range of short and long-term budgetary needs. It is for these reasons that I will support the Democratic and Blue Dog alternatives.

Under the Democratic alternative, we could extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and have a sizable tax cut that would benefit every family. This measure would also allow us to adequately fund our top priorities, including education, prescription drugs, defense and small business, and still retire all redeemable public debt by 2008.

The Blue Dog Budget Alternative would set forth a five-year budget framework to account for the uncertainties in long-term budget forecasts. The plan provides for retiring over half the publicly held debt by 2006 and eliminating back-loaded tax cuts and unnecessary spending increases. By reserving half of the on-budget surplus for the next five years, we could continue to pay down the debt and strengthen Social Security and preserve Medicare. Further, like the Democratic amendments, the Blue Dog budget seeks to preserve the Blue Dog budget sets aside a pool of money to help states and localities improve their voting systems in time for the next federal elections. The Bush framework completely ignores this urgent need.

The Bush Administration's budget threatens the quality of life for millions of Americans. There are many tough choices ahead, but I firmly believe that with cooperation and an eye towards operating within a responsible framework, this Administration and Congress can and should develop a budget that will ensure that everyone's needs are met. I encourage my colleagues to join me in rejecting this ill-conceived Republican proposal and supporting instead a sensible, well-balanced budget resolution that speaks to the needs of every American family.

MAGGIE LENA WALKER
HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise to honor the contributions of a distinguished woman. I would like to share with the House the remarkable life of Maggie Lena Walker, a Richmond, Virginia native and a business and community leader in the early part of the 20th Century. Maggie Walker is well known for her efforts on behalf of the African American community in Richmond and for her accomplishments in the city to which she contributed so much.

Maggie Walker was born on July 15, 1867. She spent her childhood at the Van Lew Mansion in Richmond, Virginia, where her mother, a former slave, worked as a cook's helper. As an abolitionist, Miss Van Lew made sure that all of her servants received a good education. It was here that Maggie Walker began to learn the value and importance of education.

Like many educated African American women during that time, Maggie Walker's first contribution was in the field of education where she taught in the public school system after her graduation from Armstrong Normal School. She then became principal of the Armstrong School and subsequently opened her own school, the Armstrong Institute. It was here that Maggie Walker began to learn the importance of literacy and the need for an educated community. She became an advocate for the right to read and write and encouraged African American women to pursue education.

Maggie Walker recognized the importance of economic empowerment and the need for African American women to have control over their financial resources. In 1903, she opened the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, the oldest existing African American bank, with an initial capital of $500. The bank provided small cardboard boxes to children to encourage them to save their pennies. When children reached the goal of $1.00, the bank would provide them with a small gift. This system was successful in helping African American children save money and encouraged them to become financially independent.

Maggie Walker's leadership was not confined to the business community. She worked to improve the lives of African Americans in Richmond and throughout the country. She was one of the first African American women to run for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the 1920s and won the election in 1921. Maggie Walker also served as the first African American women to run for State Treasurer in 1926. Her commitment to education and economic empowerment was recognized when she was elected to the American Women's Suffrage Association and served as its president in 1923.

Maggie Walker's leadership, business acumen, and perseverance in the face of adversity is a testament to her ability to speak for those who cannot speak. Her leadership in the fight for African American independence and empowerment serves as a constant reminder of her leadership and her commitment to social justice.

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The mission of Junior Achievement is to encourage students to be better prepared for their future careers and to help them to make informed financial decisions. Maggie Walker, who was elected to the American Women's Suffrage Association and served as its president in 1923, was a prime example of the importance of economic empowerment and education. Her leadership in the fight for African American independence and empowerment serves as a constant reminder of her leadership and her commitment to social justice.

In conclusion, Maggie Walker's legacy serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of education, economic empowerment, and social justice.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CESAR CHAVEZ

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of a great leader, Cesar E. Chavez. His memory serves as a constant reminder of the hardships facing working families every day and an inspiration to those who strive to speak up for people whose voices go unheard.

The teachings of Cesar Chavez have inspired millions of people in our country. One might argue that the practices of our country's labor community can be attributed to the lessons that were taught by the late Cesar Chavez. In carrying out his mission, Chavez developed and lived with a unique blend of values, philosophies, and styles. Although he organized predominantly Hispanic workers, Chavez' commitment to non-violence, volunteerism, egalitarianism, and respect for all cultures, religions and lifestyles, has served as the guiding principle of the U.S. labor movement for the past fifty years.

In 1989, Chavez conducted a 36-day fast to protest the pesticide poisoning of migrant workers in California. For years, workers were coming into contact with harmful pesticides that had led to, in many cases, cancer. Farm owners had ignored the problem and Chavez was infuriated. During a speech on the 36th day of his fast, Chavez declared, “If we ignored pesticide poisoning, if we looked on as farm workers and their children are stricken, then all the other injustices our people face would be compounded by an even more deadly tyranny. But ignore that final injustice is what our opponents would have us do."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the injustices that Cesar Chavez fought against for fifty years, and the living conditions he spoke out against, still exist today. We have a responsibility in Congress to continue the fight where Chavez left off. We have a responsibility to speak for those who cannot speak, and to fight for those who cannot fight. Improving working conditions, increasing the minimum wage, and providing quality benefits for all workers remain at the forefront of our challenges on behalf of working families. We should use today's commemoration of Cesar Chavez' life to renew our commitment not to “ignore that final injustice,” and protect the rights of working families. If we do ignore them, then we are forgetting the great lessons taught to us by this great hero. That would be an injustice in itself.