

Mr. Speaker, Nelson's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Nelson brings a special blend of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Edison High School in Milan, Nelson has attained a grade point average of 4.047, which places him seventh in his class of one hundred forty-three students. Nelson is a member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Varsity Scholarship Team, and has placed highly on the American Legion Americanism and Government test and the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers Mathematics exam.

Outside the classroom, Nelson has distinguished himself as a fine student-athlete. On the fields of competition, he has earned letters in Varsity Football and Baseball, and was named Field Captain of the Varsity Football team this year. Nelson has also been active in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1998. He is a member of the French Club, Drama Club, Choir Band, and was a representative to Buckeye Boys' State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Nelson B. Gray V. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Nelson will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2000*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor teachers throughout our nation and speak in support of H. Res. 492, which expresses a sense of the House of Representatives in support of America's Teachers.

Teaching is one of the oldest and most important professions in the world, yet it is a profession which is underappreciated by too many. I come to the House floor today to demonstrate my appreciation for the teachers who shaped my life and those who inspire our children today.

Diane Hooper is one such individual from California's 14th Congressional District who has devoted her life to shaping and improving the lives of tomorrow's leaders by educating and inspiring her students. Ms. Hooper teaches math at Sequoia High School and she was named San Mateo County's Teacher of the Year for 2000 for her outstanding contributions.

The 14th Congressional District is blessed with Vonneke Broekhof-Miller and team teach-

ers Brenda Goldstein and Andrew Lucia. They teach middle school science at Peterson Middle School in Sunnyvale and were honored at the 1999 American Teacher Awards last November.

Paul Jorgans, a teacher at Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto was recognized for developing cutting-edge curriculum for integrating computer technology into classroom curriculum. Clarence Bakken from Palo Alto Unified School District, Gayle Britt from the San Carlos School District, and Shane Tatman from the Cupertino Union School District were recognized for excellence in teaching by the Innovations in Teaching Awards Program. These teachers are shaping the way students learn in the 21st Century by using innovative and proven methods that inspire other teachers and lead to increased student learning and greater achievements.

Teachers touch the future and shape it every day. My sister, Veronica Georges, teaches in the Sequoia School District and my daughter and son-in-law are devoted educators as well. They along with Linda Mitchell, Pat Dawson, Sheila Haberkorn, Kris Weaver, and Dale Deffiner are the mothers, fathers and sisters of my staff who are influencing America's future today. I'm exceedingly proud of them and the superb work they do daily.

This statement of recognition by the House of Representatives is but a small tribute of gratitude to those who have dedicated themselves to education. On behalf of a grateful nation, I salute every teacher in our land!

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN HOMES SERVICES

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2000*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Southern Homes Services (SHS) as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Since 1840 SHS has provided quality services to preserve, build and stabilize the lives of children and families within their communities.

During the first 100 years of its existence SHS provided services for youngsters who had been placed in its care because of the death of their fathers and the mothers' inability to care for their children. But, in the early 1950's SHS refocused its mission. The result was the adoption of a psychiatric residential treatment program for children that included support services for their families.

Today SHS is a multi-disciplined, multi-facility that is licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility. Annually it provides comprehensive services to more than 2,000 children and adolescents with severe emotional problems. Its comprehensive mental health and social services include: foster and kinship care; residential treatment services; an on-site licensed private school; outpatient mental health and psychiatric services; in-home family preservation services; and mentor/volunteer opportunities.

In February 2000, SHS became one of the first children's services agency to be accredited as a behavioral Healthcare Organization by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

In recognition of its 15 decades of providing critical services to at-risk children when their families are the most vulnerable, I join SHS as it celebrates this important milestone.

TAIWAN INAUGURATES A NEW PRESIDENT

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2000*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Mr. Chen Shui-bian who will be inaugurated as the tenth president of the Republic of China on May 20th. I am honored to stand before you today in a spirit of freedom and change. President-elect Chen Shui-bian's victory on March 18, 2000, signals a new milestone for Taiwan's history of democratization. His Excellency defeated two other formidable opponents, and for the first time in Chinese history, an opposition party attained real political power from the ruling National Party. Taiwan united and is now clearly a model for reform and promise for most Asian countries.

As Taiwan voters collaborate on a brighter future, reevaluating the past proves a desirable democratization record which must be commended. The United States, and all countries of the free world, should pledge open support to President Chen Shui-bian, and encourage meaningful discussions of reunification issues in an effort to build better relationships with mainland China.

I congratulate a leader of vision and express my full confidence in Taiwan's President-elect Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan.

HONORING REV. DR. JOE SAMUEL RATLIFF

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2000*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Rev. Joe Samuel Ratliff for his 30 years of service in the ministry.

Since 1980, Rev. Ratliff has faithfully addressed the needs of the Brentwood Baptist Church community. Throughout his tenure as the church's spiritual leader, Rev. Ratliff has brought remarkable vision, transforming the 400-member church into a dynamic 10,000-member congregation. Brentwood has experienced unprecedented growth since Rev. Ratliff has been at the helm, including a new 1,800-seat sanctuary, land acquisitions, and an enhanced role as public servant and community activist in the surrounding community. The growth and success that Brentwood Baptist Church has undergone stems from a visionary pastor who is truly connected to his community and to his congregants.

Rev. Ratliff is the eldest of his mother's nine children. As a child growing up in Lumberton, NC, he was always active in the church, and played piano at services as a teenager. But he did not aspire to a career in the ministry until after he moved to Atlanta to attend Morehouse

College. It was in his junior year that Rev. Ratliff recognized the power of the church in bringing about change and making a positive impact on the community. He took his first pastorate as a college senior, and went on to earn his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from the Atlanta's Interdenominational Theological Center. Before coming to Brentwood in 1980, Rev. Ratliff served Cobb Memorial Church in Atlanta and as acting dean of chapel at Morehouse College. In 1988, he was a research fellow at Harvard University for a semester.

During his 20 years as pastor for Brentwood Baptist Church, Rev. Ratliff is credited with building one of the fastest-growing churches in America. At the same time, he has provided congregants with an outlet for giving back to the community. A stellar example of the good works performed by the church includes the Brentwood Community Foundation, a program that serves the needs of HIV/AIDS patients by providing housing and health care. Programs include a mobile health unit and services for pregnant teens and young adults who are HIV-positive. The church also raises money to benefit students' scholarships.

Rev. Ratliff's religious and spiritual dedication to the community and to his growing congregation have won him many distinctions and awards, including induction into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers, the Julie and Ben Rogers Ecumenism Award from the Anti-Defamation League of Houston, and "Minister of the Year" award for improving ecumenical dialog and interracial understanding in Houston.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his 30 years in the ministry, Rev. Ratliff's intelligence, enthusiasm, and can-do spirit has served his congregations well. He brings tireless energy and compassion to each of his endeavors, whether its as a pastor, community leader, or friend. His contributions to the ministry and his energy in addressing the needs of his congregation and surrounding community are truly commendable.

WORLD BANK AIDS MARSHALL  
PLAN TRUST FUND ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 15, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thank you for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor this week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act.

I would like to thank Congressman LEACH for including the core provisions of BARBARA LEE's original bill, H.R. 2765, the AIDS Marshall Plan and Congressman Dellums for his public awareness regarding the importance of this bill.

This bill garners bipartisan support, including the Democratic Caucus and the CBC which both recognize the necessity of HIV/AIDS funding in Sub-Saharan Africa. Further, I was an original co-sponsor of AIDS Marshall

Plan legislation authored by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

Mr. Speaker, I personally saw the devastation that the AIDS epidemic is causing in Africa during a visit with the President during March of 1999. During that trip, I visited places like St. Anthony's Compound in Zambia where grandparents were caring for grandchildren orphaned by AIDS.

In Uganda, the government showed the delegation the impact of AIDS as we met with a grandmother who was caring for 38 of her grandchildren because they were orphaned by her 11 children.

I also met with Ugandan First Lady Janet K. Museveni who is leading the campaign to help orphans as we discussed the fact that over 13 million children have been orphaned because of AIDS.

This trip emphasized to me the dire circumstances existing in Africa today and the obligation countries like the United States have to combat this disease.

The goal of this bill to create a trust fund administered by the World Bank to combat the AIDS epidemic is long overdue.

By directing the Secretary of Treasury to enter into negotiations with the World Bank and member nations, H.R. 3519 would serve as the impetus for an international response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

This bill would authorize the United States to contribute \$100 million a year through fiscal year 2005 to this fund which would provide grants for prevention care programs and partnerships between local governments and the private sector that would lead to education, treatment, research, and affordable drugs.

Organizations like the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) would be recipients of these grants.

By providing grants to organizations like UNAIDS, this bill could help address the "drug corruption" in sub-Saharan Africa by requiring that only those countries that eliminate corruption are eligible for trust funds.

Just last week, this Congress passed the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act in which there is a structured framework for this country to use trade and investment as an economic development tool throughout Africa and the Caribbean.

Unfortunately, the conference report does not include Senators FEINSTEIN and FEINGOLD's Amendment that would have prohibited the Executive Branch from denying African countries to use legal means to improve access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals for their citizens. This amendment would have clarified the African Growth and Opportunity Act so that African Governments, in accordance with the World Trade Organization policies, could exercise flexibility in addressing public health concerns.

Thus, this amendment would simply allow countries to determine the availability of HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals in their countries and provide their people with affordable HIV drugs.

Despite the failure of Senators FEINSTEIN and FEINGOLD's amendment, the White House still recognized the importance of access to drug therapies by issuing an Executive Order just

This Executive Order incorporates the language of the Senator Feinstein-Feingold

Amendment and declares that the United States would not invoke a key clause in U.S. trade law against sub-Saharan African countries concerning the protection of patents on AIDS drugs. Like the Senators' amendment, the Executive Order would instead hold the African countries to the less stringent standard of the WTO on intellectual property protection.

Furthermore, I am pleased the House-Senate conference report includes amendments, which I offered during last year's consideration of the House bill.

The first provision encourages the development of small businesses in sub-Saharan Africa, including the promotion of trade between the small businesses in the United States and sub-Saharan Africa. This is an important victory for small business enterprises in America that are looking to expand remarkable trade opportunities in Africa.

It was once said, "There is nothing more dangerous than to build a society, with a large segment of people in that society, who feel that they have no stake in it; who feel that they have nothing to lose. People who have a stake in their society, protect that society, but when they don't have it, they unconsciously want to destroy it." Although Martin Luther King was not speaking of AIDS, his comment rings true in so many aspects today.

The private sector must take responsibility for the eradication of this disease if these U.S. businesses are going to use African resources for their economic benefit.

Thus, I am pleased that an additional amendment I offered was incorporated into the conference report. This provision encourages U.S. businesses to provide assistance to sub-Saharan African nations to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS and consider the establishment of a Response Fund to coordinate such efforts.

This is important because HIV/AIDS has now been declared a national security threat. My provision reflects a national and international consensus that we must do everything we can to eliminate the HIV/AIDS disease.

Senior Clinton Administration officials clearly express their frustration that by all estimates on HIV/AIDS, that nearly \$2 billion is needed to adequately prevent the spread of this disease in Africa per year.

Although, some say this may not be feasible at the moment, and the \$100 million a year donation from the U.S. is not either, we no longer can deny that this disease is an epidemic of enormous proportion that can no longer be ignored.

The very fact that the Clinton Administration formally recognized a month ago that the spread of HIV/AIDS in the world today is an international crisis by declaring HIV/AIDS to be a National Security threat is illustrative of the devastating effect of this disease.

It is estimated that 800,000 to 900,000 American are living with HIV and every year another 40,000 become infected. Although newer and effective therapies have led to reductions in the mortality rate of people with HIV/AIDS, the demographics of this epidemic have shifted. Thus, women, young people, and people of color represent an alarming portion of the new cases of HIV/AIDS.

Globally, more than 16 million have died from AIDS since the 1980's, 80% of them in sub-Saharan Africa.