

he made significant contributions to his community, church and congregation. For example, he helped raise an additional \$20,000 for the Endowment fund; he founded the All Saints Gospel Choir and developed a movie night as a vehicle for a youth ministry in the Parish and in the Brooklyn Archdeaconry. Rev. Pruitt also established blood donation drives and was responsible for the placement of Black icons in the church.

In addition to his congregation at St. Phillip's, Reverend Pruitt served as a Chaplain to the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate, Adjunct Professor at George Mercer School of Theology, Dean of St. Matthew's (Central Brooklyn) Deanery, Chairman of the Diocesan Department of the Budget of the Diocese, Secretary of the Board of Managers of Episcopal Health Services, Chaplain of the Clergy Caucus of Central Brooklyn Churches, Chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Addiction and Recovery, and Vice-President of Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church. He was also a Member of Community Board No. 3 in Brooklyn and a member of the Steering Committee of the 81st Precinct Police Clergy Caucus.

While the Rector of St. Phillip's, Canon Pruitt received numerous awards and honors including: The 1994 Community Service Award from Brooklyn Gas; 1995 Community Service Award from Crown Heights Lions Club; 1998 Community Service Award from Bedford-Stuyvesant Headstart; 1999 Community Service Award from the City of New York Police Reserve Association; 2000 Community Service Award from New York Blood Center; 2001 Community Service Award from the 81st Precinct Police Community Relations Council, and 2002 Community Service Award from The New York City Police Department. Most recently, he received the 2002 Chairman's Award for Service from the Central Brooklyn Churches. In addition to this long list of community service honors, in 1996, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity, *honors causa*, from St. Paul's College, citing career excellence in community service and parish ministry.

He also raised funds to help rebuild churches throughout the country such as St. Thomas Church in Farmingdale, NY, St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City, OK, and a church in Princeville, NC.

Mr. Speaker, with his numerous awards and community contributions, Reverend Canon Dr. Alonzo Clemons Pruitt has shown that he is clearly dedicated to his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable human being.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERS, NATIVE ALASKANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2003*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1166, which would amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Busi-

ness Development Centers to Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians.

With their native lands taken and having been relocated to the confines of reservations, the injustices of the past affect the lives of these indigenous peoples today, as many reside in economically depressed areas that make it difficult for them to make a sustainable living. This bill works to rectify part of this historical legacy, helping these communities to help themselves, by requiring small business development centers to provide technical assistance to businesses in these communities. Economic development and such capacity building would thus encourage their communities to grow and prosper.

All Americans deserve the same opportunity to advance themselves to have a better life. Our Congress should support efforts that promote the job creation, spur economic growth, and self-sufficiency for all Americans. That is why I, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, strongly support this legislation that would assist Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian communities.

RICE FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Rice Farmers Fairness Act. This legislation conditions the continuation of farm subsidies in the state of Texas upon the maintenance of rice production. Federal law allows for the continuation of subsidies to landowners who discontinue tenant rice farming on their land. In essence, this means that the subsidy continues to flow in spite of an end to production.

This is a "something for nothing" subsidy of the worst kind! As a result of this provision, there is a very real threat to the agricultural infrastructure. With landowners receiving subsidies in spite of lack of production, the entire warehousing, processing and "value-added" industries are put at risk.

As grain elevators, processors and others see a reduction in demand for their services because of the diminution of production permitted by federal law, they have a disincentive to continue to provide said services, services which must remain in place in order for those who remain in production to be able to bring to market the rice which they continue to produce. Thus, by way of the decimation of the infrastructure, this subsidy to non-producers comes at the expense of those who continue to produce rice. Therefore, the provisions of federal law which provide this subsidy actually amount to another form of federal welfare, taking from producers and giving to non-producers. These destructive government policies have particularly pernicious effect in Texas, where rice farming, and the related industries, are a major sector of the economy in many towns along the Texas coast.

My legislation is very simple and direct in dealing with this problem. It says that those who have tenant rice farmers producing rice in Texas must agree to continue to maintain rice in their crop rotation if they wish to receive

subsidies. In this way, we can remove the perverse incentive, which the Federal Government has provided to landowners to exit the rice business and thereby put the entire rice infrastructure at risk.

America's rice farmers are the most efficient, effective producers of rice in the world, despite the many hurdles erected by Washington. The Rice Farmer Fairness Act helps remove one of these hurdles and this makes America's rice farmers even more efficient. In order to enhance our competitive position, we should also end our embargoes of other nations. Congress should eliminate the burdensome taxes and regulations imposed on America's farmers. I hope my colleagues will join me in removing these federally imposed burdens on rice farmers by supporting free trade, low taxes and regulations, and cosponsoring my Rice Farmer Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to help parents of children with special educational needs by introducing the Help and Opportunities for Parents of Exceptional Children (HOPE for Children) Act of 2003. This bill allows parents of children with a learning disability an up to \$3,000 tax credit for educational expenses. Parents could use this credit to pay for special services for their child, or to pay tuition at private school or even to home school their child. By allowing parents of special needs children to control the education dollar, the HOPE for Children Act allows parents to control their child's education. Thus, this bill helps parents of special needs children provide their child an education tailored to the child's unique needs.

Helping parents provide their child with an education designed around the child's individual needs is far superior to the "one size fits all" cookie cutter, bureaucratized approach that has dominated special education for the past 30 years. This approach is inappropriate for any child, but it is especially harmful for special needs children. The HOPE for Children Act puts control over education resources back in the hands of those who know best, and care most about, the unique needs of children: parents.

The HOPE for Children Act allows parents of special needs children to provide those children with an education that matches their child's unique needs without having to beg permission of education bureaucrats or engage in lengthy and costly litigation. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE WORKERS AT THE OCEAN SPRAY NEVADA PLANT

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the workers at the Ocean Spray Nevada plant for completing 1 million bottling hours without a single accident. This singular feat has been accomplished through the dedication and skill of every man and woman in the plant. One million hours equals 25,000 40-hour work weeks, and is a nearly impossible feat to accomplish. Every manufacturing plant in the United States and overseas can learn from the example provided by Plant Manager Paul Altmier and his entire team.