

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-INCOME WIDOWS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative ERNIE FLETCHER in introducing the Low-Income Widows Assistance Act of 2000.

You may be as amazed as I was to discover that if a senior has a dramatic drop in income, whether do to the loss of a spouse or other reason, no one in government alerts the senior that they may be eligible for assistance with their Medicare premiums and co-pays.

This means the 82-year-old senior who just lost a spouse and is now responsible, many times for the first time, for taking on the tasks of paying the bills on a drastically lower income may not know they can get much needed help with medical expenses.

It just makes sense to me that Federal Government should seek to aid such seniors when they need the help the most. Especially when the Social Security Administration presently has the ability to identify those who may qualify for assistance.

Since 1988, Congress has provided financial assistance to qualified low-income seniors in covering costs under the Medicare program. Despite the growing number of elderly taking advantage of the assistance, reports have shown some are being left out because they are not aware of the programs.

The Social Security Administration reports that 40 percent of non-married women (a category that includes women) rely on Social Security benefits for 90 percent of their income in comparison to only 18 percent of married couples. Amazingly, one-fourth of non-married women relies on Social Security retirement benefits as their sole source of income.

This legislation seeks to make these seniors aware of the additional benefits they may be entitled to because of their income by directing the Social Security Administration to mail a notification to Social Security recipients it identifies as possibly being eligible. This notification will instruct the beneficiary on whom they can contact to determine whether they qualify for assistance.

It further directs the Social Security Administration to provide the states with a list annually of names it has identified to aid the states in enrolling these deserving seniors.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in making the government more consumer friendly to our seniors who need our help by cosponsoring this legislation. It will be a great comfort to our seniors, many of who are widows, to know they can receive assistance with important and often expensive medical costs.

IN MEMORY OF DWIGHT T. REED

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dwight Reed, of Jefferson City, MO. He was 85.

He was born on March 13, 1915, in St. Paul, MN, and was the son of Dwight and Ora Woods Reed. Coach Reed grew up in St. Paul and was a football, basketball, and track star at George Washington High School. He attended college at the University of Minnesota, where he received his bachelors and masters degrees and was an All-American member of three national championship football teams. In addition, he was an intramural light-heavy-weight boxing champion.

After 3 years of coaching three sports at the high school level, Coach Reed played semi-pro basketball for the Galloping Gophers. Following his basketball career, Reed served a four-year tour of duty in the Army during World War II. He was involved in combat in Italy.

In 1949, Coach Reed moved to Jefferson City and began his coaching career at Lincoln University. Reed was LU's football coach for 23 years and posted a career record of 135-75-6. Reed also served as the athletic director, eight years as women's track coach and three years as men's basketball coach. Among his accomplishments as a football coach were two undefeated seasons in 1952 and 1953 and four league championships. In addition, he produced two NFL All-Pro stars which include current Lincoln assistant Lemar Parrish, and Canadian Football Hall of Famer Leo Lewis. As a tribute to Coach Reed's career, the Lincoln University football stadium and track were named in his honor in 1985. Coach Reed's hard work and dedication throughout his career has impacted the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, Dwight Reed will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I know the members of the House will join me in extending my heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife of 58 years, Hiawatha; one son, Kenneth L. Reed; one stepson, Marvin Reed, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

HONORING COLVIN W. GRANNUM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor and celebrate the achievements of Colvin W. Grannum, the founding director and the chief executive officer of Bridge Street Development Corporation. Bridge Street Development Corporation is a faith based non-profit organization, affiliated with Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Grannum's motto is "Building on Community Strength." His vision is to restore Bedford Stuyvesant to the ranks of the most desirable communities for parenting and doing business. Under Mr. Grannum's leadership, BSDC has grown to over a \$2 million operation with 300 units of housing in the development pipeline in only its first four years of experience. BSDC also has obtained preliminary approval for \$2 million in start up financing for two locally-owned businesses. Finally, to help begin to close the digital divide, Mr. Grannum has used BSDC to establish a community computer lab and Internet access facility.

In addition to being a community leader, Mr. Grannum has also practiced law for 17 years as a litigation attorney. He started his legal ca-

reer as a law clerk to a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He also has held a variety of positions with the United States Department of Justice, the New York State Attorney General, the NYNEX Corporation, and the New York City Corporation Counsel. During his legal practice, Mr. Grannum was responsible for handling and supervising complex litigation, including trials, appeals, and regulatory proceedings. As a law student, he taught a legal writing and research course at Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Colvin W. Grannum for his selfless service to the community of Brooklyn. Also, please join me in wishing him the best in his future endeavors on "Building on community strength."

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4690, the FY 2001 Commerce-Justice-State-Judiciary appropriations bill. This bill is more than \$2 billion below current funding levels, achieving these reductions by making unacceptable cuts in several key areas.

Among these cuts is the \$201 million reduction in the President's gun enforcement initiative request. This initiative would provide funding to hire federal, state, and local prosecutors for gun crimes. As a former district attorney, I know that the unfortunate reality is that our judicial system is seriously lacking the resources it needs to see that each gun crime receives strong legal inquiry. There are existing laws that can be enforced in order to lessen the prevalence of gun violence in our communities. Without the proper tools, adequate manpower, and financial resources, however, these laws will be less likely to serve their intended purpose.

Mr. Chairman, this bill also cuts other critical law enforcement programs, such as the administration's Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. H.R. 4690 provides only \$595 million, 55 percent less than the \$740 million requested for the COPS program. These deep cuts come at the expense of several important initiatives within the overall COPS program. This bill does not provide funding for a COPS community prosecutors program for which \$200 million was requested. It does not fund a new crime prevention program for which \$135 million was requested. Finally this bill underfunds, by 37 percent, the request for public safety and community policing grants.

This FY 2001 Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill also fails to fund the \$21 billion authorization to ensure proper monitoring

and compliance with international trade agreements. These monies were authorized as part of a bipartisan agreement that this House passed along with PNTR with China just a few weeks ago. While approval of PNTR was in our national interest, this bipartisan proposal was offered to address congressional concerns about Chinese compliance with their WTO obligations, human rights practices in China, and Taiwan's entry into the WTO. I am disappointed that the leadership reneged on its commitment to provide funding for this important monitoring and compliance agreement.

Mr. Chairman, because of these and other funding shortfalls, and because the bill contains objectionable riders, such as preventing the use of funds to move forward on implementing the Kyoto Protocol, I will be voting "no" on H.R. 4690 and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

DOCTOR MAKES POSITIVE IMPACT
IN CARVILLE, LA, COMMUNITY

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Robert Jacobsen upon his retirement as Director of the National Hansen's Disease Programs and the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana. During his distinguished 33-year career at the center, Dr. Jacobsen played an important role in helping to define the evolving leprosy chemotherapeutic regimens that are the key features of the world elimination program for this disease.

Dr. Robert Jacobsen, a native of Austin, Minnesota, received his B.A. in Chemistry and Math from the University of Minnesota in 1954, his Ph.D. in Organic and Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1958 and his M.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1962. Jacobsen started his career with the Public Health Service as Chief of Medicine at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Carville, LA, which later became the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center; a position that he held until 1992. In addition, Dr. Jacobsen also served as Chief of Clinical Branch from 1978 to 1992.

His numerous awards and recognitions include the Public Health Service's Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Distinguished Service Medal, as well as the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Dr. Jacobsen has also served on numerous international advisory boards including the Tuberculosis Task Force of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization's Working Group on Leprosy Control, the International Leprosy Association, and the World Health Organization's Special Action Projects for the Elimination of Leprosy.

In addition to Dr. Jacobsen's lifelong commitment to leprosy research, treatment and eradication, I would also like to recognize and thank him for his help in making the transition from the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center to the Carville Academy a smooth one. He can take great pride in knowing that his efforts at the center have not only helped his patients, but will also help thousands of youth for years to come. Again, it is an honor to

have this opportunity and I wish Dr. Jacobsen all the best.

IN HONOR OF THE SHAOLIN
PERFORMING GROUP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Shaolin Performing Group, a group of young children ages 6–18 from China who will be visiting Cleveland to participate in the Wushu Kungfu Extravaganza Weekend on July 8 and 9, 2000. This weekend event is a special cultural, sporting and educational exchange between the East and the West. The Shaolin Performing Group, along with their coach Grandmaster Zhu, will be visiting the United States for the first time.

This impressive group of young athletes train for years under the Shaolin monks in China and demonstrate incredible feats of martial art skills. These children, who attend the Zhengzhou Martial Arts Major Institute, represent China in promoting cultural and educational exchange. Their teacher, Grandmaster Tianxi Zhu, is the director of this institute, and is a Chinese Wushu Degree 7. He earned the international outstanding Wushu achievement gold medal and was the first place winner of Shaolin Kungfu in the 7th World Cup Wushu Championships. The children under his tutelage demonstrate amazing speed, discipline, and skill.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to this exceptional group of athletes, the Shaolin Performing Group, and welcoming them to the United States for their performing tour.

HONORING AUDREY LEE JACOBS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Audrey Lee Jacobs. She is president and chief executive officer of Lyndon Baines Johnson Health Complex. After years of working throughout the United States for several of the world's largest corporation, Ms. Jacobs is pleased to be returning to serve the Brooklyn community in which she was born. She is a great product of the New York City Public school system, graduating from Andrew Jackson High School as one of the top students in her class. Audrey attended Vassar College on a full scholarship and majored in psychology.

Ms. Jacobs developed a keen interest in business as she watched her entrepreneurial parents establish and run their own small businesses. She began her career in marketing, working for several multi-national corporations, including Mobil Oil Corporation and AT&T. She wanted to broaden her base of skills and knowledge in business, so in 1985, she entered the University of Texas at Austin. In 1988, she was awarded her Masters in Business Administration degree and realized how important education was and went on to law

school. She attended Columbia Law School, majoring in corporate law. Afterwards, she joined Mayor N. Dinkins' administration as an assistant to the President of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation. That provided an introduction to the field of health care administration for Ms. Jacobs, and she realized from that experience. ". . . how many people in New York were not receiving medical care and how important it was to provide all New Yorkers, regardless of ethnicity, race, or social class, or access to high quality health care." After the Dinkins administration she returned to the practice of law. Throughout the years, Ms. Jacobs has been active in the alumni associations of her college and law school, and she has helped to raise funds for many community and political organizations.

Recently, William F. Green, the Chairman of LBJ's Board of Directors talked with Ms. Jacobs about the changing health care landscape and LBJ's developing role in it. After the meeting Ms. Jacobs reflected on taking the reins of this proud clinic which, for 32 years, has been integral to the health and well being of Bedford-Stuyvesant. She quickly realized that it was the opportunity of a lifetime. And, we are grateful for her ability to seize this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions of Audrey Lee Jacobs. Our community, state, and nation are grateful for her dedicated service.

RIO GRANDE CITY, TX, STUDENTS
WIN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
TITLE IN THE ODYSSEY OF THE
MIND CONTEST

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Odyssey of the Mind world-champion team members, coaches, and parents of Ringgold Elementary School in Rio Grande City, TX. At the Odyssey of the Mind world championship competition for pre-teens, this select group of 5th graders captured the world title. This banner accomplishment reflects the competitors' academic commitment, keen imagination, creativity, and countless hours of preparation.

Odyssey of the Mind, a worldwide creative problem-solving, engages students in exercises that challenge their critical thinking skills. More than 1 million participants in 50 states and 20 countries around the world compete in various age and subject categories. The world-champion Odyssey of the Mind team members, Jessica Chapa, Ashley Escobar, Justin Guzman, Karah Hiles, Leonel Lopez III, Armando R. Vela, and Valerie Villarreal, demonstrated world-class dedication to earn this international recognition.

I join the people of Rio Grande City, TX, and the United States, to commend the trophy winners for capturing the world championship title of the Odyssey of the Mind competition.