

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TERRI THOMSON

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Terri Thomson of Queens, New York, for her lifetime of community service. Thomson will be honored again next week by the Powhatan and Pocahontas Regular Democratic Club for her work to improve our education and quality of life in Queens.

Thomson currently serves New York City school children, parents and faculty as the Queens Representative to the City Board of Education. Thomson is one of seven Board members responsible for setting policy for an \$11 billion budget, more than one million school children, 1100 school buildings, and more than 100,000 education professionals.

Thomson was appointed by Queens Borough President Claire Shulman to the New York City Board of Education in July 1998. She is Chair of both the Parent Outreach and Involvement and the Finance and Capital Budget Committees. She chaired a task force that has recommended all newly constructed high schools be offered as schools of choice on a year-round calendar as a strategy to alleviate overcrowding, particularly in Queens.

Terri has been a steadfast friend and consistent advocate for New York City public school children. I have attended dozens of meetings on local education issues with Terri, and she has been a powerful ally in the fight to ensure that Queens County gets its fair share of education resources.

Thomson has been a strong supporter of many community organizations and has served as a board member of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, Queens Symphony Orchestra, Queens Library Foundation, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, St. Francis College Board of Regents; as Chair of Queens County Overall Economic Development Corporation, Treasurer of the Queens Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chair of the Brooklyn Sports Foundation.

Thomson currently serves as Vice President and Director of State Civic Affairs in the Citigroup Corporate Affairs Department. Previously, she was Vice President and Director of New York City and State Government Relations for Citigroup in the Global Community Relations Department. She began her career with Citigroup in February 1990 as Director of Government Relations, representing her company in the communities of Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Staten Island. Prior to her career at Citigroup, Terri was District Administrator for ten years for Congressman GARY ACKERMAN, advocating for the citizens of Queens.

A strong advocate for school governance reform, Thomson took a leadership role in

changing the prohibition against Board of Education employees serving as parent representatives on School Leadership Teams. She has been relentless in fighting for capital dollars in the Board's Capital Plan to relieve the longstanding neglect of Queen's schools that has resulted in borough-wide overcrowding.

Thomson, a graduate of Queens College, was born in Brooklyn and has lived in Flushing, Queens since the age of three. Thomson and her husband Ed have two daughters, Patricia and Maryellen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Terri Thomson for all her work on behalf of her community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE THAT INCOME AVERAGING FOR FARMERS NOT INCREASE A FARMER'S LIABILITY FOR THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Farmer Tax Fairness Act, along with my Ways and Means Committee colleagues, Representatives THURMAN, DUNN, and FOLEY, ENGLISH, and CAMP. This legislation will help ensure that farmers have access to tax benefits rightfully owed them.

As those of us from agricultural areas understand, farmers' income often fluctuates from year to year based on unforeseen weather or market conditions. Income averaging allows farmers to ride out these unpredictable circumstances by spreading out their income over a period of years. A few years ago, we acted in a bipartisan manner to make income averaging a permanent provision of the tax code. Unfortunately, since that time, we have learned that, due to interaction with another tax code provision, the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), many of our nation's farmers have been unfairly denied the benefits of this important accounting tool.

Our legislation directly addresses the concerns being raised by farmers using income averaging. Under the Farmer Tax Fairness Act, if a farmer's AMT liability is greater than taxes due under the income averaging calculation, that farmer would disregard the AMT and pay taxes according to the averaging calculation. As such, farmers will be able to take full advantage of income averaging as intended by Congress.

This provision is a reasonable measure designed to ensure farmers are treated fairly when it comes time to file their taxes. I urge my colleagues to join me in promoting greater tax fairness for our nation's farmers.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF LANDIS,
NORTH CAROLINA**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a town in the Sixth District of North Carolina will celebrate its centennial next month, and I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Landis, North Carolina, on its 100th birthday. Landis was founded in southern Rowan County on March 7, 1901, by a group of investors in the textile industry. The first textile operation was Linn Mill that was started on land owned by Columbus Linn. The founding fathers of the town that would later be named Landis were, in essence, the board of directors of the newly formed mill company.

How the town came to be known as Landis is subject of much discussion. According to Ted L. Allen, author of the Historical Survey (June 1974 N.C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources), Landis was named after famed jurist and baseball legend Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis. According to Allen, "In 1901, the U.S. Government brought an anti-trust suit against a major U.S. oil company. The judge residing on the anti-trust case was Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis. As a result of the large sum of money involved, 29 million dollars, and the name of the judge in the case, a motion was made one evening in an informal discussion that the town be named Landis. The community leaders adopted the name and the name was submitted to the post office department. The post office department did not object and on March 7, 1901, the N.C. General Assembly ratified the incorporation of the Town of Landis, North Carolina."

This story was well accepted by old timers in town. While it is a good story, there are a few holes in it. President Theodore Roosevelt didn't appoint Judge Landis until 1905. The oil company was Standard Oil Company and it appears that this case did not occur until the middle or latter part of the first decade of the 1900's. According to Frederick Corriher, his grandfather, Lotan A. Corriher, one of the original members of the Linn Mill board of directors, suggested that the town be named for Judge Landis at a town meeting in the 1920's. At that time, Judge Landis was commissioner of Major League Baseball, and thanks to the Black Sox scandal, was a national figure. Therefore, there is some friendly controversy about the naming of this town, but there are no disagreements about the future of Landis.

The future for Landis is bright. During its first 100 years, Landis has developed into a thriving bedroom community of more than 3,000 with a balance of industry and commercial growth. The town, always self-reliant, is a full-service small municipality. Landis remains true to its heritage as a textile community.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Parkdale Mills, for example, operates two plants there.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Landis, North Carolina on its centennial celebration. We offer our best wishes for much prosperity and success during the century to come.

IN HONOR OF SFC LATOYA D.
KING-JOHN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor the 18-year commitment of SFC Latoya King-John of Brooklyn, NY. Ms. King-John is currently serving in the United States Army Reserve. From 1996–1997, Ms. King-John served in Operation Joint Venture; leaving her husband and two young children while she worked as a movement control supervisor in Bosnia, Croatia, and Hungary.

In addition, Ms. King-John has worked for New York State for the past 17 years. While there she has been an active member of the Civil Service Employees Association, where she has served on the Education Committee of Local 351. Also, Ms. King-John is a member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association. In 1999, Ms. King-John was recognized by the Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. King-John has served this country for nearly two decades at great personal sacrifice; she has served New York State for nearly two decades as well. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

SUPPORT OF THE LABOR FIRST
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

The National Labor Relations Act guarantees the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively to improve living standards and working conditions. The right to organize is a basic civil right, and unions are an avenue to equity, fair treatment, and economic stability for working people. Free enterprise includes the freedom to organize as a unit to bargain collectively. Often, current law hinders this ability. That is why I have introduced the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

This bill requires mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration of initial contract negotiation disputes. Under this proposed bill, if an employer and a newly elected representative have not reached a collective bargaining agreement within 60 days of the representative's certification, the employer and the rep-

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resentative will jointly select a mediator to help them reach an agreement. If they cannot agree on a mediator, one will be appointed for them by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. In the event that the parties do not reach an agreement in 30 days, the remaining issues may be transferred to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for binding arbitration.

Let's make sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOME-
OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR
UNIFORMED SERVICES AND EDU-
CATORS ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Representative LEACH and a number of other Members of the House, I will be introducing the Homeownership Opportunities for Uniformed Services and Educators Act, also known as the "HOUSE Act."

The HOUSE Act authorizes 1% down payment FHA mortgage loans for prekindergarten through 12th grade teachers, policemen, and firemen buying a home within the school district or local employing jurisdiction. This significantly reduces the down payment hurdle. For example, the down payment on a \$132,000 home would be lowered from around \$6,270 to only \$1,320. In higher cost areas the effect would be more dramatic.

Moreover, for qualified borrowers, the bill defers the 1.5% up-front FHA premium that FHA customarily charges, which currently ranges from \$1,980 to \$3,590, depending on the size of the loan. Moreover, this deferred fee is reduced by 20% for each year of public service in the community, and entirely waived after five years of continued service.

Down payment and loan fee reductions will have the effect of helping school districts and localities recruit and retain qualified teachers, policemen and firemen. It will also make it easier for these public servants to buy a home within the community they work. And, the bill's premium waiver feature provides an incentive for continued public service in the local community.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the bill would generate 125,000 new loans to teachers, policemen, and firemen over the next five years. CBO also determined that the bill would actually increase the federal budget surplus by \$162 million over the same period.

This legislation is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the American Association of School Administrators.

Moreover, the bill enjoys bi-partisan support, and was in fact passed by the House last year, as Section 203 of H.R. 1776. Unfortunately, it died when the House and Senate failed to reach agreement. I urge my col-

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leagues to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation, so that we may enact it into law this year.

HONORING ASSEMBLYMAN DENIS
BUTLER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assemblyman Denis Butler for his twenty-four years of elected service on behalf of the people of Queens. The Powhatan and Pocahontas Regular Democratic Club will honor Butler again next week for his tremendous advocacy for youth, senior citizens, veterans and the disabled.

Assemblyman Butler was first elected to the New York State Assembly in April of 1976, and enjoyed victories in every Assembly race since then. During his twenty-four years in the Assembly, Mr. Butler moved up the ranks to become an Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore, to which he was appointed in 1993. Assemblyman Butler previously held the positions of Vice-Chairman of the Majority Conference, Chairman of the Majority Conference and Chairman of the Committee on Standing Committees. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments.

As Chairman of the Queens Assembly Delegation, Assemblyman Butler has been an unfailing advocate for Astoria and Long Island City, successfully securing hundreds of thousands of dollars for numerous recreational, cultural, educational, civic, youth, anticrime and senior programs throughout Queens.

In 1998, Assemblyman Butler received the Brooklyn Diocese's Pro Vita award, presented to him by Bishop Francis J. Mugavero in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the unborn. In 1992, he was the recipient of the New York State Catholic Conference Public Policy Award, presented by John Cardinal O'Connor and the Bishops of New York State. Assemblyman Butler was the driving force behind the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation, a non-for-profit statewide organization that promotes alternatives to abortion, successfully securing approximately 17 million dollars for the Foundation since 1983.

Assemblyman Butler is Vice-Chairman of the Queens Democratic County Committee and for thirty years was the Executive Member of the Powhatan Regular Democratic Club, one of the oldest clubs in New York State. In conjunction with the Powhatan and Pocahontas Clubs, Assemblyman Butler was the organizer for the last twenty-nine years of annual Toys for Tots Drive for the needy.

Mr. Butler is a lifelong resident of the District he represented, covering Astoria, Long Island City and Jackson Heights. A graduate of La Salle Academy and Cathedral College, Assemblyman Butler also attended St. Joseph's Seminary, Columbia University and the State University at Albany. Prior to his election to the New York State Assembly, Mr. Butler, who holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, was an account executive and sales manager on the