proud to represent. He is the father of six, three boys and three girls, while his wife, Mrs. Janell Thomas, is currently expecting the couple's seventh child. Mr. Thomas is a man of conviction and community service, dedicating his free time to fostering youth development. He has also been an active Minister for the past ten years at the Remnant Ministries.

Gary Francis Thomas' dedication to all he has served here in Congress will undoubtedly be missed. Whether it was assisting Members of Congress with car problems or issuing parking permits to staff, Mr. Thomas served the entire Capitol Hill community without reservation, always in high spirits and with a good word for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Gary Francis Thomas upon his retirement from the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 429, I was unavoidably detained due to a plane delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a letter written by the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) regarding a provision included in H.R. 4843, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act. This letter should help to clarify the provision which applies to the Section 415 limits for multiemployer pension plans.

The JCT letter helps to clarify that, if the IRS follows the precedents it has established in the past, the individual multiemployer pension plans will be able to provide benefit increases for individuals who are already retired from their plan related employment if all of their benefits have not been previously distributed. This means that an employee who is currently retired from union employment can benefit from the Section 415 modifications included in H.R. 4843.

I am particularly interested in this issue because of a family in my district who loses more than one-half of their annual pension because of the Section 415 limits. Larry Kohr is a retired union worker who lives with his family in my district in Illinois. Larry loses more than

one-half of his annual benefits because of the 415 limits. The letter I am including into the record today clarifies that the IRS and the individual multiemployer pension plans will have the right and the ability, once the 415 changes are signed into law, to ensure that current retirees, such as the Kohr's, will be able to benefit from the changes in the Section 415 limits.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to clarify this important issue.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2000.

HON. JERRY WELLER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. WELLER: This is response to your request dated July 18, 2000, regarding the provision in H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act," as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, modifying the section 415 limits on benefits under multiemployer pension plans. Specifically, you requested information concerning the impact that the enactment of H.R. 4843 would have on the authority and ability of multiemployer pension plans to correct future benefits for retirees whose pension benefits are reduced under present law by operation of the section 415 limits.

H.R. 4843 would not require multiemployer pension plans to increase pension benefits for retired participants or participants who are currently employed. Section 415 provides limits on the maximum benefits that may be paid from a pension plan, not minimum benefit requirements. Therefore, a modification of an applicable section 415 limit would not automatically increase a participant's benefit. Rather, whether an increase occurs would depend on the plan provisions and any modification made to the plan to reflect the increased limit.

In order to determine the effect that H.R. 4843 would have on the authority and ability of a multiemployer plan to increase benefits for retirees, a useful analogy is the repeal of the combined limitation on defined benefit and defined contribution plans under former section 415(e) as a result of the enactment of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. Prior to the effective date of the repeal of section 415(e), the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") issued Notice 99-44, in which the IRS provided guidance concerning benefit increases that would be permitted upon the repeal of the combined limitation on defined benefit and defined contribution plans.

In Notice 99-44, the IRS stated that if a plan is not amended to take into account the repeal of section 415(e), the effect on the benefits of plan participants will depend on the plan's existing provisions for applying the limitations of section 415(e) and any other relevant plan provisions. According to the IRS, a plan's existing provisions could result in automatic benefit increases for participants as of the effective date of the repeal of section 415(e). For example, the IRS stated, the repeal of section 415(e) could result in automatic benefit increases for participants in defined benefit plans that incorporate by reference the limitations under section 415.

In addition, the IRS stated in Notice 99-44 that a defined benefit pension plan may provide for benefit increases to reflect the repeal of section 415(e) for a current or former employee who has commenced benefits under the plan prior to the effective date of the repeal of section 415(e) for the plan, but only if the employee or former employee has an accrued benefit on that date. In other words,

the IRS determined that a plan may provide for benefit increases to reflect the repeal of section 415(e) for a former employee who has begun receiving benefit distributions prior to the effective date of the repeal but whose benefits under the plan have not been completely distributed prior to the effective date of the repeal.

If H.R. 4843 is enacted, the modifications to the section 415 limits affecting multiemployer pension plans would be effective for years beginning after December 31, 2000. If, in the implementation of these modifications, the IRS follows the precedent that it has established with respect to the repeal of section 415(e), a multiemployer plan would be permitted to provide for benefit increases to reflect the modifications of the section 415 limits for a former employee who has commenced distributions prior to 2001 but whose benefits have not been completely distributed prior to 2001. In addition, the modification of the section 415 limits could result in automatic benefit increases for participants in defined benefit plans that incorporate by reference the section 415 limits.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

LINDY L. PAULL.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN BARBARA P. MORGAN FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding individual whose service to our nation and the Greater New Haven community is unparalleled. Captain Barbara P. Morgan has served as the Commander of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in New Haven, Connecticut for the past three years and has recently announced that she will be leaving her command to attend the Naval War College.

As Commander of the Reserve Center, Captain Morgan has been a driving force in involving the Reserve Center with the surrounding community, opening its doors to government agencies and community-based programs. The American Red Cross, New Haven Public School's after school program, Sea Cadets and various veteran organizations have all benefited from her generosity. Captain Morgan has been a leading advocate for the Marine Cadets of America, a very special program for the young people of Greater New Haven, to whom she has provided support as the Commanding Officer and by encouraging the entire military community to participate in the operation of the program.

For twenty-two years, Captain Morgan has served in the United States Navy with honor and distinction. She has been decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal—a reflection of her remarkable career. Captain Morgan has demonstrated a unique commitment to our community—rare for an individual

who has only been with us such a relatively short time. I commend her for her efforts and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to her for her invaluable contributions.

I am proud to rise today to join her husband, William, friends, colleagues, and community members to thank her for her outstanding service and wish her well as she departs for the Naval War College.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, I was unavoidably detained from the House chamber when my flight from Tennessee to return to Washington was canceled due to weather conditions. Had I been present I would have cast my vote as follows: Rollcall No. 373, yes; Rollcall No. 374, no; Rollcall No. 375, yes; Rollcall no. 376, no; Rollcall No. 377, yes; Rollcall No. 378, no.

On Monday, July 24, I was unavoidably detained from the House chamber while I attended a funeral in Tennessee of the mother of my good friend and our colleague, Representative BILL JENKINS. Had I been present I would have cast my vote as follows: Rollcall No. 429, yes.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER BROADCAST GROUP, INC.

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Carter Broadcast Group, Inc., owner of KPRS-FM and KPRT-AM radio, the oldest African-American owned and operated radio station in America. This year they celebrate 50 years of excellence as one of Kansas City's, and the nation's, most established and respected broadcasters.

In 1950, Andrew "Skip" Carter had a dream to build a black owned radio station in Kansas City that would serve the needs of his community. His station, KPRS-AM was only the second African-American station to receive a broadcast license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Operating with just 1,000 watts, it went on the air playing such artists as Ray Charles and James Brown. It had to go off the air at sundown because of the low wattage.

In 1963 Skip Carter received a license from the FCC to operate a 100,000 watt FM facility. In 1973, their stations became the first fully automated stations in the Midwest.

Skip Carter and his wife, Mildred, had operated the two stations as a family business since their inception. Their grandson, Michael, had his own jazz show in the late 1960's at eight years of age. In 1987 Michael Carter was named President of KPRS Broadcasting Corporation by his grandfather to carry on the family tradition. The name was later changed

to the Carter Broadcast Group, Inc. to honor Skip Carter's legacy.

Between 1990 and 1996 KPRS advanced from the eighth rated station to the top rated station in the Kansas City market as measured by Arbitron. This recognition of the "Hot 103 Jamz" came about by the hard work and dedication of the total staff, which has been incorporated into the Carter Broadcast "Family." There have been numerous accolades during their 50 years. Skip Carter was named to the Radio Hall of Fame, the station received a Crystal Award from the National Association of Broadcasters, a Griffin Award from the Missouri Broadcasters Association for Community Service, and their recent nomination for the Marconi Award from the National Association of Broadcasters which recognizes excellence in radio. Winners of the Marconi Award will be announced September 23 in San Francisco, our community will be cheering them as they are acknowledged and honored. They have been recognized for business successes and community service on many occasions. Three times they have been honored as a Top 10 Small Business of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the most recent being this past April. They have constantly stepped forward in the community in times of crisis. When children have been abducted, they have devoted live broadcast time to assist in finding them. They have lent their airwaves to help raise funds for community organizations such as the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime. In 1999 alone, the stations assisted more than 150 community organizations and aired 10,000 community service spots.

Saturday, July 22, the Carter Broadcast Group is having a "50th Anniversary Gala." The proceeds from this event will benefit the St. Vincent's Day Care Center, which serves many of Kansas City's critically at risk children.

In celebration of this significant milestone, I am honored to recognize Michael Carter and the Carter Broadcast Group's efforts and legacy. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Carter family and the entire organization for 50 years of service to the Greater Kansas City community.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING RELEASE OF RABIYA KADEER, HER SECRETARY AND SON BY GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution that calls on the People's Republic of China to immediately release Rabiya Kadeer, a prominent Uighur businesswoman, her son, and her secretary.

When the Chinese government arrests and imprisons people like this, it is an important reminder to all of us of the true character of the Chinese regime. The State Department's 1999 Human Rights Report on China stated this