

Only yesterday—they called your name and you came down
 You and your brother in your caps and gowns,
 All those years we couldn't wait.
 Your mom and I saw you graduate—only yesterday.
 Only yesterday—as I rehearse
 Your mother, well, she knew it first
 That after thinking about it hard
 You told her you joined the Army National Guard!!
 She knew I'd be proud and so I was—only yesterday.
 Only yesterday—you went to boot camp at the fort,
 And you did not sell yourself short
 You joined the army at a time of war,
 Like your family that went on before—only yesterday.
 All those yesterdays we enjoyed
 Only yesterday—we learned you were being deployed,
 To fight those who attempt to destroy. . . .
 Those yesterdays . . .
 Only yesterday—I'll say it over and over:
 Only yesterday—it was me and my Cub Scout
 And today it was me and my soldier!!!

**HONORING LEONARD AND ADELE
 BLUMBERG OF BRIDGEWATER,
 NEW JERSEY**

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Leonard and Adele Blumberg of Bridgewater, New Jersey. For over seven decades, Leonard and Adele Blumberg have worked hard day and night to make a difference in their community and help others.

In fact, there are dozens of New Jersey civic, social welfare, educational, artistic and religious organizations that have benefited from their hard work, dedication and selfless sacrifices to help those in need.

On Sunday, March 15, 2009 Temple Sholom in Bridgewater, New Jersey will honor Leonard and Adele during a special tribute ceremony for their remarkable and enduring lifelong contribution to communities throughout Central New Jersey.

Over the years, the Bloombergs have helped the Bridgewater Township Welfare Board, Somerset County United Way, People-Care Center, Somerset County Homemaker Service, American Red Cross, Somerset Valley Visiting Nurse Association, Somerset County Heart Association, Somerville Rotary Club, Education Foundation of Bridgewater, Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, The Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center and Temple Sholom.

Because of their exceptional community outreach efforts, Temple Sholom established the Leonard and Adele Blumberg Community Outreach Fund. The fund will be used to augment the Temple's existing and future community outreach programs to aid the needy in Somerset County.

It gives me great pleasure to share the remarkable efforts of Leonard and Adele Blumberg with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.

I am also honored to join Temple Sholom at this special event recognizing their outstanding service to our community.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
 OF MRS. SUE WILK**

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Sue Wilk upon receiving the Women of Westland's 2009 ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award recognizes individuals who have attained and personified the highest level of professional excellence in their business or profession, have devoted time and energy to the community in a meaningful way, and have opened the door of leadership opportunity for women.

Throughout her distinguished career, Sue has been committed to her community. Mrs. Wilk serves as the Department Chair for School Social Workers for the Wayne-Westland Community School District, where she affords her students the means and opportunities to be successful by offering personal and academic guidance. As the first female social worker assigned to the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, she focuses on providing encouragement to young women interested in pursuing careers in non-traditional and male dominated fields.

Sue's community service activities focus on assisting student groups, families, and the underprivileged, as evidenced by her position as Vice-President of the Monroe High School Band Boosters, involvement in the Family Resource Center in Wayne-Westland, and participation as a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army. Mrs. Wilk has accrued numerous accolades for her service including a special recognition from Wayne County acknowledging her efforts on behalf of children. She was also named Ancillary Professional of the Year by Wayne County RESA, and listed as "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's ATHENA Award winner, Sue Wilk, for her dedication to professional excellence and passionate leadership in her community and country.

**HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
 HOMES ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Across our country, millions of responsible homeowners are facing foreclosure. Some reports indicate there could be up to 6 million

families currently in danger of losing their homes. Although the foreclosure crisis has not been as pronounced in my state as in some others, North Carolina has seen one of the fastest rises in unemployment in the country, with a rate of 8.2% earlier this year. These job losses will risk damaging neighborhoods and towns across the state by placing more families at risk of defaulting on mortgages. H.R. 1106 will ensure that lending institutions work with borrowers to help keep Americans in their homes to strengthen the housing market, which is critical for our nation's economic recovery.

H.R. 1106 takes steps to address this crisis and help families across the country. This bill will help millions of struggling homeowners re-finance or restructure their mortgages. H.R. 1106 reforms the Hope for Homeowners initiative by lowering fees and providing \$1,000 to servicers that participate. This will make the initiative more attractive to lenders and more effective in reaching the many families seeking help. H.R. 1106 provides "safe harbor" for mortgage lenders so that they can modify mortgages without the threat of lawsuits from the secondary mortgage market. In addition, this bill would protect consumers' savings by permanently increasing the amount of federal deposit insurance savings in banks or credit unions from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

H.R. 1106 also contains a provision that would allow for the modification of some mortgages under the terms of Chapter 13 bankruptcy. Current law allows for a bankruptcy judge to adjust the principal on all secured loans except for those on primary residences. Provisions in H.R. 1106 ensure that people can afford their mortgage. The bill also stipulates that judicial modification should only be employed as a last resort for saving a family's home. Only existing mortgage loans are eligible, and a judge is required to consider whether all other options are exhausted before changing the principal of a home loan. Finally, this bill ensures that if a borrower gets relief through this mortgage relief initiative and then sells their home for a profit, the lender is able to recoup a sizable portion of that profit. This is a key provision to incentivize lenders to work with at-risk borrowers who are seeking help through mortgage modification initiatives.

In order to get our struggling economy back on track, we must address the foreclosure crisis, one of the main factors that precipitated this recession. Not only are foreclosures devastating to individual families, but their effect ripples throughout the economy, hurting manufacturers and construction firms, dropping consumer spending and confidence, and cutting the value of neighboring homes. H.R. 1106 is an important step to deal with this crisis.

I support H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

**EXTEND CERTAIN IMMIGRATION
 PROGRAMS**

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1127. I oppose

this legislation, not due to a lack of merit, but because many members of this body have sought relief for an equally vital visa issue—the H-2B Visa program.

The H-2B Visa program was designed to provide access to nonimmigrant, temporary workers for seasonal needs when no American workers can be found. These foreign workers offer short-term assistance and return to their home country at the end of their season. H-2B visas are capped at 66,000 per year. This still does not meet the needs for small businesses. In fact, the 2009 cap was met within the first week of January.

I have previously called upon the leadership of the Congress to address this urgent need in districts like mine across the country. To the detriment of so many of the small businesses that are the engine of our economy, this issue is ensnared in the broader immigration debate and no action has been taken to date.

In the absence of such a consensus, I respectfully oppose this bill and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting and calling for a vote on H.R. 1136, the "Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act," introduced by my friend from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK.

During these difficult economic times, we cannot leave our small businesses with few options and even fewer workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. JESSIE WADE, ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mrs. Jessie Wade, a long time Michigan resident and teacher, upon her 100th birthday.

Jessie Wade was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 6, 1909 to a large family of two brothers and three sisters. In 1926, she graduated from Southwestern High School and subsequently worked her way through college. Jessie attended Wayne University for two years and in 1931 graduated from Michigan State Normal College, currently known as Eastern Michigan University. In the midst of the Great Depression, Jessie struggled to find fulltime employment. Coming from a family of educators, Jessie devoted her life to Detroit-area students as a teacher with the Detroit Public Schools through World War II and until her retirement. Jessie married Starr Wade on April 7, 1931 at the Dearborn Inn and spent 49 wonderful years with him until his passing. Jessie and Starr were blessed with one daughter, Linda, who tragically passed away on November 3, 1945 leaving her three children in their care.

Jessie Wade is a life-long educator and a fulltime grandmother and great-grandmother to her three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jessie has lived for the past twenty year in the Silver Village retirement community in Livonia, Michigan. She has been an active and founding member of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. Although she had to give up driving at the age of 96, Jessie has remained a very independent and active member of her community.

Madam Speaker, admired by all who know her, Jessie Wade has enriched and inspired

everyone she has touched throughout her life. As Jessie celebrates her 100th birthday today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring Jessie for her loyal service to her community and the country.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
BETTY MCCRARY MCCORQUODALE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Betty McCrary McCorquodale and pay tribute to her memory.

A lifelong resident of Jackson, "Miss Betty" graduated from Jackson High School and attended Florida State University before marrying Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr. In World War II, her husband served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and during the time they were stationed in Big Spring, Texas Air Force Base, "Miss Betty" was selected as the Beauty Queen of the Cadet Corps. She also served as president of the Cadet Wives Club.

In 1959, Mr. McCorquodale was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. "Miss Betty" was actively involved during his 23 years in the Alabama Legislature. She helped organize the Legislative Wives Club and served one year as its president. She was also instrumental in having replicas of the original gas lights installed in the lobby of the entrance to the Alabama Capitol building as well as in the House chamber.

"Miss Betty" was a founding member of the Jackson Woman's Club and served as its first president. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Jackson where she taught Sunday school classes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Betty McCrary McCorquodale will be dearly missed by her family—her husband of 67 years, Joseph Charles McCorquodale Jr.; their two sons, Joseph Charles "Mac" McCorquodale III and Gaines Cowan McCorquodale; their four grandchildren, Elizabeth M. Percy, Joseph Charles McCorquodale IV, Martha Virginia "Ginny" Stewart, and Mary Helen Marks; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Jean McCrary Payne; nieces, nephews; and other relatives—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

THE INCREASED STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH IN-
CREASED STUDENT SUPPORT
ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

With the No Child Left Behind Act dramatically increasing the pressure on teachers and administrators to improve test scores, too often we forget that students' academic success is also dependent on a number of other factors. For example, as students transition into adulthood, they experience social, emotional and behavioral needs that if unmet, impede academic success.

These diverse needs often cannot be met by already over-burdened teachers. Students need school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists. Yet, in low income neighborhoods, students lack these essential resources. Nationwide, the average student to counselor ratio is 475 to 1, nearly double the suggested 250 to 1 ratio. In California, the ratio is a dismal 920 to 1, the worst in the nation.

To help improve student performance and increase graduation rates, this bill would authorize funding to form partnerships between under-served school districts and higher education institutions that train school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists. By increasing school support staff, we can address children's out-of-the-classroom needs so that when they're in the classroom, they can be safe, engaged, and achieving their full potential. The students of low-income neighborhoods deserve the same opportunities as others for a productive learning environment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future. We must make certain all children have the opportunity to develop academically and socially, and all schools have the resources to achieve this goal. Academic success does not come when children are hungry, bullied, traumatized, or depressed. We need more personnel to help address and alleviate these issues so that all children, no matter what their economic situation is, can focus on math, reading, and science. This is why I urge my colleagues to invest in our children and our future by supporting the Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN
RIGHTS OFFICERS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a letter I sent to the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) following the successful rollout of the 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

These sweeping reports reflect the hard work of hundreds of human rights officers in Washington and abroad. I would like to thank, by name, the DRL staff people without whom this report would not have been possible. Specifically the editorial staff of the Country Reports Team consisting of: Editor in Chief Stephen Eisenbraun; Office Directors: Bruce Connuck, Kay Mayfield, and Michael Orona; Senior Editors: Jonathan Bemis, Douglas B. Dearborn, Daniel Dolan, Jerome L. Hoganson, Patricia Meeks Schnell, Julie Turner, and Rachel Waldstein; Editors: Naim Ahmed, Sabrina