

if I can mention them: the telecommunications reform, financial services modernization, FDA reform, modernizing securities law, securities litigation reform, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Internet tax freedom, Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act, the Child On-line Protection Act, Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Improving the Food Quality Act, the Open Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act, also known as ORBIT, the Balanced Budget Act, Medicare part B and Medicaid and Kids Care were refined and improved through the work of the Committee on Commerce, the necessary improvements on our efforts to balance the budget and the effects that it had on Medicare.

□ 1915

Legislation that, maybe, made a difference for availability of mammography. Biomaterials Access Assurance Act, the Health Insurance Act, the Health Insurance Portability Act, the Assistive Suicide Restriction Act, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act, the list goes on, the Wireless Communication and Public Safety Act, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act, the Chemical Safety Information Act, the Clean Air Act and its amendments, the Animal Drug Availability Act, the Electronic Signature Act.

The breadth of what the Committee on Commerce deals with as well as the accomplishments in these many areas I think create a sense of just how big a job the job of the chairman of the Committee on Commerce is, and the accomplishments suggest how well that job has been done.

Another area I want to mention as we draw to conclusion here is the chairman's efforts on behalf of adoption. The Blileys' children, Tom and Mary Virginia's children were adopted. He is a leader on adoption issues in the House of Representatives. He testifies before other committees. He testified just this year before the Committee on Ways and Means and in favor of adoption legislation.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) said "I have been blessed", and when he gave his testimony, "I have been blessed by my experiences with adoption. So now I am doing what I can to help thousands of innocent children find a mom and a dad." He added that mom and dad are the greatest titles in the world.

He led efforts to increase adoption counseling and to make the adoption tax credit permanent, and increased the cap for that tax credit from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) is a man who has cared about the issues we deal with. He has cared about the jurisdiction of his committee, the efforts that that committee needed to make to see that the United States was at the forefront in com-

merce, the efforts that we need to see that Medicare works properly, the efforts that we need to make to see that we have safety in transportation and in commerce, that we have security over the Internet and in the changes in telecommunications.

The gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) has done a tremendous job, a job that people in this Congress will remember and talk about for a long time. While people all over America may not talk about the legislation that has been passed for a long time, they will benefit from the legislation that has been passed and the leadership that has been shown for years to come, for decades to come, as we enter this new century, a century with limitless opportunity and a century that really defies the old definition of what was possible.

The Committee on Commerce under the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has been at the forefront of making it possible for us to be the incredibly competitive society that we are in America today.

Mr. Speaker, it would be easy to overlook many of the accomplishments in this life and career. I am glad we had a chance to share some of those tonight. Others will be shared in the official RECORD of the proceedings today. But I am glad that we were able to be here, Members of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman COBLE), and others who have submitted their remarks from many committees and from both parties, both parties here on the floor tonight, remembering the great work, the great leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TOM BLILEY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, It would be easy to overlook many of the accomplishments of his life and career—I'd like to share some of the highlights of a lifetime of accomplishment. TOM BLILEY represents the Seventh Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the United States House of Representatives. The Seventh District includes the western part of the City of Richmond as well as sections of Albemarle, Chesterfield, and Henrico Counties; it includes all of Culpeper, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Louisa, Madison, Orange, and Powhatan Counties.

TOM BLILEY began his political career in 1968 when he was first elected to the City Council of Richmond, Virginia. He served as Vice-Mayor from 1968 to 1970, and then as Mayor from 1970 to 1977. He was first elected to Congress in 1980 and has been elected to each succeeding Congress. As a former President of Joseph W. Bliley Funeral Homes, he gained important business experience that has shaped his attitude towards problems facing small business owners.

In Washington, Mr. BLILEY is serving his third term as Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, the oldest committee in the House. As Chairman, he is an ex officio member of the five Commerce Committee subcommittees: Telecommunications, Trade,

and Consumer Protection; Finance and Hazardous Materials; Health and Environment; Energy and Power; and Oversight and Investigation.

As Mr. BLILEY plans the committee agenda and schedule hearings and legislation for the 106th Congress, he follows the same, time-tested principles that have made his committee one of the most constructive and successful in Congress: Promoting free and fair markets, standing up for consumer choice and common sense safeguards for our health and the environment, keeping an eye on the federal bureaucracy.

In the 105th Congress, Mr. BLILEY was instrumental in the enactment of the Food and Drug Administration and Modernization Act. New treatments will be available sooner for the seriously ill while expanding access to safe and effective drugs, devices, and food because of Mr. BLILEY's efforts. Electronic commerce is the newest, fastest growing form of interstate and foreign commerce. Mr. BLILEY was a leader in the enactment of a new law setting a three-year moratorium on certain taxes for Internet access or consumer purchases made via the Internet.

Mr. BLILEY also led the drive to enact the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1998. This legislation will assure the safety, accuracy, and overall quality of mammography services for women. This bill will help save lives by ensuring for the first time that all patients are directly notified of their mammogram results in terms they can understand.

In the 104th Congress, Mr. BLILEY broke up bigger monopolies than President Theodore Roosevelt. He tore up more federal regulations over American businesses than President Reagan. Mr. BLILEY led passage of the Telecommunications Act and opened a trillion-dollar a year industry to fair, free, and open trade. He gave Americans peace-of-mind about the chemicals in the foods we eat, and about the purity of the water we drink when he successfully led bipartisan efforts to enact Food Safety and Safe Drinking Water legislation into law.

Mr. BLILEY also spearheaded enactment of Securities Litigation Reform, part of the "Contract with America." When President Clinton vetoed that measure, Mr. BLILEY led the House in the first—and only—successful veto override of the Clinton Presidency. Under Mr. BLILEY's leadership, the most comprehensive overhaul of the nation's securities laws in more than 60 years was achieved upon enactment of the Capital Markets legislation.

Since his first election to Congress, Mr. BLILEY has been recognized by many organizations for his work. He has served in various roles with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—from November 1994–October 1998, he was Chairman of the Economic Committee, in November 1998, he became one of the four Vice Presidents; and, with the resignation of its President in May 2000, Mr. BLILEY became the Acting President and will serve in this capacity until November 2000. His commitment to balancing the federal budget has earned him the National Watchdog of the Treasury's "Golden Bulldog Award" every year since 1981. He has been named a "Guardian of Small Business" by the National Federation of Independent Business. The Louisville Courier Journal called him "the most powerful Virginian since Harry Byrd" and the National Journal, in a front page feature, called him "Mr. Smooth."

Mr. BLILEY has served on a number of boards and commissions including: National League of Cities; Children's Hospital; and, Metropolitan Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Mr. BLILEY is a member of the Richmond Rotary Club and he currently serves on the Virginia Biotechnology Research Park Authority. In 1996, Mr. BLILEY was named to the Board of Governors of the Virginia Home for Boys.

Born in Chesterfield County, Virginia, Mr. BLILEY is a lifelong resident of the Richmond area. He earned his B.A. in History from Georgetown University and immediately following served three years in the United States Navy rising to the rank of Lieutenant. He has recently received honorary doctorate degrees from Georgetown University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Christopher Newport College, Belmont Abbey College and University of Richmond. Mr. BLILEY received the Beta Gamma Sigma Leadership Award from the University of Richmond's Robins School of Business.

Mr. BLILEY is married to the former Mary Virginia Kelley and is the father of two, Thomas J. Bliley III and Mary Vaughan (Bliley) Davies. The Blileys have two granddaughters, Jenny and Kathy Davies and two grandsons, Thomas J. Bliley IV and Shawn Bliley.

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, we come together today to honor my distinguished colleague and friend, Chairman TOM BLILEY. I have had the pleasure of working with TOM during my entire career in the U.S. House of Representatives. As dean of the Virginia delegation, I have come to know him as a gentleman and a tireless servant to the people of the seventh district of Virginia and the nation as a whole.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, TOM oversaw the passage of the landmark Telecommunications Act, which opened up the industry to free and open competition. During his tenure, he has striven to support common sense safety standards, to reduce the regulatory burden on our nation's small businesses, and to overhaul the nation's securities laws.

I have traveled with TOM many times over the years to attend NATO Parliamentary Assembly sessions. TOM has served a number of roles in the Assembly since 1994; currently, he is serving as the Acting President. His dedication to maintaining a strong trans-Atlantic relationship and strong support for the NATO alliance will leave its mark for years to come.

With his retirement, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation will lose one of its most dedicated and conscientious servants. As a fellow "rag boater," I want to wish TOM and his wife, Mary Virginia, the best for the years to come.

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, what can I say about TOM BLILEY that has not already been said?

He has been an effective Member of Congress, looking out for our national interests as chairman of the House Commerce Committee.

He has effectively represented his constituents in Virginia's seventh district—as well as the rest of the commonwealth.

But he's been around longer than that—serving as mayor, vice-mayor, and as a member of the city council of Richmond.

Prior to that, TOM's business background and experience gave him special insight about

the problems and challenges faced by small business.

Obviously, that background and experience is similar to mine.

But that is not the only thing that endears TOM BLILEY to me.

I can truly say, "I knew him when."

He has been a friend for so many years that I'm not sure I even like to think about how long it's been.

As I look back on all the things he's done, I realized I first knew him when he was mayor of Richmond.

That was 30 years ago. Then he was elected to Congress in 1980.

I was elected just a couple of years later.

And I can assure you: One of the most rewarding parts of this job has been serving and working with TOM.

We've worked on issues ranging from those that impacted Virginia to those that impacted NATO.

For a couple of young men from Richmond, I'd say we've come a long way.

But TOM's greatest strength, and I hope one I share, is he never forgot where he came from.

Serving the people at home was his strong point, equaled only by being such a great Virginia gentleman.

I am honored that he is my friend.

INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENT OF WEN HO LEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to express my deep concerns about the overall unfortunate circumstances that have revolved around Wen Ho Lee.

On March 6 of 1999, the New York Times reported that government investigators believed that China had accelerated its nuclear weapons program with the aid of stolen American secrets. This report, along with other reports that came subsequently, led to a frenzy of activity. In fact, 2 days after the March 6, 1999 New York Times report, Wen Ho Lee, who was identified, was then fired from the laboratory; and soon after that, he was charged with the various offenses.

In September of this year, September 26, 2000, the New York Times took the very exceptional opportunity to explain the backup of their reporting, going back to March 6, 1999. Although they really made no overt apologies for the conclusions that they drew in their March 6, 1999 article, it is interesting to note that they made various observations.

First, they said looking back, and I quote from this article of New York Times Tuesday September 26: "But looking back, we also found some things that we wish we had done differently in the course of the coverage to give Dr. Lee the full benefit of the doubt. In those months, we could have pushed harder to uncover weaknesses in the FBI case against Dr. Lee. Our

coverage would have been strengthened had we moved faster to assess the scientific, technical and investigative assumptions that led the FBI and the Department of Energy to connect Dr. Lee to what is still widely acknowledged to have been a major security breach."

The Times neither imagined the security breach, as they go on to say, nor did they initiate the case against Dr. Wen Ho Lee. But, however, it was the March 6 article that set the tone for the coverage against this individual in the ensuing months.

The New York Times editorial of September 26, 2000 goes on to say, "The article, however, had flaws that are more apparent now that the weaknesses of the FBI case against Dr. Lee have surfaced. It did not pay enough attention to the possibility that there had been a major intelligence loss in which the Los Alamos scientist was a minor player," and perhaps maybe even uninvolved.

"The Times should have moved more quickly", it said in this article, "to open a second line of reporting, particularly among scientists inside and outside the government."

This article is a very unique and interesting attempt on the part of the New York Times to respond to severe criticism that other journalists had leveled against the New York Times for its March 6, 1999 article.

But in any event, the ensuing events that evolved around Dr. Wen Ho Lee is what prompts me to come to the floor tonight to speak about this incident. It is very strange that, if there was such an egregious breach of national security presumably organized and conducted by Dr. Wen Ho Lee, that it took 9 months to obtain an indictment against him, during which time he was completely free.

At that time, 9 months later, they charged him with 59 separate felony offenses. Thirty-nine counts alleged that Dr. Lee violated the Atomic Energy Act because he mishandled material containing restricted data with the intent to injure the United States and with the intent to secure an advantage to a foreign Nation. Ten counts alleged that Dr. Lee unlawfully obtained defense information in violation of the law, ten counts of willfully retaining national defense information in violation of the law.

What safeguards did the government take to make sure that Dr. Wen Ho Lee did not flee or transfer the tapes to some individual during those 9 months? Nothing that I am aware of. He was certainly a security risk from the time that he was fired from the Los Alamos laboratory until he was finally charged on December 10, 1999.

Now suddenly we read in the newspapers in September of the year 2000 that 58 charges leveled against Dr. Wen Ho Lee were dropped under a plea bargain involving the plea of guilty on one count only and a pledge to cooperate with the government to disclose why he did it and how he disposed of the