

My third goal is being a hero. A hero doesn't always have to be the Audy Murphys, the Winston Churchills, or the fireman on the 6 o'clock news. You don't have to save a life or lead a country . . . you merely have to make a difference.

Small kindnesses can make lasting impressions. Delivering food baskets, returning a lost wallet, or coaching Little League Baseball—none of these acts go unnoticed and the rewards are priceless. The purpose is not recognition but to feel good about yourself and to inspire others. There are too few heroes these days—we should all strive to become one.

These three goals are my answer, my pledge, to America's Call—and it's a pledge that I've signed in my heart.

In closing, I would like to assure you, and my grandad, that I do know about the Korean War. I know that it was not a television program, and, for the record, there were actually 33,651 fatalities.

THE FUTURE OF AMTRAK

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will create a 5-year dedicated capital funding program for Amtrak as it transitions away from Federal operating support. This proposal will redirect .5 cent of the existing 4.3 cents gas tax into a dedicated trust fund for Amtrak, allowing Amtrak to quickly reinvest in much needed capital improvements. The remaining 3.8 cents in gas tax revenues will be shifted to the highway trust fund.

Amtrak is an essential part of our national transportation system, providing 22 million intercity rail passenger trips per year to over 500 destinations in 45 States. In 1995, Congress and the administration both determined that Amtrak must reduce its reliance on Federal funding—directing Amtrak to operate without Federal support by the year 2002.

Without adequate funding during this transition period, Amtrak cannot make the investments necessary to survive independently. Unfortunately, Amtrak will need an estimated \$4 billion in capital improvements by 2002 due to funding shortages in the 1980's. This new capital investment alternative is necessary to improve rolling stock, cars and locomotives, upgrade maintenance facilities, and prevent the deterioration of track and signal equipment. Unless Amtrak's capital equipment is improved, it will not be able to operate as a self-sufficient entity as Congress directed.

Between 1982 and 1994, travel on Amtrak rose 40 percent. A dedicated capital funding source will cut Amtrak's operating and maintenance costs, improving reliability and performance. Moreover, these upgrades will reduce air pollution, fuel consumption, highway congestion, and urban parking problems. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

BRUCE F. VENTO CONSUMER
INTERNET PRIVACY PROTECTION
ACT OF 1996

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the age of the Internet is upon us and evolving faster than we ever imagined. Each day new companies and industries grow out of the constant technological innovation that has come to symbolize this information superhighway. The Internet has reached into our schools, businesses and homes. It has allowed average Americans sitting in the privacy of their living rooms to connect with and explore the world. The Internet provides us with entertainment, information and communication. But with all the wonders of the Internet comes the potential for problems. Today, I am introducing the Consumer Internet Privacy Protection Act of 1996 in an effort to address just one such problem.

To gain access to the Internet's endless web of sites, users must work through an Internet provider or server. While these servers provide a valuable service to their customers, they are also capable of collecting an enormous amount of personal information about these individuals. Besides the personal information an Internet server may collect when they enroll a subscriber, servers are also capable of identifying the sites their subscribers visit. Without doubt such information would be quite valuable to direct marketers and those interested in marketing, while providing servers with yet another source of revenue for providing such personal private information. The result—subscribers are inundated with junk mail and/or e-mail.

My legislation is intended to inform and protect the privacy of the Internet user by requiring servers to obtain the written consent of their subscribers before disclosing any of their personal information to third parties. In addition, my bill requires a server to provide its subscribers access to any personal information collected by the server on its users, along with the identity of any recipients of such personal information.

As the Internet becomes a more integral part of our daily lives, it is important that we in Congress take a commonsense approach, like this legislation, to ensure the citizens of our nation are able to benefit from this technology without sacrificing their personal privacy. My legislation will not hamper the growth and innovation of the Internet in any way. It will merely provide an opportunity for the consumers of Internet services to protect their privacy if they so wish. After all, the preservation of our privacy is one of our Nation's most cherished freedoms, which technology must not be allowed to circumvent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker. Due to mechanical problem on my flight to Washington yesterday, I was delayed in Chicago and was not

present for rollcall votes Nos. 414–417. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all four of these bills.

THANK YOU, BRYAN WIRWICZ, FOR
YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from Congress at the end of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship, I feel for each of them.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff, Bryan Wirwicz, my longtime press secretary, for everything he's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years he has worked in my office.

I met Bryan during my first congressional campaign in 1980. He had recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in journalism and political science. Bryan had participated in a 3-day seminar, sponsored by the National Republican Congressional Committee, designed to teach young people how to handle media relations for congressional candidates. His name was passed along to me as someone who might be helpful to me in my campaign.

It was our first political campaign, and we learned together as we worked together. After I was elected, I asked Bryan if he would move to Washington, DC, to serve on my congressional staff.

He did so, but departed in mid-1982 to work in an unsuccessful congressional campaign in California. In early 1983, he went to work for our former colleague, Win Weber of Minnesota. Bryan and I stayed in touch, and we eventually decided to team up once again. He rejoined my staff in mid-1983, and has been with me since that time.

Through the years, Bryan has worked with local, statewide, and national news reporters—developing and maintaining excellent working relationships with them. I've told Bryan many times that I consider him to be the best writer around. In the op-ed pieces, newsletters press releases, and position papers he has prepared for me over the years, Bryan has been able to summarize and explain complex and oftentimes highly technical issues in plain English, allowing my constituents to more easily understand those issues and my positions on them.

Bryan is a generalist, but he is also a quick study—quickly gaining an understanding of maritime issues when I served as ranking minority member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, and gaining an understanding of telecommunications and securities issues when I became chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee in 1995.

In 1993, when I ran for the U.S. Senate, I ask Bryan to take a leave of absence from my official staff, move to Houston, and join my campaign staff. As I told him at the time, his participation in my Senate campaign provided me with a "comfort level" that I would not have enjoyed had he not been with me. I lost