

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE
ILLINOIS PTA

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the members of the Illinois PTA, and celebrate the 100th anniversary of this extraordinary organization. Tuesday, May 30, 2000, will mark 100 years of partnership between the dedicated parents and teachers from across the great state of Illinois.

The Illinois PTA is invested in improving the quality of education and opening the doors of opportunity for all students. From our largest cities to our smallest towns, the PTA is working to ensure that each student has the resources needed to succeed and is provided with a safe, healthy environment in which to flourish.

We must make a commitment to helping the members of the Illinois PTA and parents, teachers, and students from across the country, by providing them with the tools they need to do their jobs. We know that the greatest investment we can make in our youth is to provide them with a quality education. In this time of economic prosperity, we can afford to make a long overdue investment in public education. I hope you will join me in the effort to bring quality teachers, smaller class sizes, greater accountability, and modern schools to American communities. The time is now.

I commend the tireless efforts of the members of the Illinois PTA and express my deepest gratitude for their noble work. I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JUDGE VEL PHILLIPS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Judge Vel Phillips, who was recognized on May 14, 2000, with an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Vel Phillips has been my friend for many years and a friend to the people of Wisconsin for many years more. I first developed my admiration for Vel Phillips as a young paperboy, reading about her work in public office. I assumed two things about her: first, that she must be very important, and second, that she must be very old. I was obviously wrong about her age, because thirty years later, she is as active and vibrant a person as any I know. In fact, she's forever young.

The record of barriers she broke and accomplishments she attained is too long to list in full, but I am pleased to offer a few examples. Vel was the first African American woman to earn a law degree at the University of Wisconsin Law School. She was the first woman and the first African American elected to serve on Milwaukee's Common Council, and her incisive mind, great personal charm and deep sense of devotion to the needs of

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

her constituents made her an effective and respected representative. After 16 years on the Council, Vel was appointed to Milwaukee County's Children's Court, and became the first woman and the first African-American to serve as a Wisconsin judge. In 1978, she ran a successful campaign for Wisconsin Secretary of State and became the first African American to be elected to a statewide, constitutional office.

The University of Wisconsin honored Judge Phillips' unparalleled contributions to our community and to Wisconsin history on May 14, 2000, by bestowing on her an honorary Doctorate of Laws. On May 28th, her friends and admirers will gather at the Community Brainstorming Conference in Milwaukee to congratulate Vel. I join them in commending Judge Vel Phillips on this latest distinction, and I celebrate her years of dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin.

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, greed has rolled like a bulldozer over all of the numerous logical reasons supporting the denial of a permanent trade agreement with China. The megaprofits to be realized by the corporate elite are so overwhelming that this juggernaut cannot be halted. This act will have tornado-like devastation on the employment of ordinary men and women in this nation. Workers on both sides of the world will be the victims of this agreement. Chinese laborers paid twenty five cents per hour or less will fill the bank accounts of multi-national corporations. American workers will be forced to struggle harder and work more hours as industrial and manufacturing jobs are moved to China. Only lower paying service jobs or hi-tech positions requiring a college education will be left here on our shores.

Trade agreements standing alone on the floor of the House should never be accepted in the future. We should be voting on a comprehensive bill which anticipates the consequences of this arrangement with a nation of 1.2 billion people. The legislation should cover provisions to compensate for the massive economic dislocations that will inevitably escalate over the next few years. A massive worker retraining is needed for adults who face the immediate loss of their livelihoods. We also need a thorough revamping of the nation's public school system, an institution which serves working families, to guarantee that the emerging work force will have the qualifications to fill the thousands of information technology and telecommunications vacancies.

Mr. Speaker, if this risky agreement is passed today, we must immediately develop legislation to establish Worker Technology Re-

training Centers to be operated by unions and other worker organizations in all parts of the nation where a loss of jobs will take place.

We must also take advantage of the enormous 200 billion dollar surplus available this year and the anticipated two trillion dollar surplus over the next ten years to revamp our public school system. To cope with the massive transformations of the future work places in America we must mandate that no less than ten percent of the surplus must be allocated to education for the next ten years.

We must vote no on this bill before us. At the same time, we must resolve not to desert our working families. Pledge now to adequately finance the world's greatest public education system.

TRIBUTE TO RAY PERRY, C.O.P.E.
UNITY AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a distinguished American, a proud Californian and a great labor leader, Ray Perry, who has been chosen to receive the C.O.P.E. Unity Award at the 21st, Annual Committee on Political Education banquet.

Ray Perry has devoted more than two decades of his life in steadfast support of the San Mateo County California Central Labor Council. Since the beginning of his career as an apprentice mechanic at Alameda Naval Air Station in 1966, Ray Perry has brought his skills and energy to community activism and has become a leader of the labor community. First appointed as a Delegate to the San Mateo Central Labor Council in 1979, Ray Perry is now President of the International Association of Machinists, Local Lodge 1781, representing over 10,000 employees of United Airlines at San Francisco International Airport.

As a Delegate, he's worked tirelessly to guide and develop the COPE structure into one of the most well organized, innovative and effective political programs in San Mateo County. Because of his leadership in the campaign to gather signatures, the drive to restore CAL-OSHA was successful in preserving the toughest worker safety program in our nation.

Today, Ray Perry continues his extraordinary work. As Chairman of the U.A.L. Grievance Committee, he is currently working to strengthen the United Airlines Labor Coalition of Machinists, the Association of Flight Attendants, and the Airline Pilots Association. He is widely admired for his boundless energy and his effective work as well as his passionate crusade to improve the lives of those around him.

Ray Perry's life of leadership and community involvement is instructive to us all. His dedication to the ideals of democracy and public service stand tall. I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in honoring this good man whom I'm privileged to know and call my friend. We are indeed a better community and a better country because of him.

May 25, 2000