

comprehensive reforms that may be good in some people's eyes but cannot generate the support to pass this Congress this year. I really think that is a critical point.

As I say, it has been a pleasure working with the gentleman. We still have more work to do before we are done but I want to thank the gentleman for his dedication to this subject.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. They are very appropriate to this occasion. I agree totally that there is a lot more things we could have done, a lot of things a lot of us would have liked to have done. But we came together as a body of both Democrats and Republicans, and I think we came out with what could be the most important bill of this Congress. I would like to thank the gentleman again, the gentleman from Maine, Mr. ALLEN, for his dedication on this.

ZORA NEALE HURSTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," Zora Neale Hurston, published first in 1937.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bill that I am introducing that honors one of America's major voices in the 20th century, Zora Neale Hurston. Hurston is one of America's most famous writers and interpreters of southern rural African American culture. This bill recommends that the U.S. Postal Service issue a stamp that recognizes Hurston's contribution to American literature.

Born in 1891, Zora grew up in Eatonville, FL. That is my district, the first official African American township in the United States. She attended the Morgan Academy, which is now Morgan State University, and Howard University and became the first African American woman to graduate from Barnard College in 1919. The dominant female voice of the Harlem Renaissance period, 1919 through 1995, Zora Neale Hurston produced two works of folklore: "Of Men and Mules", and "Tell My Horse".

Using the talk of the rural southern African-American peasant, Hurston lifted the language of these folks to a level of poetry and fine literature. Through her style of writing and the subject of the African-American experience, she attracted international followers and the interest of feminists who transcend gender, race. Her life and work have inspired the founding of the Zora Neale Hurston Society at Morgan State University and the annual festival of arts and humanities in her home town of Eatonville.

□ 1730

Since her death in 1960, respect for her writings has increased along with

their popularity. The recent discovery of plays by the Library of Congress has also revived interest in her writings.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all my colleagues will join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the life of this inspirational American. By cosponsoring this legislation, we will encourage more Americans to learn about Hurston and perhaps influence that one child to become the next American author.

Issuing a commemorative stamp in 1998 and unveiling it at the 10th annual festival scheduled in 1999 would rightfully honor this famous American who has changed the landscape of American literature.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the 36 Members who have already cosigned on this bill as original cosponsors. I hope that more of my colleagues will sign on in the near future in support of Zora Neale Hurston.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I am so proud of the fact that she represents Eatonville, FL. I would tell the gentleman that I was born and raised in Altamonte Springs, FL, 8 miles from where Ms. Hurston, who the gentlewoman so rightly seeks commemoration of, was born.

I had the good fortune of having had a grandmother, who has since deceased, like Ms. Hurston, who was a very good friend of hers and went to boarding school at the same place that Zora Neale Hurston did. I did not know it as a child, but my mother did, and other members of my family, but she was a giant of a woman, not only in size, but as the gentlewoman has appropriately indicated, in the magnitude of literature that she produced in her era and in her genre.

For that I compliment the gentlewoman, and ask, as she does, that all of our colleagues go forward and commemorate her with this stamp that we can present, and I hope to be there with the gentlewoman in 1999 when it is done.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to day to speak about a bill that I would like to offer that honors one of America's major literary voices of the 20th century: Zora Neale Hurston. Hurston is one of America's most famous writers, folklorists, and interpreters of Southern rural African-American culture. This bill recommends that the U.S. Postal service issue a stamp that recognizes Hurston's contributions to American literature.

Born in 1891, Zora grew up in Eatonville, FL, the first incorporated African-American township in the United States, which is in the Third Congressional district of Florida. One of her favorite retreats was "the lying porch" of Joe Clarke's store. Years of stories and tall-tales that were told there, later became a part

of Zora's works. As Zora grew older, her writing took shape as she found a way to express herself.

It wasn't until college when Zora's writing began to flourish. She attended Howard University and, in 1924, she had her first work published. The short story "Drenched in Light" appeared in *Opportunity*, an Urban League publication.

Attracted to the Harlem Renaissance of New York City, Zora moved to New York to further her writing career. In 1925, she won the Urban League's literary contest short story and one-act play categories. This distinction led to her association with artists and poets like the famous African-American poet Langston Hughes. In a short time, Zora Neale Hurston became the predominant female literary voice of the Harlem Renaissance.

Zora continued her college education with a scholarship to Barnard College. There she changed her focus on English to anthropology and graduated with a background in folklore of Harlem and the American South. It is this combination of Zora's writing style and the subject of the African-American experience for which she is so well known.

Through her lifetime, Hurston produced numerous works of fine quality that include an autobiography, "Dust Tracks On A Road;" novels like "Jonah's Gourd Vine," "Man of the Mountain," and "Seraph on the Sewanee;" folklore such as "Of Men and Mules" and "Tell My Horse"; short stories, articles, and plays. But Zora's best work which I have here, is "Their Eyes Were Watching God." It is in her most popular work that Zora introduces the character of Janie Crawford who represents the prototype of the 20th century women searching for her own identity.

Besides publishing many works, Zora was also a teacher, a Hollywood scriptwriter, and a newspaper columnist. Later in her life, Zora received fellowships to continue her anthropology research in the South, the West Indies, and Haiti.

Since Zora's death in 1960, respect for her writings has increased along with their popularity. The recent discovery of plays by the Library of Congress has also revived interest in Zora Neale Hurston and her writings. She has attracted an international following and the interest of feminists who transcend race and ethnicity. Modern day poets and authors such as Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, world-renowned poet Maya Angelou, and Pulitzer Prize winner Alice Walker all mention Hurston as a major influence on their writings as well. She has been listed in "Black Female Playwrights," inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame and the Florida's Writer's Hall of Fame. Her writings have also inspired a Zora Neale Hurston Society, an annual festival in Eatonville, and a biography of her life by Robert Hemenway, who has placed her in history as the major, undiscovered literary voice of this century.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all of my colleagues will join me in celebrating the accomplishments and the life of this inspirational American. By cosponsoring this legislation, we will encourage more Americans to learn about Zora Neale Hurston and perhaps influence that one child to become the next great American author.

Issuing a commemorative stamp in 1998 and unveiling it at the 10th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival—scheduled in 1999—would

rightfully honor this famous American who has changed the landscape of American literature.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the 35 Members who have already signed on to this bill as original cosponsors. I hope that more of my colleagues will sign on in the near future in support of Zora Neale Hurston.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, everyone is pleased that the budget agreement has been reached between the White House and the Congress, and that does call for applause across the Nation, but there still looms the possibility of a shutdown in Government, I hasten to say, and that kind of shutdown can do more to unravel the budget agreement that we have reached than any other single event that I can conceive at this stage of the budget proceedings.

Now, I have been trying for almost 10 years now to convince the Congress that we ought to have in place a permanent solution to the possibility of a Government shutdown; namely, that at the end of the fiscal year, September 30, if the appropriations process has not been completed, those bills that have not yet been finally formulated would simply turn over the next day and adopt last year's instant replay type of figures so that we would have last year's budget go into effect until a new budget can be prepared and adopted. This instant replay would prevent a Government shutdown.

It was outrageous, in my judgment, to have heard on the floor, when this proposition passed during the disaster relief fiasco that we underwent, the claim that if we passed the Gekas antishutdown legislation it would mean the cutting of funds. I have just finished saying, Mr. Speaker, that if my bill would be adopted, at the end of the fiscal year, if we do not have a budget, last year's figures would obtain.

So there would be no cutting of funds. It would be maintaining the same funds as last year, and then the negotiators proceed on their merry way to prepare a new budget. At any given time after September 30 a new budget could go into place, and that vitiates the instant replay that would have gone into place.

The other outrageous claim that has been made against our bill is that it creates a disincentive to negotiate. But the truth of the matter is that both sides need a new budget, so that at the

end of September 30, those who want increased spending will have a chance to negotiate, those who want to cut spending will have a chance to negotiate, but in the meantime, last year's figures will obtain.

What is wrong with my proposition, I fear, is that it makes good sense. Therefore, it has very little chance of passing this Chamber on its own. But I do believe that now that we have passed this budget, or that we have reached a budget agreement, and that there would no longer be the disincentive to reach a budget because we have reached a budget agreement, that perhaps we can begin to focus on the antishutdown legislation as a permanent solution.

Not just for 30 days as a continuing resolution, not for 6 months or a year, but to put it in place for all time, so that every year when the budget looks like it will go down in flames around September 30, that we will have this fallback lifesaving mechanism to prevent a Government shutdown and all the bad consequences that flow.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this is a truism as well; that risking a Government shutdown really does cut back on funds. Cuts funds. Why? If the Government shuts down, all the mechanisms that get the Social Security checks out, the visas, the national parks, all the services that our constituents rightfully demand, all of those come to a halt. Indeed, then there is a cut in services, a cut in funding, a cut in appropriations.

That is the real risk that we have; that the Government will shut down. Not the risk that some appropriations will be less than last year's, but rather whether or not we shall have Government continue to present the benefits that are necessary to maintain the budget and to maintain what is expected of us by our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to continue to raise this issue at every convenient forum between now and September 30, and I hope that the leadership and the President see fit to reconsider the matter at a time to be set aside in the month of September. After all, the President, even as he vetoed this legislation, said that the goal of preventing Government shutdown is an admirable one. I hope that he will sign such a shutdown prevention piece of legislation to meet that goal.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Central Intelligence Agency. On September 18, 1947, the National Security Act went into effect creating the CIA.

As America entered the cold war, that act recognized the critical need

for intelligence about our foreign adversaries, while attempting to balance that with a constitutional mandate that an intelligence service remain within the bounds of democracy.

In 1977, in order to monitor and safeguard that critical balance, this House established the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which I have the honor to chair today. By its very nature, much of the work done by the agency will remain anonymous, but we must not make the mistake of interpreting that anonymity to mean that the CIA has had no triumphs, nor can we allow ourselves to forget the men and women who have served there and know much sacrifice and even tragedy.

Out at Langley at the headquarters of the CIA is a small courtyard under the oak trees that contains three panels of the Berlin Wall. On the eastern side of those panels there is nothing but the cold, gray face of cement, but on the western side there is color, vibrancy, and the inscription "and the wind cries freedom."

Those panels and that wall, Mr. Speaker, never had to be toppled by the tread of our Nation's tanks or stained by the blood of our infantry; they were, instead, breached throughout the cold war by our Nation's eyes and ears, the CIA. Through their bravery and creativity, the officers of the CIA carved a window through that wall that this Nation used during the perilous times of the cold war and ultimately relied upon to bring down the wall's demise.

The contribution of CIA officers to our national security, however, has come with a significant cost, because at the entrance to Langley is another less well-known wall on which there are now 70 gold stars. These stars, Mr. Speaker, are for those officers of the CIA who died while serving our Nation as our eyes and ears, in Vietnam, Latin America, Europe, Eurasia, Africa and elsewhere during the cold war.

We can acknowledge publicly the dedication and sacrifice of some of those officers, such as Bob Ames, who was killed in the bombing of our Embassy in Beirut, tragically, or Bill Buckley, who died in Lebanon under torture by the terrorists. The work and lives of others must remain anonymous stars on that wall and be remembered privately. Those stars, Mr. Speaker, are a measure of the courage and cost required to keep our Nation informed of the threats against it.

The end of the cold war has required the CIA to undergo a tremendous shift. New methods and focuses are needed to meet the challenge before us today. While no transition of this magnitude is ever without its bumps in the road, from my vantage point as chairman of the body's oversight committee, I am pleased to report the CIA is responding quickly and ably to the new threats of the post-cold-war world.

Since the Berlin Wall came down, those threats against our Nation have multiplied. Narcotics traffickers ship ever-increasing amounts of cocaine and