

White. He was a great player—a magnificent player. Without him, my Packers would not have won Super Bowl XXXI. But, athletes come and go—even great ones. My friend, Reggie White, will be long remembered because he was so much more. He may have left the playing fields, but he never left his fans, and he never stopped caring for the needs of his neighbors. Reggie and his wife Sara launched Urban Hope in Green Bay—a program that helped start some 400 small businesses and create 1,100 jobs. Reggie believed in active faith—in putting his values and talents to work on the field and in the streets. We have lost a great player, but we have lost a greater man.

HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, education—and higher education in particular—is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country.

Let me give you some sobering statistics:

According to Nellie Mae, the average undergraduate student loan debt has increased the last 5 years from \$11,400 to \$18,900.

Today, 70 percent of federal student aid is made in loans; Grants account for only 22 percent of aid. Thirty years ago, student loans accounted for about 25 percent and grants about 70 percent of all federal student aid.

Seventy-five percent of full-time students now work to help cover their college expenses. Twenty percent of working students work 35 or more hours a week while enrolled in school full-time.

In 1975–76 the maximum Pell Grant award covered eighty-four percent of an average tuition at a state school; today it covers forty percent.

The generation often referred to as the “baby boom echo” will soon enter American institutions of higher education, resulting in record enrollments that will further strain the ability of colleges and universities to deliver a quality education to their students.

That is why I am introducing the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

It would make college tuition deductible, in conjunction with existing tax benefits for higher education. The proposal would further allow a family to deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition expenses. A family would be capped at deducting a total of \$15,000 in tuition expenses in one year if they have more than one child in college. In addition, if a family was ineligible for the Hope Scholarship (due to its income limitations), they would be able to deduct \$5,000 of tuition costs.

The bill would raise the income limits for eligibility for Hope Scholarships. Currently, the income phase-out on the HOPE tax credit is \$40,000 to \$50,000 for singles and \$80,000 to \$100,000 for couples. The proposal would raise the phase-out ranges to \$50,000 to \$60,000 for singles and \$100,000 to \$120,000 for couples, allowing more families to benefit.

In order to ensure that savings go to the intended beneficiaries, the bill directs the In-

spector General of the Department of Education to conduct an annual study to examine whether the federal income tax incentives to provide education assistance affect higher education tuition rates.

Access to an affordable, quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health. We must do everything possible to support this and that is why I have introduced the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. FELIX GALAVIZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mr. Felix Galaviz. Mr. Galaviz retired in June of 2004 after serving tirelessly for 30 years in the field of education.

Mr. Galaviz co-founded the Puente Project and is retiring as its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Puente Project has been recognized by numerous organizations throughout the Nation as a model academic preparedness program.

After beginning in 1981 at Chabot College, the Puente Project has flourished and grown. Today it is conducted in over 50 community colleges and 35 high schools across the State of California. Under the leadership of Mr. Galaviz, the Puente Project has shown consistent results and helped students achieve their higher education goals.

Mr. Galaviz has used his wonderful ability to educate and counsel Latino youth to work throughout his career. Furthermore, he has strived to share that gift with others, often conducting presentations to help others learn how to counsel and mentor Latino youth.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Galaviz on his inspirational work. He was a priceless asset in the field of education. I know him personally and am very familiar with his work. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Chisholm charted a whole new course for black Americans. She was the first black woman elected to Congress and paved the way for dozens who came after her, including my mother, former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. Shirley Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a pioneer in civil and women's rights issues, and was the first black of either gender to run for President of the United States.

Her determination and passion for the issues she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she never ceased to push for a better country for all Americans.

Congresswoman Chisholm is an inspiration to me and every Member of Congress. Her

legacy will never be forgotten, and I will always consider her path-breaking career as a motivation to serve the people of Florida's 17th Congressional District as best I can.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COL THOMAS W. SHUBERT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Col “Tom” Shubert for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he served as the Chief, Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He managed, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and state and local governments.

Colonel Shubert began his illustrious Air Force career as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at East Carolina University and was commissioned in 1974. Following graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1975, his operational assignments included piloting B-52 strategic bombers and T-39 airlift support mission aircraft both in the United States and in the Far East.

From April 1986 to April 1989, Colonel Shubert served as a Political-Military Affairs Officer on the Joint Staff at Headquarters, United States Pacific Command. He then served as the Assistant Air Attaché for Operations at the American Embassy in Canberra, Australia until June of 1993. Colonel Shubert was then assigned as a Congressional Inquires Liaison in the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force.

In June 1995, Colonel Shubert entered Danish language training and then served as the Air Attaché at the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 1995 to July 1998. He then returned to the Pentagon, where he served as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, until October 2000.

From October 2000 to June 2002, Colonel Shubert headed the Assessments Branch, Policy Division, Defense Technology Security Administration, which reviewed both Munitions and Dual-Use export license applications.

In July 2003, Colonel Shubert assumed duties as the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force. During this time, Colonel Shubert escorted scores of Members of Congress on more than twenty Congressional Delegations, in furtherance of Members' oversight responsibilities.

Colonel Shubert assisted me and Members of the Committee on Agriculture during trips to Afghanistan, Iraq, and, last year, to Africa. He upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and his thorough and efficient planning assured that these trips were a complete success. He will be missed.

Colonel Shubert holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honor Graduate) from East