It would also be difficult to find anyone who has given more of himself and his gifts for others than Dr. James Hardy. I know my colleagues join me in expressing profound appreciation for his over 41 years of service as teacher, researcher, clinician and healer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify for the RECORD my reasons for missing the two recorded votes that took place yesterday, Wednesday, June 18, 1997, on the House floor for H.R. 437, the National Sea Grant College Program Authorization and the approval of the House Journal. I was unfortunately delayed in coming to Washington because I was attending the funeral of a friend, Mr. Andrew H. Aman, Sr.

FREEMASONS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND CELEBRATE THEIR COUNTRY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Freemasons of Suffolk County, Long Island, whose celebration of Flag Day will encompass two great remembrances: that of the storied and patriotic past of the United States of America, and that of the honorable role of past and present Masons in American history.

As Americans across the land from New York's First District to Hawaii raise the Stars and Stripes on Flag Day, they will celebrate the birthday of our greatest and most treasured national symbol, and at the same time, they will be honoring the work of those Americans who have built the many important customs and traditions that we honor with each raising of the flag. Since this Nation's inception, the songs we sing and the words we intone in times of war and times of peace have been penned by Freemasons. The names Francis Scott Key and John Philip Sousa are part of our national lore—these men are as revered as the wonderful songs they penned. What often goes unrecognized, however, is the fact that these great Americans were Freemasons, and that their organization made so many important contributions to our national identity. Our children would not recite the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag if not for a Mason's work, and our ''Star Spangled Banner,'' written with such passion at a time when the shores of the United States were under attack in 1812, would never have been put to paper. The organization was a breeding ground for patriotism, and to this day the Freemasons remain true to their initial ideals. Indeed, their group's lore serves as almost a textbook of American history.

On Flag Day, the Freemasons celebrate their country—and their group's contributions to that country's history—in grand style. The entire Long Island community is invited to hear spirited renditions of great patriotic songs, and to be bathed in a sea of red, white, and blue. Revolutionary War-period cannons will be fired, and war veterans and community Boy and Girl Scouts will march side by side, both touched by the legacy of past Freemasons. Americans, both young and old, are affected by the power of the ''Star Spangled Banner,'' for Francis Scott Key's words are so moving that it is not difficult to feel the bombs bursting in air; to see the rockets' red glare. In the years since the Second Continental Congress forged this Nation, dozens of stars have been added to the flag to represent the admittance of new States to the Union.

It seems that with each new star on Old Glory—a term which was also coined by a Mason—a new voice arose from the ranks of the Masons to weave another piece of the great American story. With their Flag Day celebration in Southampton, Suffolk County's Freemasons will be regaled with the same songs and traditions as their fellow Americans from throughout the land, but they can take special pride in knowing that, without their forefathers, our National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, and the design of the flag itself would be very different today. I would ask my fellow members of Congress to join me in applauding the work of the Freemasons, who have helped construct American patriotism as we have celebrated it for hundreds of years. And today, they still gather in the name of patriotism, to celebrate the American ideals of liberty, equality, and justice for all. There could be no more fitting tribute to the work of past Masons than this celebration of their works. For when we celebrate Flag Day, we are also celebrating the contributions of men such as Masons John Philip Sousa, Francis J. Bellemy, and Francis Scott Key.

AFFIRMING THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF PHONORECORDS TO THE PUBLIC BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1978, DID NOT CONSTITUTE PUBLICATION OF THE MUSICAL COMPOSITION EMBODIED IN THAT PHONORECORD UNDER COPYRIGHT LAW

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce an important piece of legislation which will affirm that the distribution of phonorecords to the public before January 1, 1978, did not constitute publication of the musical composition embodied in that phonorecord under the 1909 Copyright Act. It is intended to restore the law to what it was before the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in La Cienega Music Co. versus Z.Z. Top.[1]

Until that decision, it was the long-standing view of the Copyright Office and the understanding of the music industry, as reflected in their business practices, that the sale or distribution of recordings to the public before January 1, 1978, did not constitute publication of the musical composition embodied on the recording. This view was confirmed by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in Rosette versus Rainbo Record Mfg. Corp.[2]

The La Cienega decision has, therefore, placed a cloud over the legal status of a large number of musical works recorded and sold before January 1, 1978. Moreover, it has called into question the long established practices of the Copyright Office. This bill will remove the cloud and bring the law into conformity with the second circuit opinion and Copyright Office practices.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS M. ROLLI, MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the Honorable Nicholas M. Rolli, mayor of the Township of Verona, New Jersey.

Mayor Rolli, a lifelong resident of Verona, was born on September 29, 1954. He has served on the Township Council since 1981 and served as mayor from 1987 to 1989 and 1991 to 1993. He additionally served as deputy mayor from 1993 to 1994. Mayor Rolli was selected to fill a vacancy on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders when James Treffinger resigned to take the position of Essex County executive and was elected to fill that term on November 7, 1995.

Mayor Rolli, who worked his way through college at a supermarket and as a musician, graduated from Seton Hall University in 1976 with a B.S. in accounting and is active in alumni affairs, giving back to the school which gave him so much.

Mayor Rolli is the Director of Financial Communications for Philip Morris Co., Inc., the world's largest consumer packaged goods company. He has held this position since 1993. Previously he was the Manager of Financial Communications and prior to joining Philip Morris, Mayor Rolli was the Manager of Investor Relations with the Colgate-Palmolive Co. He is a member of the National Investor Relations Institute and the Association for Investment Management and Research.

Mayor Rolli is the founder of the Verona Mayor's Charity Ball, a nonpolitical, nonprofit fundraising program aimed at supporting civic and youth programs in Verona. The program has raised over $20,000 in its first 3 years.

Mayor Rolli is the President of the Italian-American Club of Verona and received the group's Distinguished Service award in 1991. He was named as one of the outstanding young men of America in 1988 and is a lector at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Verona. Mayor Rolli is a past trustee of the North Jersey Developmental Center, a volunteer position to which he was appointed by Gov. Thomas Kean.

Mayor Rolli and his wife, Judy, are the proud parents of their two children, Deana and Mark, ages 12 and 9 respectively, who attend Verona public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to join me, our colleagues, Mayor Rolli's family and

[1] 44 F.3d 813 (9th Cir.), cert denied, 64 U.S.L.W. 3262 (Oct. 10, 1995).

[2] 354 F. Supp. 1183 (S.D.N.Y.), aff'd per curiam, 546 F.2d 461 (2d Cir. 1976).

friends, the Township of Verona and the County of Essex in recognizing Mayor Nicholas M. Rolli's outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

THE COMPUTER INVESTMENT ACT—COMMONSENSE DEPRECIATION PERIOD FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce important legislation that will return common sense to the Internal Revenue Code by changing the depreciation period for computer equipment.

Currently, for tax purposes computer equipment must be depreciated over a 5-year period. Ironically, rapid technological advancements now being made in the computer industry guarantee that the average useful life of this equipment is 14 to 24 months. Businesses in highly competitive markets must continually replace computer equipment if they are to remain competitive. Although a small business will often purchase a new system after 2 years, it must keep the outdated equipment on the books for 5 years.

This legislation will update the Tax Code to ensure that it acknowledges ongoing, rapid advancements being made in the computer industry. This measure will change the depreciation period from 5 years to 2 years, ensuring that businesses are not penalized for making investments that keep them competitive. This change will serve to promote economic growth and job creation within these competitive industries.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join Representative BEN CARDIN, me, and other original cosponsors in support of this important legislation.

HONORING THE SAVE OUR YOUTH INITIATIVE, CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Save Our Youth Initiative's Congressional Youth Council.

One of the major challenges facing Brooklyn, and other parts of our Nation, is finding ways to open doors of opportunity for youth who constitute a disproportionately large share of the unemployed, underemployed, and incarcerated. Through the Save Our Youth Initiative, I am striving to eliminate this bleak outlook for our youth, and to provide the necessary resources so that youth can build successful lives. An important vehicle in this effort is my Congressional Youth Council.

Since spring 1996, the Youth Council's leadership role in the community encourages youth to become more active citizens. Through organizing community forums such as a Youth Town Hall meeting attended by over 200 youth and adults, participating in public hearings and other local events, and discussing policy issues with public officials such as Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, these youth blossomed into dedicated advocates. Each young leader—Macie Black, Keisha Walters, Jerome Jeffrey, Anjanee Pitambar, Alicia Lawrence, Francis Williams, and Akilah Holder—is a shining beacon of hope for the future of our community.

I am tremendously proud of their achievements in both school and the community. This month, five of these dedicated youth advocates will receive their New York State high school diplomas. They have truly shown that Generation X is a generation of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all of the members of my Congressional Youth Council.

INTRODUCTION OF ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer legislation on amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to make certain clarifications to the land bank protection provisions, and for other purposes. Last year, the House passed H.R. 2505, however, the U.S. Senate did not consider this legislation in the 104th Congress.

This legislation is identical to H.R. 2505 from the 104th Congress. The Alaska Federation of Natives, the State of Alaska, the administration and members and staff of the Committee on Resources have spent the last year and a half to reach a consensus with noncontroversial provisions.

For example, the bill would amend ANCSA to correct an inconsistency in current Federal law by allowing Regional Corporations to elect to acquire oil, gas, and coal estates reserved to the Federal Government beneath Native allotments surrounded or adjacent to subsurface lands conveyed to the Corporations pursuant to section 12 (a) of (b) of ANCSA.

Another provision would extend the exemption period from estate and gift tax for stock through its period of inalienability.

This bill would also amend ANILCA to extend the automatic land protections to land trades between village corporations, intraregional corporation land trades and Native Corporation land trades with the Federal or State governments.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this bill at this time to begin the process of reviewing each of these important provisions and others which affect Alaskans. I welcome comments on this important bill to ensure that we pass a noncontroversial bill at a later date.

HONORING THE NATIONAL VICTORY OF THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS LEAGUES

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievement of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League's statewide team. The team's Gold squad took first place in the Nation among Division I teams at the American Regions Math League Contest held in Iowa City, IA. This is a proud new achievement for the State of Minnesota, in that Minnesota has never finished first in this national competition which draws nearly 1,000 high school students representing nearly every State across the Nation.

The League hosted two teams from Minnesota, the Maroon and Gold teams, in the tradition of the Golden Gopher spirit and the University of Minnesota's school colors. The Gold team consists of 15 all-star ''mathletes,'' 5 of whom are from St. Paul schools in the Fourth Congressional District which I am honored to represent. The Minnesota Maroon team, which placed seventh in the Division II competition bracket, is composed of 15 excellent math students, 4 of whom also attend schools in my hometown of St. Paul.

As a life-long science educator, I am proud of all these students and feel that the high level of participation by so many students from St. Paul is testimony to the level of support from families, teachers, and the St. Paul community. I would especially congratulate the coaches of these teams, all of whom are teachers. As an educator in Minnesota, I well understand the hard work, dedication, and determination that added up to success for the Minnesota Gold and Maroon teams at this national mathematics competition.

I am sure my colleagues will join me in commending the fine, hard-working students of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics Leagues for national excellence in mathematics. In a time when budgets are tight, classrooms are overcrowded, teachers are overworked, and students are faced with increasing challenges both in the school and in the home, the national achievement of these Minnesota students and teachers are all the more encouraging. Successes like these serve to remind us of our national priorities and the importance of investing in our children through education.

Congratulations to all the Minnesota students and the students from across the Nation who participated in this year's mathematics competition.

Members of the Minnesota Gold team were: Matt Craighead, St. Paul Academy; Eugene Davydov, St. Louis Park; Dave Freeman, Blake; Keith Frikken, Winona; John Gregg, St. Paul Academy; Matt Hancher, St. Paul Academy; Jesse Kamp, Apple Valley; Tom McElmurry, Irondale; Andy Niedermaier, Benilde-St. Margaret's; Nate Ostberg, St. Thomas Academy; Bill Owens, Rochester Mayo; Lars Roe, St. Paul Central; Joshua VonKorff, St. Cloud Tech; Jin Wang, Rochester John Marshall; and Ben Zweibel, St. Louis Park.