

consideration the bill (H.R. 1776) to expand homeownership in the United States:

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment by my estimable colleague from California, Congresswoman WALTERS.

As a former Mayor of a large city, I know a thing or two about depending on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to pay for services and housing for poor communities. And let me tell you—there is never enough money in the pot to meet the needs of those communities.

I think the proposals made here today are great. I think creating incentives for teachers and police officers to move into distressed communities is a great idea. Mixed income communities provide lower income neighborhoods with much-needed role models and opportunities.

But let us be very clear about the funding for these changes. The money for these proposals we are discussing here today will have to come from the same pot of money that is currently set aside for the very neediest of Americans.

And there isn't enough of it to go around.

Today the floor is filled with talk about the need to reinvest in our communities. What I want to know is—when we are all back here in the fall debating the budget, will we be as committed to these programs—to these communities—as we are today?

Will we be willing to put our money where our mouth is today?

I support this underlying legislation. We should work together to revitalize those areas that need our attention.

If we are going to take these programs beyond their intended mission, we should be prepared to increase the funding necessary to add each of the groups we want to make eligible.

We cannot stretch dollars too thin at the expense of the people we say we are trying to lift up. I look forward to working with the sponsors of this legislation to ensure that the funding is in place to meet our shared goals.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF RAY MINTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ray Minton on his retirement as the Cannon County Election Commission's Administrator of Elections. He has served as Cannon County's chief election officer for 32 years.

A lot has changed since 1968, the year Ray started working for the Cannon County Election Commission. Ballots have gone from paper to computer, and records from handwritten to typed to computer. District lines have been redrawn. Candidates have won or lost by the will of the voting public.

No doubt the biggest change in Ray's life and the event that led him to the election commission was the discovery of a cancerous spi-

nal tumor. After losing the use of his legs, he began to work part time at the election commission as part of his recovery. Ray has said that the work kept him busy and made him feel needed. And I can assure you that Ray has been, and still is, needed by his community and friends like myself.

We will sorely miss him, but I'm sure Ray will continue to be a positive role model, admired for his attitude and service to his community.

Ray, I wish you the best of luck in any new endeavors you decide to take on and for you to have a long and happy retirement spent with your family and friends.

HONORING DOCTOR ROCCO ORLANDO FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and join the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven as they pay tribute to one of our community's outstanding citizens, my cousin, Dr. Rocco Orlando. This evening family, friends, and colleagues will gather as Rocco is honored with this year's Distinguished Service Award.

I often speak of our Nation's need for talented, creative, enthusiastic teachers who are ready to help our children learn and grow. Rocco is just that kind of educator. Throughout his career he has touched the lives of children from elementary school to college. His career culminated as he was appointed as a professor in the Sixth Year Graduate Program in Educational Leadership at Southern Connecticut State University—charged with preparing students for administrative positions in public school systems themselves.

Public education is the cornerstone of the American dream, leveling the playing field and providing every child with the opportunity to make the most of his or her talents. It is talented professionals like Rocco who truly shape the leaders of tomorrow. His unique dedication to education extends outside the classroom into the community itself. Rocco has long been affiliated with the New Haven Scholarship fund, currently serving as vice president, enabling hundreds of needy students to continue their education.

Shortly after the Connecticut General Assembly passed a collective bargaining law in 1966, Rocco began to study the effectiveness of the provided mediation process. His doctoral dissertation studied the collective bargaining negotiations between teacher organizations and Boards of Education in Connecticut. His extensive research led to his appointments, which he continues to hold, as an Arbitrator with the Connecticut State Board of Arbitration and Mediation, the Connecticut Board of Education and the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut. Rocco has worked diligently to ensure that the concerns and goals of employees and management are heard in a fair and just forum—

helping to create an environment which meets the best interests of all Connecticut residents.

Today, as Rocco is honored with this very special award, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for his tireless efforts on behalf of our young people. He has made a real difference in the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on our children and community. I am honored to join with his wife, Rae; children, Lisa and her husband Michael, Rocco and his wife, Joanne; grandchildren, Laura, Alexander, and Rocco; family; friends; colleagues; and the Italian American Historical Society to congratulate Rocco as the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award. His remarkable contributions are a reflection of the very spirit of this award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
WORKFORCE DIGITAL ACCESS ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, with the Government's increasing dependence on information technology to accomplish agency goals, and at the fast pace with which technology is changing, the Government is finding it difficult to hire, train, and retain a technology literate workforce. The ability to use computers and the Internet has become indispensable to employees' education, career, social, and cultural advancement. Technology literacy has become not only a basic job requirement, but also a basic life skill.

Economists and policymakers have highlighted an acceleration in the growth of productivity, which measures worker output per hour, as a key reason the economy has performed so well in recent years. Economists have attributed the rise in productivity to better management, and to a wave of business investment that has allowed firms to take advantage of major technological advances, particularly in computing and information processing. The Government is no exception.

Last month, David Walker, Comptroller General for the General Accounting Office (GAO), testified before the Senate Government Affairs Committee on "Managing Human Capital in the 21st Century." He stated, and I quote:

"One of the principal strategies that agencies have used to deliver services with fewer staff has been an increased reliance on information technology. However, the agencies' ability to make the most of this strategy could be jeopardized by the competitive disadvantage they report facing in hiring and retraining skilled information technology staff."

He went on to say that if the government does not improve its human resource systems, in this regard, it will earn GAO's high risk designation in 2001. The Federal Times, a federal employees newspaper, recently reported that federal agencies are facing skills gaps, particularly in the area of technology, and are facing the potential loss of 30 percent of their employees within five years.

Which the advent of the Information Age, the need for technologically skilled people is escalating. Meanwhile, the number of skilled

American high technology workers has declined. This comes at a time when efforts are underway to create an e-Government. E-Government is the widespread application of information and communications technology to deliver government services—fostering digital government.

Filing your income taxes on-line is just the beginning. In e-Government, citizens can log onto one Internet site, easily find the government services they are looking for, and use that site to conduct online transactions; businesses can fill out one Internet form for all their local, state and federal environmental regulatory compliance requirements and government officials can make all purchases and payments electronically, saving millions of dollars. To support e-Government, you must have an e-workforce.

In response to an increasingly competitive job market, federal agencies will need tools and flexibilities to attract, hire, and retain technologically savvy talent. The work that federal agencies do requires a workforce that is sophisticated in new technologies, flexible, and open to continuous learning. The present federal workforce is aging. The baby boomers, with their valuable skills and experience, are drawing nearer to retirement and will be replaced by new employees who have different employment options and different career expectations from the generation that preceded them.

These new employees place a great premium on opportunities to learn, a work life personal life balance, independence and creativity, and flexible work arrangements. The relative security offered by federal jobs is no longer an important factor for many Generation X'ers who expect to change jobs frequently to learn new skills, earn a higher salary, and make a variety of contributions.

Continuing education and training is critical in today's marketplace, where job skills are changing rapidly and global competition demands world-class and ever-improving productivity. The federal Government must equip its employees with the skills and knowledge required of a high performance workforce. The Federal Workforce Digital Access Act allows the Government to take steps to do just that.

The Federal Workforce Digital Access Act (FWDA) provides that permanent employees in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal Government, who complete one year of employment, will be eligible to receive a computer, and Internet service at home at no charge. The benefit provides that federal agencies make use of, primarily, Internet Based Training (IBT) and on-site training to enhance the technological skills of their employees. The benefit provided for under the FWDA is called the "digital access benefit." The employee has the option of declining the digital access benefit package or choosing Internet service only.

In order to promote greater technological proficiency within the Government's workforce, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will work together to establish and operate the digital access benefit program. GSA will be responsible for negotiating the digital access benefit contract. OPM will be responsible for general oversight of the program. To

evaluate the program's operation, agencies will submit a report to the Office of Management and Budget on cost efficiencies, organizational performance, increased productivity, and training opportunities realized from the implementation of the Act. The report, which must be submitted to Congress in the fourth year of the program's operation, will help Congress assess whether the program should be reauthorized.

Agencies will be appropriated the funds to execute the Act and will deposit those funds in the Employees' Digital Access Fund. The Fund is available for all payments for goods and services under the Act, including GSA's and OPM's administrative costs.

FWDA is an imperative for those Federal employees across the country who work in mail rooms or who serve in the field as law enforcement officers, who have limited contact with a computer. It is also an imperative for those employees who daily underutilize computers by using them for simple word processing and e-mail functions. Providing federal employees with computers at home will expose employees to computer technology on a daily basis and IBT will broaden their knowledge and application of new technologies.

Internet or web-based delivery of educational content, supplemented by numerous online tools, is an inexpensive, flexible and convenient way to empower Federal employees to become technologically proficient. IBT provides a hands-on approach to technology education. It permits employees to access content from inside and outside brick and mortar training facilities, to learn at their own pace, view video and other visual explanation of technology, and allows them to test themselves online to assess comprehension and retention. IBT takes the fear and intimidation out of learning new and emerging technologies. The result is a technologically savvy and creative employee that can not only support e-Government, but can help to create and develop it.

The FWDA gives the Federal government and its future and current workforce, the tools it needs to better serve the citizenry and be a leader in a knowledge-based economy.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KEITH J. DAVIS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Keith J. Davis, a longtime friend, who passed away on January 23, 2000. He was 77. Mr. Davis was a Veteran as well as an upstanding member of the community.

Mr. Davis was born on August 31, 1923 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in engineering. Mr. Davis joined the United States Army in 1942 and retired in 1978 with the rank of Colonel.

Throughout his life Mr. Davis held many positions in his community. He was a member of the Mariposa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6042. He was also a member of the Elks

Lodge, a member of the Operating Engineers Union, and a past president of the Mariposa County Republicans Central Committee. He was a private pilot and an avid hunter, as well.

Mr. Davis is survived by his daughters, Kathleen Saz of Citrus Heights and Kristi Smith of Sacramento; son James Subisaretta of Texas; sisters Miriam Hurley of Davis and Dorothy Hendrickson of Oregon; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Keith J. Davis for his dedication to his community and his service to this country. His family members, and those who knew him, will remember Mr. Davis for his integrity, honesty, and hard work. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Davis family.

TRIBUTE TO GROVER ROBINSON III AND SANDRA LOWREY ROBINSON

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties and the State of Florida have been blessed with two people who have dedicated their careers to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of life. These fine people have distinguished themselves as community leaders and the models of honesty and integrity in public service. The couple that I speak about today is Grover Robinson III and Sandra Lowrey Robinson.

Most of the residents of Northwest Florida remember and admire Grover for his years of public service, during which he served as the District 3 Representative in the Florida House. However, what I admire most about Grover is that he always went above and beyond the call of duty to help others. At a time when our nation calls out for principled leadership from public officials, it is fitting that today we honor a true gentleman who always went the extra mile to represent the under-represented and to promote excellence within the community, the State of Florida, and the nation. During his distinguished career, Grover never forgot how important the little guy is to the American way of life. It is little wonder that Grover Robinson III is known as one of the most popular elected officials in Escambia County history.

When he ended his political career in 1986, he joined his wife, Sandra, in putting new life into community and church life, serving the people of Northwest Florida with compassion and loving care.

Grover was active in the Pensacola Jaycees, the March of Dimes, the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and most especially Christ Episcopal Church.

His wife, Sandra Lowrey Robinson, was made from the same cloth as Grover. She was active in the Northwest Florida community and a member of the Pensacola Junior College Foundation Board, and Baptist Hospital Foundation Board, the Junior League of Pensacola, and Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, the lives of these two people were cut tragically short earlier this year. But