Mr. Speaker, please join me and the New Lothrop community in congratulating these women on their excellent talents and leadership skills.

THE GAMING INDUSTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, you hear many arguments surrounding the gaming industry in America. Some have merit, some do not. Some criticism is deserved, some is not. Mr. Speaker, before I make my statement today I want to make it abundantly clear that while I am not an ardent proponent of the gaming industry nor an ardent foe of the gaming industry, I am an ardent foe of illegal activity in the gaming industry. Furthermore, I am an ardent support of consumer rights and consumer rights is exactly what I intend to discuss today.

At the heart of my comments today is how certain gaming companies treat their patrons and how they conduct business. I believe that the vast majority of casino owners play by the rules, treat their patrons fairly, and provide quality entertainment for individuals and families. I have talked with many of these businessmen over the years who have conducted themselves in such a professional manner. However, there are a few bad apples out there who don't play by the rules and that is just plain wrong.

One such example is the case of Suncruz casino's based out of Florida. Florida authorities, particularly Attorney General Butterworth have repeatedly reprimanded Suncruz casinos and its owner Gus Boulis for taking illegal bets, not paying out their customers properly and has had to take steps to prevent Suncruz from conducting operations all together. In fact, a few years ago the Broward County Sheriffs Office, under the supervision of Mr Butterworth, raided Suncruz ships seizing their equipment.

Mr. Speaker, how Suncruz Casinos and Gus Boulis conduct themselves with regard to Florida laws is very unnerving. But the consumer rights issue is even more disheartening. On December 1, 1998 the Broward County Sheriffs department announced that they had uncovered evidence that dealers on SunCruz ships were ''cheating passengers by using incomplete decks of cards.'' This type of conduct gives the gaming industry a black eye and should not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat myself again. The vast majority of casino owners and operators are good honest people, but when an owner or operator stoops to this level to make a buck it hurts the public and it hurts the industry as a whole. I believe we can strike a balance here and our first step is to ensure that the average citizen is not hoodwinked by a dishonest casino operator.

There should be clear codes of conduct that are adhered to by every casino owner and operator. On the Ohio River we have gaming interests that run clean operations and provide quality entertainment. I don't want to see the actions of one bad apple in Florida, or anywhere else to affect the business aspect of this industry or hurt any innocent casino patron in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that steps will be taken by the industry, and in the case of lawbreakers- by the appropriate authorities to weed out the bad apples so that we can protect consumers across the country.

WELCOMING PROBATE JUDGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome members and guests of the National College of Probate Judges to the Capitol today.

The National College of Probate Judges is comprised of judicial office holders across the country who adjudicate estates of decedents, who appoint guardians for individuals with incapacities and who hear mental health cases and cases involving persons with developmental disabilities.

Recently, the College promulgated standards and model legislation addressing interstate transfers of guardianships and conservatorships. The College is sponsoring an International Conference on Courts and the Aging to be held in London in July in conjunction with the American Bar Association.

I am particularly happy to welcome Judge Richard E. Burke, president of the College, who resides in New Canaan, Connecticut and is a constituent of mine. I am equally pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the following office holders and members: Judge Mary Sheffield—Rolla, Missouri; Judge Nikkie DeShazzo—Dallas, Texas; Judge John Maher—Kingston, New Hampshire; Judge Haywood Barry—Lebanon, Tennessee; Judge Patsy Stone—Florence, South Carolina; Judge Larry Belskis—Columbus, Ohio; Judge Larry Kay—San Francisco, California; Judge Ray Eubanks—Spartanburg, South Carolina; Judge Frank Riddick—Huntsville, Alabama; and Judge John N. Kirkendell—Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CHRISTIAN EMBASSY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Christian Embassy, a spiritual resource to government and diplomatic leadership in Washington. I would like to congratulate its founders, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bright, and honor them for their commitment to serving those of us who are public servants in our Nation's Capital.

Dr. Bright is also the founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ, of which Christian Embassy is a part. He has authored numerous books and articles on the Christian life and has received a host of awards, among them the 1996 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

His wife, Vonette, is co-founder of Campus Crusade. Her commitment to prayer for our nation and work in the Kingdom of God is a tribute to their family.

Dr. and Mrs. Bright have spent many hours with political leaders in Washington, offering encouragement and spiritual counsel. They feel strongly that leaders of integrity are vital in the task of strengthening the fabric of America and ensuring its stability for future generations.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the inception of Christian Embassy, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the vision and faith of its founders, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bright.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 292. On March 18th the people of Taiwan went to the polls for only the second time in their history to elect a national president. The U.S. has been stalwart in its support of democracies throughout the world and it is only fitting for Congress to congratulate Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for upholding democracy in the elections. In their first transfer of power, the voters have spoken and voiced their support for Mr. Chen.

Holding an olive branch on election night, Mr. Chen stated his desire to invigorate negotiations with mainland China. A peaceful resolution that will preserve democracy in Taiwan must be pursued. I urge the Chinese government to reconsider its rejection of Mr. Chen's proposed peace summit.

China and Taiwan have a unique opportunity to showcase their economic strength in the region. If negotiations are stifled, the economic future of both countries will remain uncertain but political stability will determine their success in the new economy.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Chen and his party for their historic victory and urge him to continue on the road to peace and ask my colleagues to join me.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE DEVELOPMENTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues attention the nation of Kazakhstan. This young nation has emerged, under the leadership of its President Nursultan Nazarbayev, as a bastion of democracy and free market economics in Central Asia. I am entering into the RECORD two articles written recently by R. Emmett Tyrell, Jr. of the Conservative New Service who just returned from Kazakhstan reporting on that nation's ethnic and cultural diversity, its free media, and its strategic importance to the United States.