

Deal that many of the reforms championed by CLNJ became law. CLNJ was a founding member of the National Consumers League (NCL), and worked with NCL and unions to bring about change. CLNJ also took up the cause of the "watch-dial" radium poisoning of female workers in Essex County, New Jersey.

In the 1960s and 1970s, CLNJ leaders spoke out for consumer protection laws, credit laws, usury limits, and enforcement of minimum wage and child labor laws. They looked into supermarket prices. They also went to the fields to support migrant farm-workers. Rutgers University of New Jersey has considerable archives about the early and middle years of CLNJ history.

From 1985 onward CLNJ has fought for consumer rights and basic justice. For fifteen years they promoted lower interest rates by publicizing lower interest credit cards. They gave away tens of thousands of credit card pamphlets. CLNJ also lamented bank mergers, which resulted in fewer choices, higher prices for consumers and interest rates that never went down. In addition, CLNJ supported the Fair Lending Coalition. They also helped enact New Jersey's Basic Banking law.

From 1986-89, CLNJ's President was a member of the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council. The president opposed "checkhold" delays. The common ground discovered between CL and bankers proved to be the formula which Congress enacted into law: the Federal Reserve must process checks quicker, and banks must end the long holds. In addition, the president supported Truth in Savings, which was also enacted.

CLNJ fought against weakening New Jersey's Secondary Mortgage Loan Act. When the Legislature legalized abuses, less than one year later, CLNJ testified before the United States Senate in 1987 about home equity loans, or as CLNJ put it "charge a blouse, put a lien on your house." Congress banned what New Jersey had approved: the "rate rise surprise" (the power to change a home equity contract after you borrowed significant funds).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the United States of America, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of the Consumers League of New Jersey.

HONORING MICHAEL L. PESCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Brooklyn's finest residents, Michael L. Pesce, who was recognized last night at the First Tri Block Association's June meeting.

Michael L. Pesce was born in the small coastal town of Mola di Bari, Italy. He and his family immigrated to America when he was 12 years of age and settled in the Carroll Gardens section of Brooklyn. He attended local public schools and graduated from City College with a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Justice Pesce received his J.D. Degree from Detroit College of Law in 1969 and was admitted to the bar in 1970. He began his career working for the Legal Aid Society in their Hunts Point, Bronx office, handling a wide range of civil matters.

In 1972, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing the 52nd Assembly District. Over the next eight years, he served on many committees, including Labor, Governmental Operations, and Higher Education, and served as Chair of the Special Assembly Committee on Ports and Terminals. During this period, he was also a partner in the firm of Pesce & Levine.

Justice Pesce was elected to the Civil Court in 1980, and was assigned to the Criminal Court, where he served for three years. He was designated an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in 1984 and was elected to a full term in 1989 from Kings and Richmond Counties. In 1996, he was designated Administrative Judge for the 2nd Judicial District.

He has long been actively involved in Carroll Gardens and in the wider Italian-American community. Justice Pesce serves on the Board of Directors of Amico, Inc., and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurse Association of Brooklyn. In 1986, the Italian government granted Justice Pesce the title of "Cavaliere" (Order of Merit). Please join me in honoring Justice Michael L. Pesce, one of Brooklyn's finest.

RECOGNIZING THE MILFORD HIGH
"WE THE PEOPLE" TEAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the "We the People" team from Milford High School in Milford, New Hampshire. These outstanding young students recently won an award at the "We the People" national finals held in Washington, D.C. As you may know, the "We the People" mock hearings test student knowledge of the U.S. Constitution. The Milford students were recognized for their expertise on the following subject: How Did the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shape American Institutions and Practices? The dozen Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors competed against 50 other classes from throughout the nation. The team demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

I had the privilege to serve as a judge for this year's state competition to come to Washington for the national competition. It was apparent to me then that the Milford High School students had the knowledge, team-work, and enthusiasm necessary to successfully compete against 50 other classes from throughout the nation. These students can be proud of their award winning performance.

I was honored to have the team visit me here on Capitol Hill during their trip to Washington for the national competition. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following students for their performance at the

national "We the People" competition: Adam Berger, Jon Butt, Jenn Catherine, Vanessa Chretien, Mike Gott, Keith Holt, Pam Murphy, David Norway, Mike Parisi, Abby Parker, Pete Phillips, and Ashley Standbridge.

HONORING MR. RYAN PATTERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding student, Ryan Patterson. His innovative mind has won him a parade of awards, most recently he has won top prize in the Colorado Science Fair. He also represented Colorado at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, in which he won almost \$10,000.

His outstanding invention rightfully called "Sleuthbot" is a computerized device schools can use to seek out bombs or suspicious individuals without getting put into harms way during a crisis. Mr. Patterson traveled to Detroit with 1,200 other students from 40 countries to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. His accolades from the competition are extensive, but most admirable is the \$250 and a paid internship he received from Axonne Corp. Mr. Patterson is a model for all students to follow and one that will be sure to achieve great things for the good of mankind. He has proven to be an asset to his school and community.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Ryan Patterson on a truly exceptional accomplishment. Due to his dedicated service and ingenuity, it is clear that Colorado is a better place.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559,
AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act (H.R. 2559) conference report. I commend Chairman COMBEST and Ranking Member STENHOLM for their efforts to craft comprehensive legislation which will help restore the safety net for agriculture producers.

Risk management tools such as crop or revenue insurance provide protection from yield or price declines within a growing and marketing season. Indeed statistics for North Carolina show that over the last ten years the number of acres insured has increased from 581,764 in 1988 to 2,844,524 in 1999. Participation is very high, with 82 percent of acres covered for tobacco, 83% of acres covered for peanuts, and 89% covered for cotton.

In 1999, \$131 million in liability was paid to North Carolina producers who suffered crop damages, first from drought and then from