of the first people her neighbors turned to when they needed a strong voice on their behalf.

As a Commissioner, Ida’s job has not always been easy. With tedious budget reviews and resolutions to consider, she has often said that at first she felt like she was in the middle of a three ring circus. Her fellow commissioners have described Ida as a calming force amidst the thorny issues that the board faces.

In her role, Ida has been one of the most outspoken members when addressing the treatment of public housing residents, especially her beloved seniors. She has shown a remarkable dedication to her job and has done much to enrich the lives of many families and seniors. Most recently, Ida started a partnership with Yale University with the hope that the program will connect Crawford Manor residents with the rest of the state through neighborhood events and trips to the theater. Ida brings a wealth of knowledge to the board from her years of experience as a tenant—demonstrating a unique perspective on housing concerns.

After nearly two decades of service as a resident representative, you can be sure that Ida’s retirement from the Board of Commissioners will not impede her from continuing to advocate for public housing residents. Though she will certainly be missed in her official capacity, I am sure her strong voice will continue to be heard. It is with the greatest thanks and appreciation for her outstanding service to our community that I stand today to honor Ida Wells on this very special occasion and extend my very best wishes to her for many more years of health and happiness.

Vermont High School Student Congressional Town Meeting

Hon. Bernard Sanders
In the House of Representatives

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. Sanders. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

I submit these statements to be printed in the Congressional Record, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

On Behalf of Will Babcock—Regarding Trade Skills for Young Vermonters, May 7, 2001

Will Babcock. Like I said, I’m Will Babcock, here representing Youth Build. Skateland, from Williston, got closed down recently. I’m trying to reopen it. I have plans to talk to J.D. Real Estate to see how much the lease per year is, and if I can get it cheaper for a youth organization. Because, let’s face it; in Burlington, there is really nothing to do but play basketball, hang out at the mall or hang out on the streets. So I think skating is a fun, healthy activity. It is a good way to get kids in love with it. You know, let’s see. I have talked to everyone I can about it. That is why I’m here today, to see if I can get any help from Bernie or anybody with political power to get the ball rolling, get it open again. I’ve organized a skate club at school. I have got people at school doing it. All my teachers are interested in it. And, recently, I have roller skating. I have been down to Latham, New York, three hours away. It is three hours away, four hours of roller skating, three hours back. Because, you know, I can’t really afford a hotel room, so I have to come back the same night. I have talked to Pat McGirk, the guy that got the skate park down here by the waterfront started. I have been talking to him to see if I can get something going there. I would like to try and find some backers who think this is a good idea as well to help me get it going. I have gone to a couple of other meetings besides these, with churches and town halls and stuff. So it is getting around. People age are starting to get back again. I’m hoping that it is more than just “hear.”

that people will start saying: “Yes, I’m going to help this kid do it. It is a good thing to do.”

Like I said, I have roller skating at High Bells, Middle Friend and Family, and everyone that roller skates, probably about a good 20, 25 of us. I need help in any way possible, so if you guys have any ideas that you get into an idea like that or anything, you know, find out who I can ask for money, you know, for grants and stuff. Pretty much that’s it. If you have any questions or anything.

On Behalf of Richard West—Regarding Voting Reform, May 7, 2001

Richard West. There has never been an event more politically controversial for this generation than the 2000 presidential election. As the weeks progressed after the election, millions of voters began to question the methods used to determine the winner of the presidential election. Many of the methods used over the years were considered outdated and unfair. One of the major controversies surrounding the election was the process of voting.

There were various means for fixing this problem, including the use of a system that allowed for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency. None of the methods currently in use were perfect, but each tried to maintain the tradition while minimizing the chances of errors or mistakes. The system used in Florida was caused by voters not understanding how to fill out the ballot properly.

In addition, the possibility of error or controversial votes was minimized in certain states by using methods that dealt with the possibility of error or controversial votes. For example, the 2000 presidential election in Florida was caused by voters not understanding how to fill out the ballot properly.

In many states, the use of a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency is still being debated. Some states have decided to use a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency, while others have decided to use a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency. Some states have decided to use a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency, while others have decided to use a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency.

In Florida, the use of a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency was caused by voters not understanding how to fill out the ballot properly. This method was used in the 2000 presidential election in Florida, and it led to the election being decided by recounts.

In other states, the use of a system that allows for a smooth transition between the ballot box and the presidency has been criticized as the cause of Gore’s defeat in Florida. People believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters. Some people believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters. Some people believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters. Some people believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters.

In the recent elections in Florida, people believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters. Some people believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters. Some people believe that if Nader did not run, then his supporters would have supported Gore instead of Nader, and thus won Gore the election. Transferable voting, used in France and other countries, would have given the option to voters of specifying a candidate for their second choice. If their first-choice candidate received the lowest number of votes in a state election, he is eliminated, but his votes are transferred to the second-choice candidate specified by his supporters.
TRIBUTE TO HARRY PREGERSON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. Berman. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional individual, Harry Pregerson. He is not only the oldest active Judge of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a man of legendary accomplishments, he is a good friend whose wise counsel I rely upon. I am pleased that he will be honored by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association on September 29, 2001, with the prestigious Stanley Mosk Legacy of Justice Award.

Judge Pregerson began his legal career, after graduating from Boalt Hall Law School, in private practice. In 1964, he was named to the Los Angeles Municipal Court and subsequently to the Superior Court. In 1967, President Johnson appointed him to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Later, Judge Pregerson was named to the Ninth Circuit by President Carter. Each of these prestigious appointments were a direct result of his hard work, talent and dedication.

During these years, he garnered an impressive reputation and earned the respect of his colleagues.

In addition to his judicial career, Judge Pregerson has been a longtime advocate for the homeless, especially homeless veterans. He has overseen the construction of thousands of dwellings units for homeless veterans in Los Angeles County. In 1988, Judge Pregerson started the Bell Homeless Shelter, a shelter which today provides a full array of social services to homeless individuals in East Los Angeles. Recently, he helped bring together local law enforcement authorities, judges and county officials to create a new program that assists veterans convicted of minor violations complete a rehabilitation program and return to a productive life. His special affinity for helping veterans probably comes from his own distinguished military service. He himself is a war veteran who was seriously wounded in the battle of Okinawa during World War II.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association’s recognition of Judge Pregerson is not surprising since the event commemorates commitment to the legal profession and the public. Judges and county officials provide a vast array of programs and services to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and numerous public service projects clearly demonstrate his very strong commitment to the law and the community.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Judge Pregerson for his outstanding achievements, and to congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

APPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

SPEECH OF
HON. BOB RILEY
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. Riley. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to an increasingly serious problem affecting the public trust and truth in advertising. Today as we debate H.J. Res. 51, to approve the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment with respect to the products of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I wish to make my colleagues in the House aware of the misleading marketing of the Vietnamese basa fish as catfish.

Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana farmers who endured, and continue to endure, the significant capital risk and time investment to raise catfish—notice I use the term catfish—should not be made to compete with a foreign product bearing no similarity to North American catfish. Vietnamese Pangasius, also known as the basa fish, has flooded the American market and now accounts for 20% of all catfish sold in the United States. This basa fish, however, is not catfish yet it is labeled catfish and even bears the industry logo.

American catfish farmers, who have worked for over a quarter of a century and spent half a billion dollars in research and development, deserve better. They deserve the assurance that the government will take the steps necessary to ensure their product retains the public trust and is not compromised in any way. Similarly, when a consumer purchases catfish they have the right to expect they are purchasing grain-fed, pond-raised North American freshwater catfish. The basa fish, however, is not grainfed, nor pond-raised, neither is it the American species.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues carefully consider the erroneous marketing of basa fish before reaching any decision on extending nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Vietnam.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY, INC. ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. Kirk. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Opportunity, Inc., an exceptional organization located in Highland Park, Illinois. This extraordinary enterprise is a fine example of the initiative needed to help more people move from welfare to work allowing them to pursue the American dream.

Opportunity, is a not-for-profit contract manufacturer that employs over 125 persons, most of whom have developmental, physical and/or emotional disabilities. Founded in 1976, the company’s mission is both to provide a mainstream plant environment in which “Handicapable” people can reach their full potential by working and earning a paycheck and to provide customers such as Baxter International, Allegiance Healthcare, Sears, Gerber, Uresti, and Medline with the best possible service.

As everyone understands, budget constraints compel us to look for ways to effectively address important needs without government subsidies, and Opportunity is leading the way in this regard. A model of community reponse, entrepreneurship, and innovation, the company demonstrates how competitive and productive “Handicapable” employees can be.