

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been four years since the Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to open local markets to competition. While many of us hoped competition would not take this long, it is now beginning to take root. Since passage of the Act, over \$30 billion has been invested by CLECs alone in new networks and there are more than 300 facilities based competitors now versus only 30 in 1995.

The ILECs have also invested tremendously since passage of the Act. Just last month, the FCC approved Bell Atlantic's application to offer long distance service in New York State. This was a landmark decision. I want to congratulate Bell Atlantic for doing what was necessary to open its local markets. The consumers of New York State are the winners. We are already seeing new choices in services and for the first time, competitive choices in local service. Mr. Speaker, the Act is working and it has worked first in New York State.

I want to congratulate many people for the work that they did to give consumers in New York State a choice in local service. First, I want to congratulate the New York Commission that tirelessly worked with all the concerned parties to make sure that the process and the outcome was fair. This process allowed all parties to work through the technical challenges of opening up the local network. Second, I want to congratulate Competitive Local Exchange Carriers that went into New York State a year ago and began offering local residential service on a statewide basis.

Mr. Speaker we are in the beginning of a technology revolution that is sweeping across this country. Since the 1996 Telecom Act, hundreds of new competitive telecommunications carriers have been formed and thousands of new Internet Service Providers are in existence today. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 is a great success and consumers are just now beginning to reap its benefits. I'm proud that New York has led the way, and I look forward to the day when the rest of this country's citizens enjoy the same freedom of choice.

HONORING AMY FINCH, OUTSTANDING YOUNG HUMANITARIAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Colorado student from my district who has achieved na-

tional recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Amy Finch from Vail has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Amy, a senior at Battle Mountain High School, is an avid community volunteer who has helped raise money for victims of violence, knitted clothes and blankets for refugees, served as a buddy to elementary school children, served soup to the homeless, and volunteered with Special Olympics.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Amy should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Amy for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of Amy Finch. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE ILLEGAL ALIEN PROSECUTION ACT OF 2000

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Illegal Alien Prosecution Act of 2000. The bill prohibits INS officials from deporting illegal immigrants accused of violent state crimes upon the request of local officials. Additionally, the bill would facilitate the apprehension and prosecution in the United States of criminal illegal aliens who attempt to re-enter the United States.

The United States has become a consequence-free zone for criminal aliens. Flawed deportation policy, less than perfect communication between the INS and county prosecutors, and misguided efforts on the part of local prosecutors and judges to secure adequate

bonds have created a climate where criminal aliens can engage in lawless behavior without the fear of prosecution or incarceration.

The revolving door of illegal criminal aliens committing serious state crimes, being deported, then returning to the United States to commit even more serious crimes is the result of a loophole in the INS' voluntary deportation program. The program is intended to reduce administrative burden on the INS and the courts by expediting the deportation of aliens whose only offense is illegal entry into the United States. Unfortunately, illegal aliens charged with much more serious state crimes such as armed robbery, manslaughter, and drug trafficking are also being deported by this same process, often before they have even faced trial. After they have been returned to their native land these illegal aliens almost never face prosecution or incarceration.

The scope of this epidemic was detailed in a report by the East Valley Tribune which revealed that from October 31, 1998, to July 31, 1999, the INS deported 3,361 illegal immigrants who either made bail or were released before trial. To make matters worse, many of these alien criminals illegally return to the United States and only face prosecution if they commit additional, even more serious crimes.

The effect of this flawed policy has been devastating. In the last two years, two illegal immigrants have shot police officers in the Pacific Northwest after slipping through our immigration system. In one incident, an illegal alien with a vast criminal and deportation history killed an officer in Washington after being released from prison and deported to Mexico 5 months earlier. My home state of Arizona has experienced similar carnage. A deported defendant came back across the border illegally and is one of three men suspected of killing a Phoenix police officer.

And let's not forget the high profile case of Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, the railroad serial killer. INS officers detained him as he attempted to cross the border illegally. But, within 24 hours, they quickly deported him back to Mexico even though the FBI suspected him of being involved in four murders.

As the previously mentioned incidents clearly illustrate, the INS must improve their communication with state authorities. In 1998, the Inspector General notified the INS that only 41 percent of deported illegal aliens were being processed by INS' new border patrol database system. In a letter to INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, he told her that "this results in previously deported aliens (including aggravated felons) being released from INS custody when subsequently apprehended because INS is unaware of their immigration or criminal histories."

Some progress has already been achieved in remedying this breakdown of our criminal justice system. As a result of several meetings that Senator KYL and I have held with local prosecutors, magistrates, and INS officials, actions have been taken in my State to address this situation. Our meetings also prompted Judge Reinstein, the Associate Presiding

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Judge of Maricopa County, to issue a memo to his judges that directed them when determining bond to "consider the factor whether the accused is an illegal alien and that they have a hold placed on them." He continued that "if you don't give these factors consideration you are practically guaranteeing they will not appear in the future."

Additionally, the INS and Maricopa County Attorney's office have agreed to change their procedures and communicate more regularly and efficiently so that, among other things, the county attorney's office will be armed with greater information when they fight for appropriate bail. More importantly, the new procedures should help ensure that no illegal immigrant (who commits a felony) is deported without the knowledge of all parties.

These significant advances should help reduce the number of illegal aliens charged with violent crimes from being deported without facing justice. I commend all of the state, local, and federal officials I met with for implementing important changes on their own accord. However, legislative language is still necessary to close the loophole in current law which allows INS to deport criminal illegal aliens before they face justice.

Under the Salmon bill, local or federal officials may request that INS not remove an individual accused of a state crime. And if the crime is a serious, violent felony as defined by 18 U.S.C. 3559, the Attorney General must detain the accused. For all other crimes, the Attorney General has the final say. The bill would only apply to individuals who have entered the United States illegally. This change in law will protect us all when, for whatever reason, an illegal alien accused of a serious state crime succeeds in posting bond. It is our safety net.

Of course, performing these new responsibilities likely will require additional resources for INS and the states. To that end, I will work to help secure the appropriate funding needed to carry out these duties. In the meantime, my legislation will provide the authority to act now.

It is an insult to victims and their families when an illegal alien accused of a violent crime in America is deported before he or she faces trial. The Illegal Alien Prosecution Act would close the loophole in current law which allows INS to remove illegal aliens accused of a serious state offense prior to trial. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill.

TRIBUTE TO MACK WILLIE RHODES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute once again to a pillar in my hometown, Mr. Mack Willie Rhodes of Sumter, SC. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Mr. Rhodes on his 102d birthday. An African-American great great-grandfather, Mr. Rhodes has been a champion in his community for many years. He is continually offering his assistance to neighbors, friends and family in many capacities. Mr. Rhodes is the oldest member of Melina Presbyterian Church, where he has worshipped since 1915. Mr. Rhodes is

an Elder in his church and was a Sunday School Superintendent for many years. He also taught Sunday school at the Goodwill Presbyterian Church and has been a member of Masonic Lodge Golden Gate No. 73 since 1948.

Mr. Rhodes was born in Sardinia, SC, on February 25, 1898, to Robert and Olivia Williams Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes is the second oldest of 15 children. Family, good values, and good living are Mr. Rhodes' most cherished possessions.

At an early age Mr. Rhodes married Annie Elizabeth Hammett Rhodes (deceased). They had 14 children: Calvin Oliver Rhodes, John Tillman Rhodes, Adranna Olivia Cooper, Susanna H. Hannibal, Annie Elizabeth Muldrow, Hattie Jane Burgess, Mack Willie Rhodes, Sam J. Rhodes, Daisy B. Sims, Willie Rhodes, Albert Rhodes, Viola Rhodes Montgomery, MacArthur Rhodes, and Paul Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes later married Mrs. Carrie Smith Rhodes (deceased), who brought two children to their union: Maggie and Johnny Smith. He is affectionately known as "Papa" by his 7 children (9 deceased), 41 grandchildren (5 deceased), 48 great-grandchildren (2 deceased) and 10 great great-grandchildren.

Mr. Rhodes' favorite pastime is reading the Bible, newspapers and magazines. He also enjoys watching baseball, the news, and news related programs on television. He still takes time to visit the sick in his community to offer any assistance he may be able to provide. His favorite Bible scripture is the 23rd Chapter of Psalms. Mr. Rhodes also lives by a motto, "Treat others as you would have them to treat you."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Mr. Mack Willie Rhodes a prosperous and happy 102d birthday, and the best this year has to offer.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is well recognized as a towering figure in the struggle for equal rights for women. Today, on her birthday, she will rightly be celebrated for her indispensable role in setting our nation on the course towards recognizing the full equality and dignity of women. All women and especially those of us who serve in this Congress are indebted to her pioneering work.

Susan B. Anthony's advocacy of women's rights included a concern for the rights of others as well. The same passion for justice that made her a fierce advocate for women also made her a fierce opponent of slavery. And inevitably, it led her to oppose abortion.

Today, abortion advocates equate their position with women's rights. But Susan B. Anthony knew better. She vigorously denounced abortion, calling it "child murder." For her, abortion was not evidence of women's rights, but just the opposite: it is evidence of the lack of such rights. Anthony wrote that women "in their inmost souls revolt from the dreadful deed" of abortion, but are nonetheless driven to it precisely because women could be treated as property and less than equal. Thus, An-

thony's opposition to abortion arose from her fight for equal rights for women, and she saw no cause to separate the two.

Without a doubt, if Susan B. Anthony were alive today, she would be fighting to reverse *Roe vs. Wade*. But more importantly, she would fight for true choice by supporting crisis pregnancy centers and other organizations that offer resources to help both the mother and the child. She would also be promoting advances in prenatal surgery and working to help families pay for these medical miracles. She would also work to eliminate barriers to adoption.

As we celebrate her birthday and the gains for all women that her legacy bestows, let us also honor her life's work by doing as she did and make pro-life inseparable from pro-woman.

HONORING DR. RICK HERRINGTON FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding commitment and years of service given to Carbondale, Colorado by Dr. Rick Herrington.

Dr. Herrington arrived in Carbondale in 1975, just out of residency and recruited by a leader of concerned citizens, Betty DeBeque. He was so excited to be in this small Colorado town that he donned cross country skis and took a night tour of the town. The town reciprocated the feeling of joy and embraced its new doctor.

True to any small town, when the clinic opened under Dr. Herrington, more townspeople came in to "check the doctor out" than because of illness. Dr. Herrington's staff included himself and a handful of volunteers to keep the clinic running. After two years of running the clinic as the only doctor, his wife, Sherry, told him that he had to find a partner or a new wife. In 1978 Dr. Gary Knaus became Dr. Herrington's partner. Today, the clinic is still serving the community with as much dedication as it did when it opened in 1975. The community of Carbondale will forever be grateful to a young man from Nebraska who came to help out a small town.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of Dr. Rick Herrington, celebrating 25 years of service.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the most indefensible aspects of our current Tax Code is that 28 million working American couples—over 40 percent of married couples—pay more in taxes than they would if they were unmarried. Over 65,000 couples in my District suffer this penalty, which on average is \$1,400.

Just as indefensible as the marriage penalty is the notion that Congress should overturn

the principle of fairness embedded in current law which dictates that different families with the same total income should be treated equally for tax purposes. The leading bill last Congress sought to fix the marriage penalty in a manner that would have inadvertently penalized families that chose to have one parent stay at home.

I made this point when I testified before the Ways and Means Committee in support of a marriage tax proposal Representative BOB RILEY and I developed, which doubled the standard deduction for married couples to twice that of singles. The legislation essentially also doubled the tax brackets of married couples to twice that of singles. One income families often have the toughest time making ends meet, particularly if they are raising children.

I am gratified that the marriage penalty bill the House will pass today embraces the approach developed in the tax bill I proposed with Mr. RILEY. The Marriage Tax Relief Act would eliminate or substantially reduce the penalty for virtually every couple currently burdened by the tax. Furthermore, marriage penalty relief would be targeted to primarily benefit low and middle-income families.

Critics complain that this legislation is too expensive or would provide so-called bonuses to families in which one spouse stays at home to raise children. Indeed, it would require Washington to give back billions of dollars to America's families. And yes, the bill as drafted would lighten the tax burden for certain families sustained by a single income. However, the preservation and security of the smallest, yet most important unit of government—the family—is too important to shortchange with more economical, but less effective proposals. Additionally, it simply isn't fair to require married couples who prefer parent-care over daycare to pay more in taxes.

For years, the Tax Code has been used to penalize the creation and maintenance of cohesive family units. This is foolish and unfair. The Marriage Tax Relief Act of 2000 will put an end to this discrimination and I urge the Senate to immediately pass this legislation and send it on to the President.

TRIBUTE TO HONDA OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent announcement by Honda of South Carolina Manufacturing, Inc. (HSC) located in the Sixth Congressional District, to expand its current all-terrain vehicle (ATV) plant in Timmonsville, South Carolina. On January 21, 2000, HSC broke ground on a new \$20 million engine manufacturing operation. The new expansion will allow HSC to produce an engine currently made in Japan and will lead to the hiring of an additional 200 associates.

HSC began ATC production in July 1998. The expansion will increase Honda's total investment in HSC to more than \$70 million. When the new engine operation reaches full capacity in 2001, HSC will have an annual production capacity of 150,000 ATVs and engines and will employ approximately 625 asso-

ciates. Construction of the 50,000 square foot expansion for engine machining and casting will begin immediately and will be completed by late summer. Upon completion, the plant will total 330,000 square feet.

Honda's ATV sales in America grew more than 20% in 1999. In addition, 20% of the products manufactured at HSC are exported to overseas markets including Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saluting Honda of South Carolina Manufacturing, Inc. on their newest expansion. The Sixth Congressional District and the State of South Carolina are grateful for Honda's investment in our State and look forward to a long and prosperous business partnership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

JANUARY 31, 2000

Rollcall vote 2, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 244, Authorizing the Use of the Rotunda for Holocaust Memorial, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall vote 3, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2130, the Hillary J. Farias and Samantha Reid Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act, I would have voted "yea".

FEBRUARY 1, 2000

Rollcall vote 4, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 764, the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall vote 5, on passage of H.R. 1838, the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall vote 6, on the motion to instruct conferees for H.R. 2990 the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act, I would have voted "nay".

FEBRUARY 2, 2000

Rollcall vote 7, on passage of H.R. 2005, the Workplace Goods Job Growth and Competitiveness Act, I would have voted "yea".

CHANGE IN CROATIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in October of last year, I expressed concerns in this Chamber on the condition of democracy in Croatia. At that time, the leadership of Croatia was resisting the transition towards free elections, stalling the construction of democratic institutions, flaunting the rule of law, and squashing ethnic diversity. Those that held power were maintaining it in two significant ways. The first was through the manipulation of the political system to their advantage, including, in particular, efforts to control the media and the unwillingness to allow free and

fair elections. Second, there was heavy reliance on nationalist passions for support. Zagreb's policies swayed the loyalties of Croats in neighboring Bosnia and made it difficult for the displaced Serb population to return to the country.

Since last October, things have changed drastically and for the better. In the Parliamentary election of January 3, the desire of the people for change was manifested as the party that had ruled since the fall of communism was defeated by an opposition coalition led by the new Prime Minister, Ivica Racan. Meanwhile, in a special presidential election on February 7 to succeed the late Franjo Tudjman, Stipe Mesic won on promises of reform, of a more democratic political system with diminished power for the presidency, of greater cooperation with The Hague in the prosecution of war criminals, of progress in the implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia, and of the return of Croatia's displaced Serb population. These changes have been universally applauded, specifically by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during her visit to Croatia on February 2. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I join the Secretary of State in commending the new policies of Croatia's leaders, and I compliment our able Ambassador to Croatia, William Montgomery, for his role in pressing for democratic change.

Mr. Speaker, it is good that Croatia's new leadership is talking about substantial reform. However, we must be sure that it is not just talk. We must be sure to encourage Croatia to move closer towards full freedom, true justice, and greater prosperity for all of her citizens, regardless of ethnicity. We must continue to press for the surrender to The Hague of those indicted for war crimes. As we do, we must be ready to support Croatia, even as we have been ready to criticize Croatia's shortcomings in the past. Recent violence in southeastern Europe underscores the need for true democracy in the region.

In closing, I congratulate Croatia's new leadership and its promise of progress. Now that reform is on the horizon, I am hopeful that Croatia will soon be an integrated partner in European affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays out of Chicago yesterday, I was unable to make the vote on rollcall vote No. 16 on H. Con. Res. 247 and vote No. 17 on H. Con. Res. 76. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both votes. I would ask that my votes be reflected in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DEBONIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished young man, Michael DeBonis, for attaining the rank of

Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Michael is a member of Boy Scout Troop 69. He will receive this award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 20, 2000 at the Hobart Scout Cabin, located in Hobart, Indiana.

Boy Scout Troop 69 was founded at St. Bridget Church in Hobart, Indiana. Since its founding in 1957, Boy Scout Troop 69 has become one of the most successful scout troops in Northwest Indiana. Since 1987, fifteen boys from this troop have achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Only an elite group of Boy Scouts attain the Eagle Scout ranking, which is the highest of seven rankings in the Boy Scouts of America organization. In order to become an Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must complete the following three tasks: earn 21 merit badges; complete a service project; and demonstrate strong leadership skills within the troop.

Scout Master Robert Bell must take credit for much of this success. He has been Scout Master of Troop 69 since 1987 and is directly responsible for the excellent program which has led to the development of such fine young men. Mr. Bell devotes significant time to scouting and has displayed qualities of personal understanding, dedication to youth and advocacy for their cause, which has made his troop and his entire community very proud. The following are the names of the Eagle Scouts who have come from Troop 69 since Bob Bell has been Scout Master: George E. Murchek, 1987; William Guinee, 1987; Robert W. Bell, 1988; David Strickley, 1988; Michael Murchek, 1989; Michael Stewart, 1990; Richard Duidra, 1991; Richard A. Sapper, III, 1992; Joel Dettlerline, 1993; Dennis King, 1995; Eric Stage, 1995; Chad Wolf, 1998; Jeremiah Jackson, 1999; Philip Sirota, 1999; and Michael DeBonis, 1999.

The most recent addition to this list, Michael DeBonis, began in scouting as a Tiger Cub in the first grade. He attended St. Bridget School in Hobart, and is currently attending Andrean High School in Merrillville, Indiana, where he will graduate this June. Michael has served in several positions of responsibility in scouting and was twice Senior Patrol Leader of his troop. Michael also won the Arrow of Life and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

Michael attained the rank of Eagle Scout in conjunction with his academic and athletic achievements at Andrean High School. He served as Captain of the Andrean High School Quiz Bowl Team, which won the Indiana State Championship in 1998, and was runner-up in 1999. Michael has also been named an All-Star on Andrean's various academic teams and has won numerous awards as a member of the Andrean Academic Superbowl Teams in Social Studies, Science and Interdisciplinary. Additionally, he plays Defensive Tackle on the Varsity Football Team at Andrean. Michael has achieved all of these accomplishments and yet has maintained an A average at Andrean and is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael DeBonis for his commendable achievement. His parents, Tony and Shelia DeBonis, can be proud of their son because it takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. This young man has a promising future ahead of him, which will undoubtedly include improving the

quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you about a small church that has celebrated 100 years of service to the community of Craig, Colorado.

The entire town of Craig was invited to help celebrate the 100th birthday of the First Congregational Church on January 2, 2000. It was a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future as Reverend Edwin Mendenhall delivered an inspirational message to the congregation. The church was founded by a group of 16 people in 1900. Within just a few months, the church had found a pastor and was chartered with 29 parishioners. Generous gifts from members of the church contributed to the purchase of a new bell in 1904 and it is still used today. A new facility was built and put to use in 1959.

The First Congregational Church is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain United Church of Christ Conference. As part of the centennial celebration the church will host the conference's annual meeting in June of 2000.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of the centennial celebration of the First Congregational Church and in recognition of its members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

FEBRUARY 8, 2000

Rollcall vote 8, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1451, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 9, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 632, the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 10, on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 418, expressing the Condolences of the House on the Death of the Honorable Carl B. Albert, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CLARKE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the important community contributions of Evelyn Clarke.

Evelyn was born and educated in Charleston, South Carolina. She has been active in Brooklyn community affairs for a number of years. Not one to rest on her laurels, Evelyn continued to work in Central Brooklyn even after she retired from 35 years of service with the Marriott Essex House Hotel. She began volunteering at the Berean Missionary Baptist Church's Senior Center where she has been credited with initiating a number of new senior programs. Evelyn has also worked with the Auxiliary at Kings County Hospital Center. She served as its President for four years.

The proud mother of one daughter, Dotrice and two grandsons, Ian and Christopher, and several nieces and nephews, Evelyn Clarke has made her mark as an advocate for seniors and a key supporter for one of Brooklyn's largest medical centers. Please join me in honoring Evelyn Clarke as one of Brooklyn's most committed activists.

FEDERAL COURT ASSIGNMENT OF CRIMINAL CASES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues and submits for the RECORD this February 12, 2000, editorial from the Omaha World Herald regarding Federal court assignment of criminal cases concerning President Clinton's friends. Our colleague, Representative HOWARD COBLE (R-NC), recently discovered frequent use of a special rule allowing the chief judge to bypass the random assignment system for certain "protracted" cases; in this instance, fund-raising cases involving friends of the President that have been assigned to judges appointed by the President. This situation certainly should be investigated. It's little wonder that increasingly Americans are wondering if one can get justice from the Justice Department.

JUDGING A JUDGE'S JUDGMENT

The Washington, D.C. panel of federal judges that oversees judicial conduct there has reopened what had looked like's closed controversy. The judges were right to do so. The situation involved the chief judge's prior practice—it might reasonably be characterized as a habit—of naming judges who were appointees of President Clinton to preside over criminal cases involving his friends.

That particular federal judicial district has a computer system to assign almost all criminal cases randomly. The idea of putting the system in place was to avoid both the appearance and the reality of favoritism. But there was a special rule, which was recently eliminated, allowing the chief judge to bypass the system for "protracted" cases.

Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson used the rule with what might politely be called enthusiasm. It was revealed in recent months that five Democratic campaign fund-raising prosecutions and a tax-evasion case against Clinton confidant Webster Hubbell went to Clinton appointees. Now, appeals court Judge Stephen Williams has been ordered to look into the circumstances of these and other case assignments.

The decision to revive the inquiry was made after the revelation by Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., of additional non-random assignments in fund-raising cases, including one involving a former fund-raiser for Vice President Al Gore.

Coble, one of the most conservative members of a mostly conservative congressional delegation from a conservative state, is no friend of Clinton or Gore. He probably has an agenda behind his quest. But that shouldn't matter. The facts are the facts: Judge Johnson by-passed the system and has never said why, although she denies that there were political considerations.

It may all be on the up-and-up, but it smells funny. If Johnson in fact did nothing wrong, she deserves to have that publicized. Conversely, if some level of cronyism is involved, some sort of disciplinary action might be appropriate. Getting to the bottom of this is, plain and simple, a good idea.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MULLER

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note for our House colleagues the loss of a fine community leader and dedicated public servant, Fred Muller of Acme, Mich., who died at his home on Dec. 21, 1999.

At the time of his death, Fred was chief of the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department. He was also an arson investigator whose probes and seminars took him all over the nation, and he was an instructor at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. Most important to me, Fred Muller was my friend.

I am challenged, Mr. Speaker, to sum up this man's life in a few brief remarks. My anecdotes are only small windows on the career of a man who so loved firefighting from his youth that at age 13 he formed a junior volunteer fire brigade in his hometown of Brighton, Michigan. We can only glimpse the strength of his dedication to his community in such acts as coming out of retirement in 1985 after 24 years with General Motors to assume the post of rural fire chief in one of the most heavily populated counties in my district.

Our view of Fred Muller comes into better focus when we learn that he served eight years as a city council member and two years as mayor pro tempore of Brighton, and held various leadership positions, including president, of such professional organizations as the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs, Michigan Fire Chiefs and International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Fred was a leader, and as his deputy chief Bill Sedlacek was quick to note in a news story on Fred's death, he led his volunteer force to a position of being rated among the top five in the nation.

In his public role, Fred's greatest test was a fire that broke out in late 1995 at a tire retreading facility in the small Michigan community of Grawn.

When the black clouds began climbing from the site and soot began turning snow around the site black, Fred ordered homes evacuated and a local school closed.

But the fire, which burrowed deep into a field of hundreds of thousands of tires, sometimes piled 50 feet high, soon signaled it would not be easily dealt with. There was no model for this conflagration. Temperatures at the core of the fire built up to almost 2,500 de-

grees. The fire burned under the surface, creating cavities that constantly threatened to swallow firefighting equipment. Conventional hoses merely built a shell of ice around the fire, which burned uninterrupted.

The fire became a siege, drawing manpower from around the state and bringing in technical experts from various state and federal agencies. Almost 125 firefighters were at work on New Year's Eve. Throughout the fire, Fred continued to monitor the hours that men worked, aware that fatigue and complacency were the greatest threats to the well-being of the army of firefighters. Whenever he gave community updates, Fred drew applause from audiences who knew he was dedicated to finding a way to defeat this fire through techniques that would serve as a guide for any future fire of this kind.

I had known Fred through his efforts to win funding for fire training, but now I had an opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him in this great fight. I was able to assist by obtaining for Fred a pair of Air National Guard water cannons from a nearby base. With these cannons, his crews were able to blast apart the hot core of the fire, eventually reducing the blaze to smaller, cooler fires that could be doused by conventional means.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a debt to this dedicated citizen, one of those men who care about people, give of themselves, and seem to live a life in preparation from some great moment when they can marshal and utilize all the skills they have acquired.

Not only my northern Michigan communities but the entire nation sustained a great loss with Fred Muller's untimely death. He will be missed.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRIO DAY

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring my colleagues' attention to the upcoming celebration of National TRIO Day on February 26.

The TRIO programs are Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. These programs, established over the past 30 years, provide services to low-income and potential first generation college students and help them overcome class, social, cultural and physical barriers to higher education.

Currently 2,000 colleges, universities and community agencies throughout our nation sponsor TRIO programs. More than 780,000 middle school and high school students and adults benefit from their services. Most of these students come from families in which neither parent graduate from college. These students represent the highest aspirations and best hope for the American dream. By lifting these students out of poverty, the nation is lifted to new heights.

There are 15 TRIO programs hosted on nine college campuses in my State. Together,

they serve nearly 6,000 aspiring students and adults annually. Almost 5,000 of these students are in my Congressional District. They are low income, first generation students and adults who are preparing to enter, or have entered, postsecondary education programs.

I have met with many of these students, and I know these programs work. For example, in recent years I have met Mark Crosby, a First Vice-President for Personnel for one of Maine's most successful and fastest-growing employers, MBNA America Bank. Mark was a student in the Upward Bound Program which he credits for his success in completing high school, college and graduate school. As he told me, "I went to college. My brother, who did not go to Upward Bound, went to jail." I have also met with a young man, John Simko, whose participation in TRIO programs helped to get him into and through Bowdoin College. He later went on to become the Town Manager of a small town in Maine.

TRIO graduates can be found in every occupation: doctor, lawyer, astronaut, television reporter, actor, professional athlete, state senator and Member of Congress. In fact, some of our colleagues today are graduates of TRIO programs. The TRIO programs are a cost-effective investment in our nation's future. They help to ensure that no child will be left behind, his or her aspirations unrealized.

In closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues to visit the TRIO Programs in their districts and learn for themselves how valuable these programs are to our nation. I also want to say a warm hello to all of the Maine students currently participating in TRIO programs and to remind them to keep reaching for their dreams.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a member of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus in strong support of H. Con. Res. 76. This common sense resolution expresses our support for a "Day of Hope" for abused and neglected children and urges us to remember these young victims of violence.

Child abuse and neglect are serious issues which we must address as a community. Over 3 million American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually and more than 500,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes. The cycle of child abuse and neglect all too often leads to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and welfare dependency. We can and must do something to break this vicious cycle. I urge my colleagues to not only join me in supporting this resolution but also to actively work with our constituents to bring an end to child abuse and neglect.

HONORING LOUISE EVANS FARR,
AN ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND
CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you of a great woman who gave selflessly of herself to her community. Louise Evans Farr passed away on January 14, 2000.

Louise was a lifelong advocate for peace, human dignity and civil rights. She graduated from Vassar College and Yale Law School. In the 1940s she was executive director of the Unity Council, a coalition of groups concerned with ending racial and ethnic discrimination in Denver, Colorado. She was also active in the peace and nuclear nonproliferation movements. Most recently she worked as a volunteer for Physicians for Social Responsibility and for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Louise was the granddaughter of Frank S. Hoag Sr., former publisher of the Pueblo Star-Journal and Chieftain, and the cousin of, my good friend, Robert Rawlings, the present publisher of the paper. Her brother, Frank Evans, represented Pueblo and Southern Colorado in the United States Congress from 1964 to 1978.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in memory of Louise Evans Farr. She was a humanitarian who will be missed by all those who knew her.

SHREWSBURY SENIOR CENTER

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Today in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, the dream of many is finally becoming a reality. It is my great pleasure to recognize the invaluable service that the Shrewsbury Council on Aging provides to the senior citizens of that community and congratulate them on the grand opening of the new Shrewsbury Senior Center.

From humble beginnings, the evolution of the center is truly amazing. Only a few short years ago the center was housed in the copy room of Shrewsbury Town Hall. From there it moved to quarters in the North Shore School, and now to its new home at 98 Maple Avenue which will hold the grand opening February 17, 2000. I am so proud of everyone involved. They truly represent the best our nation has to offer.

The Shrewsbury Senior Center provides information on housing, health care proxies, volunteer opportunities, home care services, as well as hot meals and information on other issues. The Council on Aging also performs preliminary case work and makes referrals to appropriate agencies.

In a time when many forget our older neighbors, men and women who quite literally saved the world, the Senior Center will forever ensure that this 'greatest generation' will always hold a prominent place in the community. From line dancing and bridge to yoga, knitting, painting, and shopping trips, this very special place will permit seniors to enjoy themselves in the company of friends.

As a Member of Congress, I often have the occasion to visit with seniors across my district. It is always a great joy for me to visit Shrewsbury. I look forward to visiting with them in their new home and congratulate them on this new beginning.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING
EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC
AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEM
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, in this land of diversity, one belief is nearly common to us all: Children are our greatest resource.

Children represent our hope for the future. They are our special treasures and deserve every protection we can provide them. Statistics show that every 10 seconds a child is abused and more than 3 children a day die as a result of abuse. Given statistics like these, it is critical that we, as a bipartisan body, continue our efforts and use all of our abilities and resources to ensure that our children, our national treasures, are protected and have the greatest opportunities to grow up happy, healthy, well-educated and strong. We must re-double our efforts to help break the cycle of abuse and violence that affects so many children.

Recently, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported that the number of missing children reports filed in 1999 dropped to the lowest level since 1993. This glorious news demonstrates that our legislative efforts, and the diligent efforts of organizations like Childhelp USA, do make a difference. More importantly, it means that more children are out of harm's way. Nonetheless, we cannot become complacent because too many children remain victims of abuse. Therefore, we must stand firm in our commitment to our children and their well-being.

This Day of Hope resolution demonstrates this resolve and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution for the sake of our national treasures—our children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2000, I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed two votes.

Had I been here I would have voted:

"Yes" on the passage of H. Con. Res. 247—Expressing Sense of Congress Regarding the Importance of Organ, Tissue, Bone Marrow and Blood Donation and Supporting National Donor Day.

"Yes" on the passage of H. Con. Res. 76—Recognizing the Social Problem of Child Abuse and Neglect and Supporting Efforts to Enhance Public Awareness of it.

HONORING WILLIAM CHARLES
"BILL" PUMPHERY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to remember and honor a man that was dedicated to helping people. William Charles "Bill" Pumphery passed away on February 1, 2000. He was 77 years old.

During World War II, Bill was a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He took part in Operation Varsity, the Allied assault across the Rhine River that marked the demise of Nazi Germany. Bill was one of the glider pilots who transported troops and equipment across the river.

Bill was an active supporter of the YMCA in Pueblo, Colorado. He was a member of the club and served on the board of directors for many years. Bill's dedication to the organization could be seen from the many fundraisers he participated in to build cabins for camps. Camp Jackson, formerly known as Camp Crockett, was built primarily from funds raised by the Pueblo YMCA men's club. When it came to needing a new building for the Pueblo location, Bill was instrumental in raising funds for the structure.

Bill was also proud of Pueblo and he showed his pride by volunteering at the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. He spent much time at the visitor's center, making sure that new comers received any information they needed about the area. Such an advocate of the Pueblo community will be missed greatly.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in Bill Pumphery's memory. He was a great man that was dedicated to making his community a better place to live.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOMITILIA
DOMINGUEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I inform my colleagues of the passing of a great individual, a person who graced our world and our lives with so much love and compassion.

Domitilia Dominguez, the grandmother, and godmother, of my dear wife, Barbara, passed away yesterday, on Valentine's Day, at Victorville Hospital in California. She was a long-time resident of Barstow, CA. Domitilia lived a very full and a very fulfilling life, a life graced by her husband, who passed away 20 years ago, with whom she was blessed by eight children: Ted, Flora, Margaret, Frank, Albert, Fabiola, Liz, and Larry. These children and many grandchildren brought tremendous joy and inspiration into their lives.

Domitilia Dominguez was and remains so much a tremendous person in our thoughts and in our memories. I appreciate so much and will long remember the many good and positive things she brought into my life and into the life of my wife, Barbara Dominguez Baca, our children, Joe, Jr., Jeremy, Nataline, and Jenifer, and our grandchildren, Katie Baca

and Anthony Baca Ramos. I join with Domitilia's friends and family members in honoring such a truly remarkable and outstanding person, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, to all those who loved her so much.

Domitilia gave so much to those she loved, and each of us is better and more fortunate for what she unselfishly gave to us and gave to our world, a world made so much brighter and more gentler by her life and her presence.

Mr. Speaker, we are all gifted by the lives of mothers and grandmothers who do so much in guiding our lives and providing us comfort and proper direction. I join with all those who loved Domitilia Dominguez, in extending our prayers, knowing that God's heaven is blessed and graced by one of his most beautiful and loved angels.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MRS. BONO'S LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LAND IN THE SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Representative BONO for her follow through on the KATY issue. It was three or four years ago when her late husband, our colleague Sonny Bono, began to tackle the problem of keeping a small radio antenna on the edge of the San Bernardino National Forest for an important local radio broadcaster. With the introduction of this bill, Mrs. BONO begins the last chapter to settle an important issue for her constituents.

The station is KATY-FM, and it is the only radio link for emergency broadcasting that covers a large sector of the San Bernardino valley. An elderly couple, the Gills, owned the station. Mr. Gill passed away recently, so it is an important tribute to him that this bill is being introduced today. We will get right to work on it in my committee, the Committee on Resources, this year.

I offer thanks to the Forest Service for working hard to settle this issue, and for protecting the public by ensuring that fair market value will be paid for the small parcel by KATY-FM. While we hoped to help the Forest Service move two unrelated administrative provisions in this bill, it could not be done before introduction. However, I will make every effort to accommodate the needs of the Service on the two unrelated matters, working with the other committee with joint jurisdiction over those provisions, as the bill moves through the Committee and the House. I appreciate the Service's good faith work on these matters, and we will work in the same manner.

Congratulations again, Mrs. BONO. Your follow through is commendable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington yesterday and I missed

two rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 16 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 17.

HONORING THE GRAND JUNCTION BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, ALPINE BANK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the 1999 Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year, Alpine Bank.

Alpine Bank opened its first facility in Mesa County in 1992. With a focus on giving back to the community, it did not take long for this bank to become recognized as a leading corporate citizen. Among the organizations that the bank has contributed time and money to are: the American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Lion's Club, Rotary, Museum of Western Colorado, Club 20 Mesa County Land Trust Alliance, Mesa County Homebuilders, Young Life, Crime Stoppers, Ducks Unlimited, League of Women Voters, Western Colorado Arts Center, the Grand Junction Chamber, Habitat for Humanity, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Lung Association, Salvation Army, Mesa County Library, Western Slope Center for Children, Junior Service League, Western Colorado Botanical Society and the grand Junction Symphony.

In addition to this long list of involvement, Alpine Bank has taken great interest in helping Grand Junction schools. Through the Classroom Credits program, Alpine Bank has donated over \$45,000 to the Mesa County Business Education Foundation for the last two years. Along with Classroom Credits, Alpine Bank has found a way to reward students who received excellent grades with the "Pay for As" program. Most recently, the bank has pursued plans to build an ice skating rink. To encourage bank employees to help out in the community, the bank has started providing paid time off for those who wish to become involved in the community.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to the Alpine Bank. A business that is worthy of thanks and praise for unparalleled commitment to the community.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is remembered for her pioneering work to establish equal rights for women. As she fought to widen society's guarantee of equal rights to include women, she also sought to widen this guarantee for others as well. For Susan B. Anthony, this meant opposing slavery. And it also meant rejecting abortion, which she considered nothing less than "child murder." Today, 180 years after Susan B. Anthony's birth which we commemorate today, we continue her legacy in promoting

equality under the law for all, including the unborn.

Susan B. Anthony rejected abortion because she championed equal rights for all. In Anthony's view, abortion violated the rights of both women and children for it deprived the unborn of their right to life, and exploited women. As Susan B. Anthony said: "When a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is a sign that, by education or circumstance, she has been greatly wronged."

On this the 180th anniversary of her birth-day, let us recommit ourselves to fulfilling the pro-life and pro-women vision of Susan B. Anthony, moving toward that day when neither women nor children shall ever again be greatly wronged by abortion.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. JOE, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, for a number of years now, my colleague, Mr. CALVERT, and I have worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers on one of the largest flood-control projects now under way in our nation. The Santa Ana River Mainstem flood control system, which is well on its way to completion, will protect millions of southern California residents and save billions of dollars in property from potentially devastating floods. We would like today to pay tribute to the man who oversaw this project: Mr. Robert A. Joe, the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management of the corps' Los Angeles District.

The Los Angeles District is one of the largest Corps of Engineers districts in the contiguous 48 states, covering 226,000 square miles in southern California, southern Nevada, and all of Arizona. They operate in the second largest urban area in the United States, as well as the booming growth areas of Phoenix and Las Vegas. Activities directed by Bob Joe have ranged from the deepening of Los Angeles Harbor—one of the largest in the world—to massive flood control projects protecting millions of people throughout southern California, to the environmental restoration of the Rio Salado through Tempe and Phoenix.

Bob Joe has directed this \$300 million annual operation since August 1998—the highlight of a nearly 30-year career with the Los Angeles district that also saw him lead the planning division for 11 years. Throughout this time, southern California has benefited from the corps work in preventing flood damage, improving our harbors, and protecting our valuable coastal property.

Mr. CALVERT and I recently attended the dedication of perhaps the most important corps project in our Inland Empire—the Seven Oaks Dam in the San Bernardino Mountains. Completion of this dam—on time and on budget—will save thousands of homeowners along the Santa Ana River thousands of dollars a year in flood insurance. We believe it is an accomplishment that will bring pride to the entire corps. Mr. Joe has also been of indispensable help in accomplishing stabilization of the Norco Bluffs and beginning a flood control

project along San Timoteo Creek—projects of immense importance to our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that Bob Joe will soon retire from the corps. We ask you and all of our colleagues to join us and expressing our gratitude for his years of tremendous service to southern California and the Southwest, and wishing him well in his future professional endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on February 10, I was in Alabama attending to pressing personal matters and was unable to cast my vote in favor of H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act. As an original cosponsor of this legislation and supporter of past efforts to repeal this onerous tax, I am very pleased that this measure passed with such bipartisan support.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the rule (roll 12) and on final passage (roll 15); and I would have voted "no" on the Rangel Substitute (roll 13) and the motion to recommit (roll 14).

HONORING FRANK MILFORD MILLIGAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause in remembrance of Frank Milford Milligan who died on November 7, 1999.

Mr. Milligan was born on October 24, 1925, in Beulah, Colorado, to Cecil Milligan and Elta Parker. Mr. Milligan attended grade school in Beulah and high school in Cortez. In January of 1944, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served for two years. After his service in the Navy, he returned to Cortez to reside.

Following his return from the military, Mr. Milligan went to work as a farm hand. He was a member of the Ute Mountain American Legion Post 375 and enjoyed socializing with his fellow members at the post. Mr. Milligan will always be remembered as a man that loved to spend time with his family and doing family activities.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Frank Milford Milligan, a great American and friend.

HAIDER AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues and submits for the RECORD this February 10, 2000, opinion column from the Financial Times regarding Jorg Haider.

WHY EUROPE WOULD LIKE HAIDER TO DISAPPEAR

The rightwing Austrian politician is a threat only because he has highlighted problems that are common to the rest of the EU

(By Quentin Peel)

Why on earth are we so worried about Jorg Haider?

The leader of Austria's inappropriately named Freedom party is nothing more than a lightweight provincial politician, a plausible populist more notable for changing his opinions by the hour than for any consistency of fanatical thought.

One moment he is in favour of the European Union, the next he is a passionate Eurosceptic. One day he shows some sympathy for the Nazi regime in Germany, and the next he condemns it. He is an erratic gadfly with a grin, who has cynically exploited the widespread hostility to immigrants in the Austrian provinces, and the wider resentment of a political establishment that has carved up all the public sector jobs in Vienna.

Yet the appearance of his party in the Austrian government has united the rest of the European Union in a chorus of condemnation. He is in danger of being demonised as a reincarnation of Adolf Hitler, when he should instead be treated with disdain and contempt.

The year 2000 is not 1933, and the prosperous citizens of Austria are scarcely the embittered unemployed of Germany between the wars. The democratic institutions of post-war western Europe are surely resilient enough to resist the blandishments of a half-baked extremist.

Yet the truth is that Mr. Haider, in himself, is not the problem. The international overreaction is driven by fear of contamination in other parts of the EU. He is a symbol, and many of the causes of his popularity are present in most of the states of the union.

Austria is not alone in demonstrating resentment of a tired and corrupt political establishment, a fear of excessive immigration, and growing uncertainty about what enlargement of the EU will mean for the cozy lifestyle of the present member states.

Germany and France both took a lead in the decision by the rest of the EU to freeze bilateral relations with Austria, and with good reason. Both have been hit by a series of political scandals, threatening an upsurge in public disgust with the political process. Scarcely a European country has been unaffected by allegations of illicit or corrupt party financing.

As for immigration and EU enlargement, neither may be quite as big an issue as it is in Austria, but they could easily be exploited by a rabble-rouser in most EU countries. All the EU governments have gone a long way to tighten up controls on immigration and asylum-seekers, in precisely the direction that Mr. Haider demands, for fear of a backlash.

Enlargement, now intended eventually to bring 13 new members into the EU, may be officially supported by all the present governments, but their voters remain decidedly skeptical. EU leaders will have to go out and sell the idea, with passion and conviction, or they could face an upsurge in xenophobia at the polls.

If and when enlargement happens, as I fervently hope it does, it will change the EU substantially. The only way to accommodate such a wide variety of member states, at very differing political and economic stages of development, will be to build much more flexibility into the system. Somehow it has to be adapted to preserve the single market, without forcing the new members into instant bankruptcy. The high standards of developed west European economies cannot be adopted overnight in the east.

Nor is it simply a matter of economics. The accession candidates are all relatively fragile democracies. Most have only recently recovered their full sovereignty from the former Soviet empire. There are unresolved ethnic conflicts, and minority rights issues, within their borders. They could well spark the emergence of nationalist movements at least as unattractive as the Freedom party of Mr. Haider.

All these profound issues raised by EU enlargement are supposed to be tackled by the intergovernmental conference (IGC) of the present 15 member states, which opens next Monday. They are supposed to be streamlining the institutions so that they remain workable with as many as 28 members. Yet the chances are that the IGC will stick to a very narrow agenda, and leave the EU ill-prepared for the revolution to come.

Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission, says the prospect of more Haiders in an enlarged EU makes it all the more necessary to take most decisions by majority voting, not unanimity. Yet majority decisions enforced on unhappy minorities could be a formula for breeding more Haiders. The answer must be more flexible arrangements, more devolution of power, and a minimum of rules.

If an enlarged EU is going to hold together, and enjoy the support of its inhabitants, it is going to have to be rather more than a glorified common market. It does not have to be the federal super-state that British Eurosceptics fear and loathe. But it will have to be a community of common values.

That is why the initiative running in parallel with the IGC may ultimately prove more important: the drafting of a Charter of Fundamental Rights. This should be clear, concise and easily intelligible. It does not have to add any exotic new rights that are not already present in the EU treaty and the European convention of human rights. But it should spell out the minimum rights and freedoms to which all member states of the union will be committed. It should also spell out what will happen if they transgress.

For the advent of Mr. Haider in Austria is surely only a foretaste of the challenges to come in an enlarged EU. The member states need a clear yardstick by which to judge the acceptable behaviour of any government—a yardstick that voters can read and understand before they vote. That might discourage them from voting for anti-democratic extremists. And it might restrain the other member states from ad hoc overreactions.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER FRED

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I and many, many residents of northern Michigan continue to mourn the passing of the Rev. Edwin Frederick, our beloved Father Fred, who affected so many lives by the simple act of tending and caring for those in need.

It may be misleading, Mr. Speaker, to describe Father Fred's work as simple. The simple act of sharing is to offer a hungry man half one's loaf of bread. The simple act of caring is to put one's own coat over the shoulders of a child shivering with a cold.

Father Fred went much further than that. The foundation he created has provided food, clothing and other basic necessities to literally

thousands of families. The Father Fred Foundation now distributes more than a million dollars in aid each year to individuals and families in the Traverse City area. It is, at its heart, the story of the loaves and fishes, a miracle being worked by our Savior through this simple man of the cloth who was willing to ride on the back of Harley Davidson motorcycles and oversee garage sales to build this sustaining fund.

I was fortunate, Mr. Speaker, to have been one of Father Fred's instruments in his performance of good works. I looked forward each year to assisting him in serving Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. In this most basic act of charity, helping to provide sustenance to another human, I learned that most basic of Christian lessons, learning to love a stranger.

My heart was heavy this year at Thanksgiving, because as I left I knew I would never again see Father Fred alive. His smile was as wide as ever, but the cancer that was killing him had left this once powerful man very frail. Father Fred died in January at the age of 74.

We in Congress have an opportunity to meet many stately, strong, wise, and wonderful people. But in those quiet moments when I can reflect on the individuals who have really had an impact on my view of the world and my feelings for my fellow man, it is Father Fred who marches at the forefront of that long procession of men and women whose lives have at one time or another intersected with mine.

He will continue to live among us in the foundation he created, and in the special place in our hearts and memories that he created.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TWO FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, sadly I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues the passing of two of San Francisco's finest police officers—Inspector Kirk “Bush” Brookbush and Officer James “J.D.” Dougherty.

On Wednesday, January 19 thousands of police officers from throughout California and the nation gave their final farewell salute to their two San Francisco comrades who had died on January 11 when their helicopter crashed returning from a routine maintenance session. “The Air Marshall and his Sidekick” as they called themselves are remembered as dedicated police officers who went above and beyond the call of duty.

For nearly 30 years they were devoted, reliable and hard-working street cops. They were highly respected, trusted and loved by their colleagues, family and friends. Both were Vietnam vets, loving husbands and fathers who were trained airline pilots recently given the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of becoming police pilots. They were passionate about their work and were making a positive impact on the San Francisco Police Department's air unit.

Indeed, the San Francisco Bay Area deeply mourns the loss of Kirk and J.D. Their colleagues will continue to look up to them with

respect and admiration for as described by their boss, Commander Heather Fong, they will continue to be “two angels looking over the shoulders” of San Francisco's police officers. They were men of courage and inspiration.

I would like to express my personal condolences and prayers to their friends and loved ones, especially to Kirk Brookbush's wife, Suzanne and their son, Andrew and to James Dougherty's wife, Sun Kang and his stepsons, Chon and Paul and his children, Brigid, Jeff and Chris.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 76, recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it. Through the efforts of Childhelp USA, a “Day of Hope” will be observed on the first Wednesday in April to focus public awareness on this social ill.

Childhelp USA has been coming to the rescue of children in distress since 1959. It is one of America's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse.

Childhelp's many excellent programs help keep children safe. Childhelp training programs instruct adults who work with children on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse, how to respond to a child who discloses abuse and how to interrupt a suspected abuse situation. Childhelp Abuse Prevention instructors teach school children the knowledge and skills they need to prevent or interrupt abuse. This organization provides a 24-hour National Child Abuse Hotline, which delivers free, high quality professional counseling services to children and families in crisis and connects them with social service and law enforcement agencies in their community. Child Advocacy Centers have implemented programs that work with law enforcement and child protective services to investigate abuse reports in a manner that avoids further trauma to the victim. Childhelp Head Start classes provides early enrichment for at-risk children and parenting education for their mothers and fathers. The Villages of Childhelp and Childhelp therapeutic foster homes provide the finest available residential care and treatment for victims of severe abuse.

There is an epidemic of violence against children in America. The direct and collateral damage to the individual and the community is vast. A problem this large will end only when everyone does something to help. I commend Childhelp USA for all that it does for America's children and families, and for its superior model of service in the 8th district of VA, and throughout the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, February 14, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 16 and 17. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 16 and “yes” on rollcall vote 17.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On H. Con. Res. 247, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation introduced by the gentlelady from Florida, Mrs. THURMAN, I would have voted “yea.”

On H. Con. Res. 76, recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it introduced by the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. SALMON, I would have voted “yea.”

SALUTE TO D.C. UNITED, “AMERICA'S SOCCER TEAM”

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud D.C. United as “America's Soccer Team,” which won its third Major League Soccer (MLS) championship while Congress was in recess. It is a well-deserved title, not only because the team is located in the Nation's Capital, but especially because D.C. United has won three of the four MLS championships offered by the league. Rarely, if ever, has an American team so dominated its sport or displayed greater skill and sportsmanship. Both were in full view last November, when United snared its latest championship in a two-to-nothing victory over Los Angeles.

We, who live in the District of Columbia, are proud that D.C. United took our hometown name. Our hometown soccer team has become the District's version of a triple crown champion that does not know how to lose. D.C. United's victories over the past several years have paralleled the continuing revitalization of the team's hometown. After what our city went through in the 1990's, the team's championship means much more to D.C. than it would to Baltimore or New York, or Atlanta or Los Angeles. D.C. United has taught this town that we, too, can be winner. Now, when Americans and people from around the world visit the Nation's Capital, they come not only to see our monuments. They want to see our monumental team.

Our team reflects the nations of the world in a sport that is played by virtually every country

in the world. Across the nation and throughout the soccer world, D.C. United fans applaud the team's determination to fight and to win. Today, we salute D.C. United for a job well done and send best wishes to "America's Soccer Team."

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN KOREN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district in Florida who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Justin Koren of Miami has just been named one of my State's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Koren, a senior at Coral Reef Senior High School, is being recognized for creating a volunteer teenage community theater group that brings the joys of live theater to others by performing at retirement homes, senior centers, day care centers, and migrant farms in the greater Miami area.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Koren are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to my attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Mr. Koren should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Mr. Koren for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION PRICE EQUITY ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Prescription Price Equity Act of 2000, a bill to deny research tax credits to pharmaceutical companies that sell their products at significantly higher prices in the U.S. as compared to their sales in other industrialized countries.

At my request, the Congressional Research Service recently completed an analysis of the tax treatment of the pharmaceutical industry. The conclusion of that report is that tax credits contributed powerfully to lowering the average effective tax rate for drug companies by nearly 40% relative to other major industries from 1990 to 1996. Specifically, it finds that while similar industries pay a tax rate of 27.3%, the pharmaceutical industry is paying a rate of only 16.2%. At the same time, after-tax profits for the drug industry averaged 17%—three times higher than the 5% profit margin of other industries.

The need for this bill is clear. The U.S. Government provides lucrative tax credits to the pharmaceutical industry in this country in order to promote research and development of life-saving new pharmaceutical products. Yet, in return for these government subsidies, the drug companies charge uninsured Americans the highest prices for drugs paid by anyone in the world.

Numerous studies have shown that uninsured seniors pay exorbitant prices for pharmaceuticals. I recently asked the House Government Reform Committee to compare the prices of prescription drugs in the district I represent in Congress with the prices of prescription drugs in Canada. The report found that seniors in Alameda and Santa Clara counties who lack insurance coverage for prescription drugs pay far more than consumers in Canada for the exact same medications.

The study compared the 1997 prices of the five brand name drugs with the highest '97 sales to the elderly—Zocor (a cholesterol reducing medication), Prilosec (an ulcer and heartburn medication), Procardia XL (a heart medication), Zoloft (a medication used to treat depression), and Norvasc (a blood pressure medication). On average, seniors in the 13th District are paying prices that are 100% higher than the prices Canadian consumers pay. For example, for a one-month supply of Prilosec, the average uninsured senior living in our District pays over \$70 more than a consumer in Canada.

This price discrimination against seniors is happening across the country. Yet, America's seniors are the least likely to be able to afford these higher costs. Nearly half of Medicare beneficiaries live on yearly incomes of less than \$15,000 a year and a third live on less than \$10,000. While some Medicare beneficiaries have prescription drug coverage through employer retirement packages, Medicare HMOs (which are lowering their prescription drug coverage each year), and Medigap policies, about 35% of Medicare beneficiaries have no coverage at all and must pay inflated prices for their needed medications. It is also estimated that nearly two-thirds of Medicare

beneficiaries are at risk for being without prescription drug coverage for reasons such as: being unable to afford rising Medigap premiums; Medicare HMOs dropping out of Medicare; and employers reneging on retiree health benefits.

Yet, at the same time that seniors are being asked to pay these outrageous prices, the drug companies are reaping the benefit of generous governmental subsidies. There's something wrong with a system that gives drug companies huge tax breaks while allowing them to price-gouge seniors. My bill attempts to correct this glaring inequity in a very even-handed approach. So long as your company gives U.S. consumers a fair deal on drug prices as measured against their same products sold in other OECD countries, you will continue to qualify for all available research tax credits. But if your company is found to be fleecing American taxpayers with prices higher than those charged for the same product sold in Japan, Germany, Switzerland, or Canada, then you become ineligible for those tax credits.

I know that the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America will strongly oppose the Prescription Price Equity Act. PhRMA will say that this bill spells the end of pharmaceutical R&D. That is complete nonsense. As shown by CRS, drug industry profits are already threefold higher than all other major industries. This legislation doesn't change the current system of research tax credits at all unless companies refuse to fairly price their U.S. products. The intent of my bill is by no means to reduce the U.S. Government's role in promoting research and development. It is simply to say that in return for such significant government contributions to their industry, drug companies must treat American consumers fairly. Why should U.S. tax dollars be used to allow drug prices to be reduced in other highly developed countries, but not here at home as well?

Again, this bill simply tells PhRMA that U.S. taxpayers will no longer subsidize low prices in the OECD countries with our tax code. Research and development is important and that is why we give these huge tax breaks, but they do consumers little good if they can't afford the product.

The Prescription Price Equity Act is not the solution to the problems facing America's seniors' abilities to purchase prescription drugs. That problem will only be addressed by improving Medicare to include a prescription drug benefit. I have introduced separate legislation to achieve that goal and look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve that vital Medicare improvement this year.

The Prescription Drug Equity Act is important because it would end the abuse of the U.S. tax code to subsidize an industry that has so far refused to treat American consumers fairly. I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this legislation to end pharmaceutical companies' abilities to profit at the expense of American taxpayers.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY FULLER

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to rise before you today

to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of Mr. Jeffrey Fuller, President of the Montclair, California Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, the Chamber has succeeded in expanding its role in the promotion of local businesses, public policy and community involvement.

During Mr. Fuller's tenure, the Montclair Chamber of Commerce has expanded its membership by 20 percent, increased cash reserves for future expansion and upgraded its computer system to better serve local businesses and residents. At the same time, he reinstated the Chamber's involvement with the State of the City address and organized the first annual Montclair Safety Fair and Business Expo.

Mr. Fuller has tirelessly fought to preserve the spirit of the American dream. I appreciate his work and wish him well in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OMBUDSMAN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Ombudsman Reauthorization Act of 2000. This legislation is a companion to S. 1763, which was introduced last year by Senator ALLARD of Colorado. The bill reauthorizes the Office of the National Solid Waste and Superfund Ombudsman within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

I have experienced first-hand the important work of the National Superfund Ombudsman in connection with the Stauffer Chemical Superfund Site, which is located in my congressional district in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

I fought tirelessly with my constituents for years to have the Stauffer site designated as a federal Superfund site. In 1994, the Stauffer site was finally included on the National Priorities List. It has been a long and tedious process since then. After six years, we are still waiting for the cleanup to begin. Clearly, this process is taking too long. The Superfund program must be streamlined to make it work within reasonable time frames—consistent with public expectations.

All of my constituents agree on the need for prompt cleanup of the Stauffer site. The question is how and when this will be accomplished in a manner consistent with protecting the public health and safety.

I joined with many of my constituents in repeatedly urging the EPA to carefully consider the unique geography of the Tarpon Springs area, with a particular focus on our sources of drinking water. In 1996, I was pleased to help secure funding for the Pinellas and Pasco County Technical Assistance Grant (Pi-Pa-TAG) to monitor cleanup activities at the Stauffer site. Throughout the years, I have sponsored several public meetings and written many letters regarding necessary standards for the cleanup of the site.

The process of selecting a remedy that is both cost-effective and protective of the public health and safety has been extremely difficult. The affected parties have different opinions regarding the most appropriate solution to the

problem, and many area residents feel that they have been "shut out" of the process.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone deserves to have their voice heard in the debate on cleanup of a hazardous waste site, it should be the local citizens who live in the surrounding neighborhoods.

At my request, the National Superfund Ombudsman, Robert Martin, has launched an independent review of the EPA's proposed cleanup plan for the Stauffer site. To date, Mr. Martin has participated in two public meetings I have sponsored, which were held on December 2, 1999, and February 12, 2000.

These discussions have provided an opportunity for local residents, technical experts, Stauffer company representatives, and federal, state and local officials to express their concerns directly to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is continuing to gather additional information and will not make recommendations until the investigation is completed.

During the course of the public meetings, it has become apparent that certain hydrogeological issues were not addressed before the proposed cleanup plan was advanced by the Stauffer Management Company and the EPA. For example, no studies regarding the possibility of sinkholes were conducted prior to the proposal of the remedy outlined in the Record of Decision. Because of Florida's unique environment, sinkholes pose a serious concern for the residents of the surrounding community. If contaminated soil collapses into the groundwater, more than 30 contaminants could be introduced into the area's drinking water supply.

The effect of contaminants from the site on local groundwater is an issue that demands further scrutiny. There has been conflicting evidence regarding the direction of groundwater flow, and it is critical that more comprehensive studies be undertaken to identify the potential for groundwater contamination.

Mr. Speaker, without the involvement of the Ombudsman, my constituents' concerns about sinkholes and groundwater would not have received the attention they deserve.

My constituents have welcomed the Ombudsman's participation in discussions about the proposed cleanup plan. Many of them have renewed confidence that their concerns will be seriously considered in this process. The Ombudsman has been their advocate, giving a voice to those who might otherwise have limited input in the design of a remedy for the site.

The Ombudsman has worked effectively and aggressively to uncover the facts surrounding the Stauffer site, as well as other Superfund sites around the nation. In fact, he has been so successful that EPA officials are considering eliminating his office. This cannot be allowed to occur. Without the Ombudsman's investigation of the Stauffer site, the residents of Tarpon Springs would have been left in the dark and without a voice. I applaud the Ombudsman for his advocacy on their behalf and for bringing integrity back into the process.

The Ombudsman Reauthorization Act will ensure that the Ombudsman is allowed to continue his critical work. This bill reauthorizes the office for ten years, allowing the Ombudsman to carry on the fact-finding investigations that lead to better solutions for communities burdened with Superfund sites.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents benefit enormously from the advocacy efforts of the Na-

tional Superfund Ombudsman. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support passage of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN H. TILELLI, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Gen. John H. Tilelli, Jr., who retired from the U.S. Army on January 31, 2000, after more than 33 years of exemplary service.

General Tilelli was raised in Holmdel, NJ. A 1963 graduate of Pennsylvania Military College, he received a bachelor's degree in economics and was commissioned as an armor officer. He attended the armor officer basic and advanced courses and Airborne School. General Tilelli is also a 1974 graduate of the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College and completed the U.S. Army War College in 1983. He received a master's degree in education administration from Lehigh University in 1972. Widener University awarded him an honorary doctorate in business management in 1996 and the University of Maryland presented him with an honorary doctorate in law in 1997.

General Tilelli saw combat in two wars during his career. In Vietnam, he served as the company commander, 18th Engineer Brigade and as the district senior advisor, Advisory Team 84. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, General Tilelli was the commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division.

In other assignments, General Tilelli served in the 3d Battalion, 77th Armor, Fort Devens, MA. He also held positions in the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and then 1st Armored Division while stationed in Germany. Additionally, he had the opportunity to mentor future soldiers as an assistant professor of military science, Lafayette College, PA, and shared his technical expertise during a tour at the U.S. Army Armor School, Fort Knox, KY.

General Tilelli commanded the Seventh Army Training Command and Combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany before assuming command of the 1st Cavalry Division. After that, he served in the Pentagon as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, then as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. After his promotion to general, he served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army before assuming command of U.S. Army Forces Command. General Tilelli then became the Commander of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea.

General Tilelli made monumental contributions and improvements to the United States and Republic of Korea military coalition and vastly improved its ability to deter and defend against attack. He also served as a vital link between the United States and the civilian government of the Republic of Korea, proving to be one of the Army's most successful diplomats. His political and military expertise resulted in the right application and employment of forces to ultimately deescalate the rising

tensions during several crucial periods on the Korean peninsula. In addition to improving military readiness and force projection capability, General Tilelli ensured that all soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines under his command received the best care, the best facilities and the best service possible for themselves and their family members.

General Tilelli's decorations included the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf

Clusters), the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with "V" Device (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and Palm. He also wears the Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, General John Tilelli is the kind of officer that all soldiers strive to be. He has served with honor and distinction, dedicating over 33 years to our soldiers and our Nation. The U.S. Army is a better institution for his service. I know the Members of the House will join me in offering gratitude to General Tilelli and his family—his wife, Valerie, and his daughters, Christine, Margaret, and Jeanne—for their service to our country, and we wish them all the best in the years ahead.