

February 28, 2001

TRIBUTE TO HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL HURRICANES—STATE GROUP AAA DIVISION 5 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

**HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Newport News, Virginia who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Heritage High School Hurricanes football team had a remarkable season and I believe the Hurricanes deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On December 2, 2000, the Heritage High School Hurricanes won its first state Group AAA Division 5 Football Final at the University of Richmond Stadium. The Heritage Hurricanes completed the 2000 season with a truly impressive record, 14-0. It was the only unbeaten team in the AAA.

Established in 1996, Heritage High School is a magnet school specializing in engineering and technology. Heritage High School was named in honor of five former high schools located in Newport News. Students must meet rigorous academic requirements, take responsibility for academic progress, behavior and attendance, and they are expected to participate in school and community activities. This drive for excellence has now been extended into the field of athletics.

To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press,

[s]ome high school defenses have big kids. Some have fast kids. Some have smart kids. Once in a blue moon a Heritage comes along. A team with kids who are big, fast and smart.

Their remarkable 2000 season carries on the tradition of championship football in Newport News, started by Newport News High School in 1931, and continued by Carver High School in 1961 and our last state champion—the 1966 Huntington High Vikings.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to the Heritage High School Hurricanes—the Group AAA Division 5 2000 Virginia High School League State Football Champions.

THE SSI MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2001

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I support “The SSI Modernization Act of 2001,” for which I am an original cosponsor. In 1972, the Congress passed legislation to create the Supplementary Security Income (SSI) Program to help the most vulnerable in our society. The SSI Program provides a base level of a support to the elderly, disabled and blind who do not qualify for Social Security or

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whose Social Security benefits are inadequate. Currently, about 6.6 million of these individuals rely on SSI to provide income for the basic necessities of food, clothing, and shelter.

Unfortunately, Congress has done little since the creation of SSI to ensure that the program serves the recipients in the 21st century as well as it did in the 20th century. As a result, the program now serves a population living at a level of 70 percent of poverty and does not serve those at or near the poverty line. This bill does six items to modernize SSI:

1. It rewards SSI recipients who want to work by increasing the amount of earned income excluded from reducing the SSI benefit from \$65 to \$130 a month and indexes it to inflation in future years. This limit has not been increased since 1972 and would be \$260 a month if they had kept pace with inflation.

2. It increases the General Income exclusion from \$20 to \$40 of income per month and would index the amount to inflation in future years. This exclusion means that the first \$40 of income received by an SSI recipient will not be used to reduce their benefit check. For recipients who have a significant work history and receive a Social Security benefit, they will be able to retain more of their Social Security benefit. This limit has not been increased since 1972 and would be \$80 if it had kept pace with inflation.

3. The bill increases the amount of resources that recipients are allowed to own from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for an individual and from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for a couple and then indexes it for inflation in future years. If these resources limits had kept pace with inflation they would be \$6,000 for an individual and \$9,000 for a couple.

4. The amount of infrequent or irregular income that recipients are allowed to earn before benefit reduction is increased from \$10 to \$20 a month for earned income and \$20 to \$40 a month for unearned income. These limits have not been changed since 1981.

5. The bill delays SSI eligibility redeterminations for disabled children from 18 years old until one of two things occur first: either the person becomes 21 years old or finishes secondary school.

6. SSI would exclude the entire amount of educational grants, scholarships from SSI income determinations and exclude it for up to 9 months for SSI resource determinations.

This is a small incremental bill that makes some long overdue technical improvements to SSI. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation to improve the lives of the most economically vulnerable Americans who depend on SSI.

TRIBUTE TO JOURNALIST BERNARD SHAW

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day for the news junkies of the world. Bernard Shaw, one of the industry's most respected journalists, is stepping down from the CNN anchor desk after 20 years on the job.

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Shaw was there when the fledgling cable network first turned on the lights and rolled tape in 1980. And he has remained with CNN, reporting some of the century's most exciting national and international events.

How many of us recall the Persian Gulf War and Shaw's reports of bombs falling over Baghdad. And who can forget his pointed questioning of politicians, who often found it difficult to be as pointed in their response.

For many of us, the really difficult part begins as Bernard Shaw takes his leave and “stands down,” as he says, from CNN. But how do we say goodbye to someone who, after so many years, has become a fixture in our homes and offices?

Bernie Shaw will be missed because of his special brand of professionalism and nononsense reporting. He will be missed because we have enjoyed sharing his love of politics and world events.

And, for many of us, Bernard Shaw will be missed because over the years, he has been the lone African American, who has anchored national broadcasts and major events. He has moderated presidential debates, anchored coverage of primaries and national elections, and traveled the world reporting breaking international news. It is unlikely that Bernard Shaw's job description included the term, “role model,” but it is certain that his skill and tenacity have inspired many and engendered considerable respect and pride among us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 16, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Con. Res. 39. Had I been present I would have voted “yea.”

STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS INCENTIVES ACT

**HON. RANDY “DUKE” CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act. I am joined in this effort by a substantial and diverse coalition of my colleagues including Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, as well as Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire in the Senate, and many others. This bill is supported by a strong coalition of industries and organizations. I have submitted a list of supporters below.

My constituents in San Diego have been suffering from outrageously high-energy prices for nearly a year. Our citizens and city have been forced into a crisis by the State legislature's deregulation of the electricity market. While I and my colleagues from San Diego