

March 8, 2000

SENIOR CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO
WORK ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5, the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act.

As the Representative of Florida's 10th Congressional District, which is home to one of our nation's largest population of seniors, I have consistently supported legislation to eliminate the unfair earnings limit placed on seniors. In fact, one of the first bills I introduced as a member of this body was an act to repeal the Social Security earnings limit.

This outdated law discourages older Americans from working during their golden years, and penalizes the most experienced workers in our nation at a time when many small businesses are searching for qualified employees. The earnings limit unfairly taxes older Americans and at the same time hampers an economy already limited by a lack of workers. I firmly believe our nation will only benefit from the skills and experience of older employees, and this House should welcome their contributions to society and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, the earnings limit is an insult to the dignity of all seniors who wish to continue to work and receive their Social Security benefit. So many retirees want the freedom to work and support themselves. Many want to supplement their incomes in order to increase their standard of living. Others need to work in order to offset the high cost of prescription drugs. Regardless of the reason, seniors who wish to continue to work should be able to do so without being penalized, and I am proud that today the House is taking action to eliminate this unfair roadblock that stands between older Americans and their desire to continue working.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to repeal this antiquated law and restore freedom to older Americans everywhere.

SUPPORT AFRICAN AMERICAN
WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, most people do not realize that African Americans were central contributors to the allied victory in World War II and served in numeric proportion to their presence in the population. Over 1.2 million African American men and women served in the Armed Forces during the war. Unfortunately, over the decades, the popular culture of major films and books fail to acknowledge. A few efforts have been made to tell the story of a small number of the participants such as the HBO film on the Tuskegee Airman. However, in the mainstream of Americana African American World War II veterans are ignored and bypassed.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

To make sure these brave men and women don't pass before their sacrifices are recognized, I am asking for your support of the "Day of Honor 2000" project. The "Day of Honor 2000" project is an organized effort to provide a national city by city special event honoring African American World War II veterans. It is undertaken to provide some measure of clear public acknowledgment and appreciation of the sacrifices of a generation who served America under some of the most trying conditions experienced by any group of Americans in World War II. Day of Honor activities includes an appreciation reception with local African American World War II veterans who will make remarks on behalf of their comrades present and fallen. These veterans will be presented with Oral History Collection Kits which will be used to record their individual stories for future generations. These oral histories will be transcribed and forwarded to major museums focusing on World War II history. The reception also includes a premier screening of the critically acclaimed documentary film "The Invisible Soldier: Unheard Voices." The "Day of Honor 2000" project will culminate with a major event in Washington, DC on May 25th.

If you have any questions or would like to sign on to the bill, please contact Nick Martinelli in my office at 225-0123.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
CHARLES S. JOELSON

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a distinguished gentleman and the former Representative from my district, Charles S. Joelson of Paterson, New Jersey. It is only fitting that we recognize him, for he epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Charles Joelson was a man of diverse talents. In his early years he demonstrated scholarship. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelors of Arts degree from Cornell University in 1937. Later, he graduated from Cornell Law School in 1939.

Charles had always been an active and involved leader. He was an Ensign in Naval Intelligence during World War II. Furthering his belief in civic participation, Chuck mastered the Japanese language. The time spent in the Navy instilled in Charles the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community. It was the small steps in the beginnings of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he served.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Chuck Joelson returned to law and politics after the war. First he served on the Paterson City Council. Then he became Deputy Attorney General of New Jersey. During the fifties he specialized in criminal law, and became a Prosecutor in Passaic County. Eventually, he became the Director of Criminal Investigation in the State Department of Law and Public Safety in Trenton. In 1960, Chuck led a successful campaign to become

the United States Congressman for New Jersey's Eighth District.

His Congressional tenure lasted for nine years. During his final term, he decided to leave Washington, so he asked Governor Hughes to appoint him to the Superior Court. The Governor quickly appointed him, and Charles spent fifteen years on the bench. He held a judicial position in the Chancery Division, as an assignment Judge in Passaic County. He then served his final years as a justice on the Appellate Division in Hackensack, New Jersey, where he demonstrated his writing skills before retiring in 1984.

As the inheritor of the Joelson family legacy, Charles followed his father and Uncle into public service. His father, Judge Harry Joelson, was an advocate for the working people. His Uncle, Dr. Samuel Joelson, exemplified generosity and the love of humanity.

Chuck continually touched the lives of the people around him. He championed needs in education, civil rights and legislation in the workplace. One of the five term Congressmen's greatest achievements was a 1969 piece of legislation that saved thousands of school libraries. His legislation appropriated \$1 billion for public school libraries, remedial programs and guidance counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Chuck's family, friends and the State of New Jersey in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Charles S. Joelson.

HONORING CHAVIS NEWMAN-
KEANE OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and honor a young Alaska student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Chavis Newman-Keane of Anchorage, Alaska has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Chavis Newman-Keane is being recognized for his hard work and dedication in implementing an entertainment program called "Musical Smiles" to cheer up elderly residents of two-assisted living facilities. He has volunteered his time by conducting a piano recital every week and has recruited other musicians to join in his program.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Newman-Keane are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.