

Senator, he has truly been a workhorse—and it's paid off. Senator ABRAHAM is one of the few Members of the Senate that can say 16 bills he wrote have been signed into law.

One of the things I am most proud of is our work this past Congress to protect kids across America from the dangers of "date rape" drugs. By working together, we were able to write and pass a bill that outlaws the dangerous substance, GHB, and its close chemical cousins. This legislation was named in memory of Samantha Reid, a southeast Michigan teenager who died in 1999 after drinking from a can of Mountain Dew that was secretly laced with GHB.

I would personally like to thank Senator ABRAHAM for his assistance this past year to secure badly needed funds from Southwest Michigan's farmers whose crops had been devastated by fireblight. By working together we were able to deliver much needed relief to these farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM has left a distinct mark on our nation. I submit my remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to be inspired by the contributions of Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM of Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY RESCUE
MISSION OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the City Rescue Mission of Saginaw, Michigan. The dedicated support and dependable guidance of this organization has lifted the spirits of many homeless men, women and children for nearly a century.

Since 1905, the City Rescue Mission has stood as a beacon of hope for the homeless and economically disadvantaged throughout Saginaw County. The mission has a proud history of stepping up to the plate to move the less fortunate from dependency to self-sufficiency in a manner that respects individuals by providing them with the resources necessary for them to share in the fortunes of our society and ultimately to contribute back to our community.

The Rescue Mission's light still shines brightly as it continues to develop new and progressive methods to help the less fortunate find paths to success. Recently, the Mission opened the Frank N. Andersen Family Empowerment Center and enhanced its Literacy Education Center with a new computer lab and software programs to tutor users in math, information skills, writing, language arts and reading. As a result, many clients have been able to successfully complete General Education Development certificate requirements as a first step to full and meaningful employment.

Throughout the years, the City Rescue Mission has been blessed by an outpouring of volunteer help and financial assistance from community-minded benefactors who seek to share in caring for the needy and promoting economic and spiritual salvation. Clearly, the Mission is more effective today than at any other time in its long and honorable history.

Mr. Speaker, the City Rescue Mission of Saginaw has transformed for the better the

lives of those who cross its threshold and take part in its ministry. It is especially gratifying to have such an organization in Michigan's Fifth Congressional District. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a heartfelt thank-you to the Mission for a job well-done and wishing them many years of continued success on behalf of those in need.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT K.
REAVES, OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
SERVANT AND CONSERVATION
LEADER

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the leadership and outstanding public service of a member of our federal workforce.

After nearly 45 years of service, Robert K. Reaves will retire on January 3, 2001 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. In his role in public service, Bob set an example for everyone with a strong commitment to excellence, dedication to integrity, and an enthusiasm for conservation of natural resources.

Mr. Reaves was born and raised in the Washington, DC area and spent time in his youth working on his Uncle's tobacco farm in North Carolina. He attended George Washington University and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

In February of 1956 he began federal service with United States Geological Survey as a chemical technician in water quality. In May of 1969, Bob joined the United States Department of Agriculture's Research Service, as a program analyst. He served the Department in several capacities related to the budget development.

In 1981, Bob joined the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). For nearly two decades, Bob provided top-level expertise on conservation issues, including serving as the Budget Officer for NRCS. In 1997-98, Mr. Reaves was a key advisor in the USDA Civil Rights review and helped develop budget initiatives to support Civil Rights initiatives and several other key areas of Department Administration.

In his role with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mr. Reaves has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to public awareness of conservation issues, and has served as a source of expertise on national issues for executive branch and legislative branch officials alike. He is also a leading advocate for conservation funding, and has appeared before committees of this Congress on several occasions to support private lands conservation. The individual accomplishments of Mr. Reaves are many, but his years of service are a testament to his dedication, integrity and commitment to his work.

After 45 years of federal service, Bob will have a chance to share the fruits of retirement with his wife, Peggy and pursue hobbies including woodworking, and gardening. Although he will be missed by his colleagues at the Department and many friends here on Capitol Hill, we wish him the very best in his future pursuits. We thank him and salute him for a job well done and wish him well as he em-

barks upon new frontiers and endeavors that retirement will offer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 603 (H.R. 4577). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4577,
DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2001

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include the following statement in the record to accompany H.R. 5663, the New Markets Venture Capital Program Act of 2000, as enacted by the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 4577. This legislation was originally Title IX of H.R. 5545, as enacted through the conference report accompanying H.R. 2614. Unfortunately, H.R. 2614 did not gain approval in the Senate. However, we were able to save the provisions of H.R. 5545 in H.R. 5663 and H.R. 5667, which were enacted as part of the Conference Report for H.R. 4577, the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The summary I am inserting is almost identical to the language of the conference report filed with H.R. 5545. The bill language has not changed and neither has the intent of the House and Senate Small Business Committees concerning the New Markets Venture Capital Program Act of 2000. I submit this statement as a Joint Statement of the House Managers in order to provide assistance to the Small Business Administration in implementing this law.

The purpose of H.R. 5663 the "New Markets Venture Capital Program Act of 2000," is to promote economic development, wealth and job opportunities in low income (LI) areas by encouraging venture capital investments and offering technical assistance to small enterprises. The central goal of the legislation is to fulfill the unmet equity investment needs of small enterprises primarily located in LI areas.

The bill creates a developmental venture capital program by amending the Small Business Investment Act to authorize the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to enter into participation agreements with 10 to 20 New Markets Venture Capital (NMVC) companies in a public/private partnership. It further authorizes SBA to guarantee debentures of NMVC companies to enable them to make venture capital investments in smaller enterprises in LI areas. And it authorizes SBA to make grants to NMVC companies, and to other entities, for the purpose of providing technical assistance to smaller enterprises that