

he used his sword to draw a line across the courtyard.

"I now want every man who is determined to stay here and die with me to come across this line. Who shall be the first?"

And one by one, the men who died at the Alamo all came across.

Now, some people will tell you that Travis' last speech was fiction. They'll say it's melodramatic and too full of grand gestures. They'll say it's wishful thinking on the part of dreamers and romantics. But I believe that Travis did draw that line in the sand.

If you read his letters and consider the convictions of those men holed up with him in the Alamo, I believe you'll come to the same conclusion. Travis knew exactly what he was doing and his men knew their precise and painful destiny. And they stepped across that line in the sand and stayed just the same. Because independence is worth it.

And that's why men rode off from their families to join a motley band of committed patriots, who without training, without supplies, and without much hope for success gambled everything on God and Texas.

And they won even as they spent their lives so dearly on the walls of the Alamo.

And the debate goes on today. Some men don't believe that any principle or conviction is worth the political capital to draw a line in the sand. But other men still do. And it's with those like-minded men and women that I'll throw in my lot.

Some things are still worth fighting for, and we'd better never forget it. Because if enough of us ever do forget, we'll have squandered our birthright to freedom and we'll be the unworthy beneficiaries of those proud Americans who came before us.

The Alamo's defenders, like our Founding Fathers before them, gave everything to put unstoppable events in motion. Their deaths were the birth pains of greatness.

"Victory or Death," became Victory in Death. And that victory was the offspring of the courage needed to make the simple yet difficult choices that so often determine history. May we never forget that freedom demands sacrifice. God bless the men who died at the Alamo. And God bless America.

#### CITIZENS FROM THE 9TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local citizens from the 9th District of Texas who were chosen during Black History Month for their work. While the dedication of African-American leaders is well-known throughout the United States, local citizens, right here in the Southeast Gulf Coast region, are just as important to ensuring equal rights for all Texans. Last month I asked members of the communities in the 9th District to nominate individuals for my "Unsung Heroes" award that gives special recognition to those unsung heroes, willing workers, and individuals who are so much a part of our nation's rich history.

Recipients were chosen because they embodied a giving and sharing spirit, and had made a contribution to our nation.

These individuals have not only talked the talk, but they have walked the walk. They have worked long and hard for equal rights in their churches, schools, and in their communities. While their efforts may not make the headlines every day, their pioneering struggle for equality and justice is nevertheless vital to our entire region. This region of Southeast Texas is not successful in spite of our diversity; we are successful because of it.

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating these community leaders for their support of bringing Justice and equality to Southeast Texas. It is leaders like, these men and women that continue to be a source of pride not only during Black History Month, but all year long. The winners of this year's "Unsung Heroes" award are:

Mrs. Myrtle Giles Davis, Mrs. Mattie Dansby Ford, Mr. William Andrew Harris, Mr. V. H. Haynes, Mr. Tony Johnson, and Mrs. Annie Mae Shanklin.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the "Unsung Heroes" award are dedicated and hardworking individuals who have done so much for their neighbors and for this nation as a whole. Today, I stand to recognize their spirit and to say that I am honored to be their Representative.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I accidentally failed to record my vote on roll call #27, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 727, legislation to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to provide that low-speed electric bicycles are consumer products subject to the CPSC. As I indicated in the statement I had placed in the RECORD as a part of the debate on this measure, I support H.R. 727 and intended to vote in favor of it.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HOSEA WILLIAMS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in praising the work and life of Hosea Williams as a civil rights leader. For the past 40 years, he has worked with civil rights issues, helping to make a change for black people in America.

Mr. Williams came from a difficult past. At age 13 he was forced to leave his community to escape a lynching mob that wanted to punish him for socializing with a white girl. When the United States entered World War II, he enlisted in the army and became a staff sergeant in an all-black unit of Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, working as a weapons carrier. He suffered an injury during an attack and had to spend a year in a British hospital.

Mr. Williams returned to the United States where he finished high school at 23. He proceeded to earn his bachelor's degree from Morris Brown College in Georgia, with a major in Chemistry; and then received his master's degree from Atlanta University. He then became the first black research chemist hired by the federal government below the Mason-Dixon line.

Dissatisfied with the discrimination faced by black people in his community Mr. Williams began giving speeches in a downtown park on his lunch break. He was eventually arrested and jailed. When he was released he took a year leave from the United States Department of Agriculture to do civil rights work and never went back.

The latter portion of Mr. Williams's life was spent fighting for civil rights. He worked as a field general for the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil rights battles of the 1960's. Before joining with Dr. King he worked with National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and helped to run the Southern Christian Leadership Council's actions in St. Augustine.

Mr. Williams made sure not only to work with the issues abroad but also to work with his community. Serving on the Atlanta City Council and later as the DeKalb County commissioner he worked to improve the conditions at companies and help the poor.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Hosea Williams for his hard work and dedication on behalf of the poor and disadvantaged and for his extraordinary contributions to civil rights.

#### SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX VOUCHERS

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation, along with six of my colleagues from Massachusetts, to alter the federal tax treatment of real property tax reduction vouchers received by senior citizens for volunteer work.

Approximately 42 towns in Massachusetts have implemented a program to ease the problem senior citizens, who live on fixed incomes, face due to rising property taxes. These towns have allowed senior citizens to perform volunteer work for their town in exchange for a voucher that reduces their property tax by up to \$500.

Specifically, my legislation would exclude from gross income vouchers issued by a government unit to offset real property taxes, and received by senior citizens, in exchange for volunteer work. The legislation also exempts these vouchers from employment taxes, and senior citizens who are at least 65 are eligible.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation enhances an important and creative program being implemented in many towns in Massachusetts. We devote a lot of effort around here to help make sure retirement does not sink senior citizens deep into poverty, and that they have basic health services. This very modest proposal

takes a small step in helping seniors remain in their homes despite rising property taxes. A step, I hope, we can take this year.

TRIBUTE TO SHONDA RIGGINS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year. Shonda Riggins, a guest service representative at the Hampton Inn located at 48th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has displayed over a ten year period how deserving she is of this award. Ms. Riggins is all astute employee who is known for her dependability, generosity, and great southern hospitality. The type of service that Ms. Riggins provides to the guest of the Hampton Inn goes beyond the call of duty. She has proven herself to be an asset to the tourist industry and indispensable to the Hampton Inn.

Examples of Ms. Riggins exemplified service include her handwritten personal postcards to every guest, top-scoring in professional and friendly phone-skills, and a perfect attendance that is also at the top of the charts. Her appearance is always impeccable and she wears, with pride, all of her service pins and buttons. Ms. Riggins is a team player who has shown that she is willing to help in all aspects at any time. This includes such tasks as assisting during hurricane seasons, covering shifts of co-workers, and always being able to keep her cool so that she can help out in whatever way possible.

Over the years Ms. Riggins has received numerous awards and recognition for her continuing great service to the Hampton Inn. This award, though, is an esteemed honored that Ms. Riggins is extremely deserving of. I would like to thank her for her continuing hospitality and support to the tourism industry that is so important to Myrtle Beach. As a thriving part of South Carolina, Ms. Riggins has proven herself to be indispensable to the true meaning of southern hospitality. As the Representative of the First District of South Carolina, I must say that this type of dedication and hard work is refreshing and appreciated to the upmost degree.

THE SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Science Teacher Scholarships for Scientists and Engineers Act. The bill is cosponsored by my colleague Mr. WU, and I appreciate his support.

The bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bach-

elors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers.

From a series of Science Committee hearings last year about the state of science and math education, and from talking to constituents, students, and educators at home, it has become clear to me that we need to improve science and math education in this country.

In particular, I've come to understand that poor student performance in science and math has much to do with the fact that teachers often have little or no training in the disciplines they are teaching. While the importance of teacher expertise in determining student achievement is widely acknowledged, it is also the case that significant numbers of K-12 students are being taught science and math by unqualified teachers.

Not only do we need to ensure a high quality of science and math education for our students, but we also need to ensure there is sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them. The bill I am introducing today would begin to address the shortage of qualified science and math teachers by providing an incentive for individuals with the content knowledge to try teaching as a career.

Most students emerge from college with a heavy debt load—and studies have shown that average debt has tended upward, since college tuition costs have been increasing faster than inflation. So scholarships would be particularly beneficial for those considering entering the teaching field where starting salaries are relatively low.

Mr. Speaker, to keep economic growth strong in the long-term, we need continued innovation. But innovation doesn't happen by itself—it requires a steady flow of scientists and engineers. My bill can begin to help provide this steady flow and ensure that our future workforce will be prepared to succeed in our increasingly technologically based world. With estimates of 240,000 new science and math elementary and secondary teachers needed over the next decade, we must work to provide the incentives now to bring these teachers into our schools.

For the information of our colleagues I am submitting a summary of the bill.

SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures.

The purpose: To ensure not only high quality of science and math education but also a sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them.

BACKGROUND

The Science Committee held a series of hearings in the 106th Congress on various aspects of math and science education. From these hearings it became clear that student performance in these areas is weak and that no single factor is the key to improving stu-

dent performance. But the testimony did suggest that a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for improved student performance is teachers with both good content knowledge and pedagogical skills. Current problems in the realm of math and science teaching are difficulties in attracting and retaining math and science teachers and deficiencies in the training of new teachers and in professional development activities for existing teachers.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Authorization: The bill would authorize the director of the National Science Foundation to make awards to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures. The bill would authorize \$20 million to be appropriated to NSF for each of the fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education offering bachelors degrees in science, math, and engineering and coursework toward teacher certification are eligible to apply for awards under the program. Individuals provided scholarships shall be undergraduate students majoring in science, math, or engineering who are within one academic year of completion of degree requirements or graduates of bachelors or advanced degree programs in science, math, or engineering.

Requirements for Application: Each scholarship application would include a plan specifying the course of study that would allow the applicant to fulfill the academic requirements for obtaining a teaching certification during the scholarship period.

Work Requirement: As a condition of acceptance of a scholarship under this Act, a recipient would agree to work as a science teacher for a minimum of two years following certification as such a teacher or to repay the amount of the scholarship to NSF.

TRIBUTE TO HIS BEATITUDE MAR NASRALLAH BOUTROS CARDINAL SFEIR, MARONITE PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today at a Congressional Luncheon hosted by myself and Rep. RAY LAHOOD, and attended by many Members of the House, we had the privilege of hearing remarks made by His Beatitude Mar Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. This is the Patriarch's first visit to the United States since 1988, and he is here on the occasion of the elevation of the first American born Maronite Bishop Ralph Shaheen.

While in the United States, the Patriarch expressed his vision of peace for Lebanon and the Middle East Region.

Lebanon, the homeland of my grandfathers and its people, cherish the same values of democracy, respect for human rights, independence and sovereignty cherished by the people of America. That is why the Patriarch, the