

VAWA was a giant step forward in our country's response to violence against women. It was the first federal law of its kind to recognize that gender-based crimes prevent women from being full participants in society. VAWA has had an enormous impact on many women and children through grants and federal prosecutions. VAWA expired on September 30, 2000, however, I am pleased to note that on September 26, 2000, the House of Representatives not only voted overwhelmingly to reauthorize VAWA, but also to expand the original law. I am hopeful the Senate will do likewise so this important legislation can become law.

Violence against women must be stopped and every person must do their part. VAWA is playing an important step in ending this violence, but it cannot do so alone. It is vitally important that the public is educated about the effects this violence has on our society. Ms. Sadat and Ms. Brown are committed advocates and continually reach out and educate communities about domestic violence. I laud their efforts and accomplishments that are raising public awareness and helping purge domestic violence from our nation.

CELEBRATING THE 89TH
NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to send best wishes and congratulations to His Excellency Chen Shui-Bian, President of the Republic of China, and all the citizens of Taiwan on the occasion of their 89th National Day. Taiwan has prospered in recent years. It has one of the strongest economies in the world, and its people enjoy unprecedented prosperity.

Taiwan has good schools, a good transportation system, and quality health care. Furthermore, the people of Taiwan enjoy political freedom through direct elections, a free press, and a commitment to human rights.

Taiwan has every right to be proud on the occasion of its 89th National Day, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the country's achievements.

REOPENING OF THE GOLDEN ROSE
CHORAL SYNAGOGUE IN UKRAINE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to the Jewish community of Ukraine, and particularly to Rabbi Kaminezki, as they celebrate the reopening of one of Ukraine's most important symbols of Jewish culture—the Golden Rose Choral Synagogue in the city of Dnepropetrovsk.

This important event, which took place on September 20, symbolizes the rebirth of the Jewish community in Ukraine since the col-

lapse of the Soviet Union. Now, as a result of a great deal of hard work and perseverance, the Jewish community in Ukraine can be described as one of the most vibrant Jewish communities in all of the countries comprising the former Soviet Union.

Today in Dnepropetrovsk, for example, the town where the Golden Rose Synagogue is located, Jewish orphanages, schools, food centers, community centers, medical centers, centers that provide care for the elderly, and centers for Holocaust survivors and victims of communism, are all thriving.

What I find even more promising, is that similar positive developments can be seen in many cities and towns across Ukraine. Today, there are more than 260 Jewish public organizations functioning in Ukraine—organizations that are successfully working on a daily basis to promote and consolidate national self-identity and revive important cultural and religious customs and traditions for all Ukrainian Jews.

I am pleased that the Ukrainian Government is committed to continue working together with Jewish community leaders across Ukraine toward resolving the complex issue of the restitution of objects that used to be Jewish community property. In this regard, it is important to stress that more than 33 synagogues, including the one known as Brodsky's Synagogue in Kiev, have already been returned to the country's religious communities.

I hope that in coming weeks and months all Ukrainians will continue working together to promote religious tolerance and freedom. Ukraine's progress in this area so far should stand as a positive example for other countries in the region to follow as they seek to create environments in which no person is subject to persecution solely on the basis of his or her religious or ethnic background.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE
BECKER, JR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to the late George Becker, Jr. of the Becker Community, located in Kaufman County in the Fourth Congressional District. George suffered a serious injury on his ranch and spent his last months in the hospital fighting for his life until he passed away on May 14 at the age of 84. George was a "fixture" in his community and will be missed by his family and many friends.

George was born August 15, 1915, in the Becker Community, the son of George and Florence Nash Becker. He was a graduate of Texas A&M University and a lifetime rancher and realtor. George was very active in the Texas and Southwest Cattleman's Association. He was a leader in the Becker United Methodist Church and a trustee at Trinity Valley Community College since the 1970's. During World War II, he served as a captain of a PT Boat.

George spent his life in the community in which he was born and raised. He gave his time, talent and energy to community causes

and activities—and to the vocation which he loved and which finally claimed his life—ranching.

He is survived by his brother, Major General Bill Becker and sister-in-law Frances of Kaufman; his brother, Bryan Becker of Dallas; his sister, Ellen Becker Dodson and brother-in-law, Dr. Ed Dodson of Texarkana; and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, George Becker was a respected citizen of Kaufman County whose passing has left a void in the Becker Community. As we adjourn today, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to this fine American, George Becker, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO THE SELF RELIANCE
(NJ) FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable organization, the Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union of Passaic, New Jersey. This outstanding money lending organization celebrates its 40th Anniversary on Sunday, October 29, 2000. It is a company with a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others. Its years of service and leadership deserve to be honored.

The Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union was recognized for its many years of leadership in Passaic, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only fitting that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

The Self Reliance (Passaic, NJ) Federal Credit Union opened its doors in January of 1960 with seven members in a small office. The office was located in the Ukrainian National Home on Hope Avenue in Passaic. Members include members of the Self-reliance" Association of Ukrainian Americans, employees of the Union and relatives of employees. Founded on the principle of "People Helping People," the credit union provides financial services that help its members enhance their quality of life.

On February 28, 1960, 51 members elected the credit union's first Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee. A loan policy was established. In January of 1961, the first annual meeting of members took place. Over the first year the credit union's membership increased to 191 and total loans were \$23,000. The following year there were 241 members and total loans increased to \$44,000. From 1966 through 1970, the credit union gained approximately 40 members per year to a total of 582, with \$424,000 in loans.

In 1989, the Board of Directors purchased a building on Allwood Road in Clifton, New Jersey. The site was completely renovated. In August 1991, the credit union relocated its main office to Clifton, and expanded the hours of operation at the branch office in Passaic. In April 1993, the organization changed its name to Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union.

In November 1995, the union established an additional facility in Whippany, New Jersey.

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The same year the union introduced VISA Credit Cards, Home Equity Loans, international electronic fund transfers and IRS Certificates of Deposit to its list of services. During 1996, VISA Check (Debit) Cards were introduced giving members ATM machine access.

In July 1997, the group merged with Self Reliance (Elizabeth, NJ) Federal Credit Union increasing the number of branch offices to four. By 1998, with financial growth of 15%, the credit union became the largest Ukrainian financial institution in the State of New Jersey.

Today the union boasts nearly \$60 million in assets and over 4,300 members. To mark the occasion of its 40th anniversary in the year 2000 a disco was held on October 27, a Zebava (cultural) dance was held on October 28, and a banquet was held on October 29.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members and supporters of this special credit union and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of the Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR CHARLES E. THOMAS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Thomas, Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ, who will retire later this month after more than three decades of faithful service.

Born and raised in Montgomery, AL, to Reverend Nathaniel and Fannie Thomas, he pursued his educational goals, receiving a bachelor's degree in business administration from Selma University in Selma, AL. Reverend Thomas received a bachelor degree in theology from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN, and an honorary doctorate degree from the Urban Bible Institute of Detroit, MI. Reverend Thomas was called to the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ, in 1957 and began his pastorship on August 6, 1968.

Throughout his years of service, Pastor Thomas has made a difference in countless lives through his strong commitment to the church and to the entire community. In 1972, Reverend Thomas undertook a major project, the formation of the New Hope Day Care Center, which was first housed in the church's dining room. The day care center later moved to a four-story building purchased by the church. Today, the center continues its successful operation, rendering services for 66 children year round on a daily basis. Pastor Thomas also administered the development of the Minority

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Contractors and Craftsmen Trade Association and the New Hope Skills Centers. These programs trained workers in carpentry, masonry and machinery and enabled them to pursue careers in those fields.

Pastor Thomas also reorganized the Scholarship Fund at New Hope, expanding opportunities for young men and women who wish to attend college. In 1975, Pastor Thomas organized the New Hope Development Corporation, which was responsible for the building of New Hope Village, a 170-family housing complex in Newark which provides affordable housing. Other innovative programs he spearheaded include van transportation for seniors, services to address teen pregnancies, prison ministry and drug and alcohol counseling.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, let us express our warmest congratulations to Pastor Thomas and our appreciation for his dedicated service to his church and his community.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, October 9th is Columbus Day. Columbus Day is more than just a celebration of the great explorer, Christopher Columbus, it's about the achievements of Italian-American heritage and the vision of our entire nation.

Italian-Americans came to this country with little, but we've left a large mark on our history and culture. I look at my own family and feel the same way—I started with little and hopefully will leave a mark on the Southeast, Texas area. My mother, who did not graduate from high school, but earned a G.E.D. on her 80th birthday, successfully raised six children by herself after my father died when I was young. She produced an artist, a doctor, a college teacher, successful business people, and a United States Congressman—not too bad.

In 1492, a brave and noble explorer with nothing but dreams landed in a vast and foreign land full of promise—America. Although he can be considered a controversial figure because Americans born here in what is now the U.S. certainly lost during European expansion, his courage and desire for success made him a hero to all.

Columbus Day celebrates our proud people and recognizes the unique Italian-American experience. With strong leadership and eternal pride, Italian-American communities not only in Southeast Texas, but also around the nation, have distinguished themselves through a strong sense of family and dedication to their youth.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the most valuable and most powerful influence Christopher Columbus has on our nation and in our human

history is vision. All Americans can draw inspiration from the character and accomplishments of Columbus.

With his sense of vision, courage, imagination, and optimism, we can create a future bright with promise and a new world where all of us can pursue our dreams. For we have the power to shape the vision of this nation today, tomorrow, and into the next century.

THE NEEDLESTICK SAFETY AND PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, we are here today because needlestick related health problems are costly and preventable. H.R. 5178, the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act, will protect our Nation's health care providers from unnecessary health risks.

Each year, between 600,000 and 800,000 health care workers are accidentally stuck by needles. As a result, over 1,000 of these injured workers go on to contract HIV, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C, and over 100 eventually die from their illness. Even those who are fortunate enough not to be infected by one of these diseases must suffer through 6 months of waiting before they and their families know that they are healthy.

This suffering can be avoided. Studies have shown that over 80 percent of needlestick injuries are avoidable. Passage of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act will require a strong national standard to prevent needlestick injuries, and will empower OSHA to increase the usage of safer needles.

These changes will reduce not only the suffering of injured providers and their families, but also the costs that hospitals must absorb each time a needlestick occurs. The post-exposure treatments that every injured worker have cost up to \$3,000. My home State of California was the first State to pass this legislation, and estimates are that we will save over \$100 million each year as a result.

Unfortunately, this legislation will be too late for many health care providers. Peggy Ferro, a health care worker in my district in San Francisco, was the first health care provider to pass away from AIDS as a result of a needlestick. She died at the young age of 49, while still fighting for passage of the legislation that we are debating today.

Although this legislation has not been passed soon enough to help Peggy, we can honor her memory by ensuring that safer needle technology is used in health facilities. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5178.