

degradation. An arts patron and enthusiast, Councilwoman Farber also currently serves as Council Liaison to the Cultural Arts Commission.

Lee Farber has led a distinguished career of public service in New Jersey that sets an important example for us all. I hope my colleagues will join with me in honoring her.

OBITUARY OF EVA LOU
BILLINGSLEY RUSSELL

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, Eva Lou Billingsley Russell, also affectionately known as "Grandma Rap", 82 of Birmingham, died on Friday, December 14, 2001. Mrs. Russell was the owner of Fraternal Café in downtown Birmingham for more than 20 years. She was a Civil Rights activist most noted for feeding the local as well as national civil rights movement for many years. In addition, Mrs. Russell operated feeding programs for the homeless and poor, years before, attention was given to this problem in our communities.

She spent considerable time encouraging young people to get an education and to stay away from drugs. Many times this message was "rapped" to the children. It is not uncommon to pick up a magazine and find one of her poems or to hear a child reciting one of her poems in a church or at a school throughout the city. She is the author of the book "Golden Threads"—A Collection of Poems About About the Black Family. She also has three other manuscripts of books that are yet unpublished.

Mrs. Russell has received numerous awards throughout her life. A few of these include: Channel 13 Hometown Hero—1991, WENN Radio Favorite Person, Beautiful Activist Award, SCLC Humanitarian Award, Crystal Diamond Award for Community Service; Awards from: University of Alabama, Birmingham, Lawson State Community College, Booker T. Washington Business College, and Miles College. She has also received numerous awards from elementary, middle and high schools in the Birmingham area.

She was very active at Saint Joseph Baptist Church where she has been a member for a number of years. Most recently, she was a deaconess, Chair of the Pastor's Aide Board, and worked with the Missionary Society, Homeless Committee, Willing Workers and served in numerous other capacities of leadership throughout her membership at the church; including Vice President of the St. Joseph Day Care Center, Youth Supervisor and Chair of the Deaconess Board.

Mrs. Russell leaves the following survivors: Three sons: Joseph Russell (Ida), Sacramento, CA., Leonard Russell (Juanita)-Birmingham, Carl Russell (Constance), Pembroke Pines, FL.; Two daughters: Birmingham, Sandra Russell Jackson, Carolyn Russell Todd (Walter); son-in-law-Jerome Huguley, Atlanta, GA. And a daughter-in-law, Rosa Mae Russell, Birmingham; Two brothers and one sister from Cleveland, OH: Richard

Billingsley, Simon Billingsley (Eula) and Johnnie Billingsley; a sister Hattie Riddle (Will), Knoxville, TN; a sister-in-law, Margaret Billingsley, Columbus, OH. Mrs. Russell also had 17 grand children, 21 great grand children, a God daughter and son and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The, Home Going Service for Mrs. Russell will be Saturday, December 22, 2001 at Saint Joseph Baptist Church, 500 9th Avenue North, Birmingham. Roberts Central Park Chapel directing. Visitation is scheduled for Thursday, December 20, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, December 21, from 4 to 9 p.m.

YOUTH COURT: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CHARACTER EDUCATION THROUGH JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the efforts of the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. Their work encourages schools, youth programs, attorneys, judges, and police departments to work together to form and expand diversionary programs.

These programs, known as Youth Courts, are where juveniles, under the supervision of representatives from the education and legal communities, determine sentencing for first time Juvenile offenders who are charged with misdemeanors or minor infractions of school rules.

The program displays that as a sentencing option, community service can serve both the offender and the community.

TRIBUTE TO FERRIS BELMAN

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent and public servant whose more than 30 years of service will come to a close at the end of this month.

Ferris Belman of Stafford County, one of the jurisdictions within the 1st District of Virginia, is a retired businessman who has devoted much of his adult life to serving the people of both the city of Fredericksburg and Stafford County.

For 13 years he was a member of the Fredericksburg City Council and has served as a member of the Stafford Board of Supervisors for 18 years, twice as a board chairman. He was also just recently the President of the Virginia Association of Counties.

Mr. Belman has served on numerous committees and commissions over the years and played a leading role in promoting economic growth and development in both in the city and county.

Ferris is a man of great honesty and character who has worked diligently on behalf of

the people of Virginia. As Stafford County Administrator C.M. Williams notes, Ferris Belman helped insure that Ferry Farm in Stafford, the boyhood home of George Washington, would be preserved intact. He was also largely responsible for the county's acquisition of Government Island, the site of quarries that provided the stone for construction of the United States Capitol building and the White House.

Ferris Belman will leave office with the grateful appreciation of the thousands of people whose lives he has touched through his service. He will be remembered as a public official who always found time to listen to the concerns of his constituents, and went the extra mile to do all he could for those he represented. Ferris, who once owned several grocery stores, always said he thought of himself not as a politician but "an apple peddler working for the people."

I would like to thank Ferris Belman for a job well done. His selflessness and devotion to his constituents and Virginia are to be commended, and his service will be missed.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 3525

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, the Rio Grande Valley thanks the House for this economic stimulus package for the border . . . our economic opportunities were severely curtailed this fall when the extension of a deadline to obtain new border crossing cards was held up for three months.

The efforts of the House Border Caucus have borne fruit with the inclusion of the extension of the deadline to replace old Border Crossing Cards (BCCs) with new "laser visas."

This is the perfect Christmas present to the Southwest Border from the United States Congress.

In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attack, the increased vigilance at the border has also translated into a rougher tone in the Congress with regard to what should have been a pro forma extension of the deadline.

The Southwest border has seen extensive economic damage as a result of the deadline not being extended, as expected, in September.

I encourage the Senate to expedite consideration of the bill since the House has overcome the objections now.

As the Co-Chairman of the House Border Caucus, I thank the House for including this provision so important to the Rio Grande Valley.

I am also pleased that the bill authorized funding for additional staff and training to increase our border security.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes a more complete monitoring program of foreign students, as since September 11 it is glaringly apparent that data and reporting gaps must be filled.