for broadband Internet access, and we suspect that the slothful deployment of broadband has played a significant role in Nasdaq's struggles of late and the dot-com skid in general. In effect, government control of the airwaves has helped to create virtual queues.

One way that industry has responded to the FCC's frequency-hoarding is by developing ways to increase the capacity and efficiency of available spectrum. The idea is to share and reuse bandwidth with existing spectrum occupants, and without drowning out what's already being transmitted over the same frequency.

Northpoint Technology, for example, wants to offer a low-cost alternative to DirecTV and EchoStar, the direct broadcast satellite giants. Northpoint's plan is to use part of its capacity to offer channels like MTV and HBO, while using the other part to offer high-speed Internet and other data services. But before any of this can happen. Northpoint needs access to the spectrum. DirecTV and EchoStar, which already occupy the spectrum and would have to compete with Northpoint, are defending their turf. That's understandable, even if their claim that Northpoint's signal would interfere with theirs is largely bogus. Repeated independent studies and field tests have provided no evidence of anything extraordinary.

What we don't understand is the behavior of the FCC, which says it's still thinking about it. Northpoint first applied for the license in 1994, so the FCC has been thinking about it for seven years.

A provision of the 1996 Telecommunications Act requires the FCC to act on new technology within 12 months, but never mind that. If fundamental reform of the allocation process isn't in the cards right now, the very least that regulators can do is allow the Northpoints out there to make innovative use of the available spectrum.

The larger issue is whether our telecom regulators and our telecom regulations are serving the New Economy or burdening it. How many would-be innovators have looked at Northpoint's ordeal and concluded, why bother? And how much longer must we wait for mass deployment of broadband? something is in the way of all this happening sooner rather than later, and it's certainly not the technology.

FCC Commissioner Michael Powell has at least signaled an awareness of these problems. Last month, he told House appropriators that spectrum allocation ''is on the top of my agenda'' and that broadband deployment is a priority. Industry and consumers alike have reason to hope he means it.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to join in this special order. In honor of this important occasion and to recognize the contributions of hard working immigrants who have formed the backbone of this great country, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of restoring food stamp benefits for legal immigrants.

For over 30 years, food stamp eligibility was based solely on need. However, due to the 1996 Welfare Reform legislation, people became disqualified for food stamps based on the immigration status. While this was partially repealed in 1998, there are stail many immigrants, which include taxpaying parents working low-income jobs, children, disabled people, and many elderly people who arrived after 1996 and are ineligible for food stamps, In a country as great as the United States and where resources are plentiful, hardworking immigrants should not be denied crucial work supports such as food stamps.

As well, many citizen children of legal immigrants are hurt because of these eligibility restrictions. The vast majority of immigrant families are mixed status families that often include at least one U.S. Citizen, which is typically a child. There is a great deal of confusion about who is eligible for benefits and this deters immigrant families with children who are citizens from applying for food stamps. In fact, participation by these children with legal permanent resident parents declined 70% from 1994 to 1998, from 1.35 million to 350,000, more than twice the overall rate of participation decline for this period. A recent study by the Urban Institute reported that nationwide, 37 percent of all children of immigrants lived in families worried about or encountering difficulties affording food. Children are the future of this country and it is a tragedy that the greatest nation in the world would allow them to go hungry.

Congressman WALSH and Congresswoman CLAYTON recently introduced the Nutrition Assistance for Working Families and Seniors Act, which I fully support. This bill would restore Food Stamp Program eligibility to all legal immigrants and make other modest improvements in the program for working families. This legislation is a step in the right direction in fighting the hunger problem in America and I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Our country is a nation of immigrants and we should recognize the important contribution they make to this country by restoring food stamp benefits to them. Mr. Speaker, thanks for allowing me to join with my colleagues to speak on this special order.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE 202ND COMBAT ENGINEERS, COMPANY B

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of World War II Veterans who helped change the course of history in Europe. Their contribution to the American war efforts is significant and they should be recognized for their contribution.

The 202nd Combat Engineers, Company B, was a unique group that was made up of young men from Ohio and the American Midwest. Trained as engineers at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, they preceded the infantry, during invasions, to cut roads, blow up pillboxes, remove mines and build bridges so the infantry could advance. The success of the ground forces was directly linked to the success or failure of the engineers.

During their assignment to the European Theater, the 202nd contributed to some of the most notable battles of World War II. Omaha Beach, Normandy, Battle for Breast, the Break Out of St. Lo, Crossing the Rhine, and the Battle of the Bulge, were just a few of the famous battles in which these men served.

In one battle at Carhaix, France, the 202nd constructed a bridge more than 40 miles ahead of the infantry. This bridge is particularly noteworthy because it was the longest treadway pontoon bridge in the world, spanning 1152 feet. They accomplished this feat all while under heavy enemy fire.

This year the members of the 202nd will be awarded the 'Spirit of Liberty Award' from the French government for their efforts in liberating France during the Second World War. The presentation will take place on June 23, 2001, during a reunion of the 202nd in Middletown Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, this great group of men, in part, were responsible for bringing the conflict in Europe to an end. We thank them for the service to their country and to the world.

TRIBUTE TO DICK GORBY AND ROCKY BARKER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the good works of two of the residents of my district, Dick Gorby and Rocky Barker, who together make up the staff of the Veterans Employment Office in Bend, Oregon. I could not be more pleased that the efforts of these two dedicated public servants have earned their tiny, yet effective, office of the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security award of ''Best Veterans Unit'' for the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the Bend Veterans Employment Office assists local veterans in finding meaningful employment. But of course, it does much more. It reminds the men and women who have worn America's uniform that their nation and community are grateful for their service. The tireless efforts of Dick Gorby and Rocky Barker have sent this message loud and clear to the veterans in and around Bend. Their success has meant the difference between frustrating unemployment and a sense of dignity and purpose for the thousands of veterans they serve. I salute their commitment to Oregon's veterans and thank them for their selfless devotion on behalf of the men and women who have served our nation so honorably.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WADE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an environmental champion and respected leader—John Wade. On Thursday, May 17, 2001, John passed away from injuries he sustained from a fall during a hiking trip in the mountains of Colorado. He was 81. All those in Colorado who respect the natural world and our duties to the environment will greatly miss John and his passion for people and the landscape.

John was a Presbyterian pastor and a university counselor. He had a pastorate in Utah and Colorado. During his time as a university

counselor in Utah, he provided guidance to young men during the Vietnam War and organized the first Earth Day celebration on the University of Utah campus. After that, John returned to his native state of Colorado where he became director of the San Luis Valley Christian Community Services in Alamosa. He retired to Pueblo, Colorado in 1984 and later moved to Denver. But he never slowed down, not even in retirement.

John carried his strong spirit of public service and his belief in the spiritual component of environmentalism into his retirement. He was the living embodiment of the connection between spiritual growth and caring and respect for the natural environment. He understood that these two concepts and ways of acting are complimentary and in fact work in concert. He made it his mission to help others understand this connection and take action to fulfill man's obligations to the natural world. As a result, he joined local Colorado chapters of the Sierra Club where he volunteered vast amounts of his time and energies. In so doing, he became a leader in conservation work for the Sierra Club in Colorado.

John also was a member of the Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, a national group which, among other things, works to place environmental educators in each of the nation's 175 Presbyterian leadership groups. It was John's goal to see this accomplished. John himself described the importance of this goal, not only for Presbyterians but all faiths, when he said, ''Conservation is an integral part of Christian discipleship, and the scriptures teach us to both till and keep the earth.'' In keeping with these beliefs, John was also chair of the Colorado Council of Churches' Environmental Commission, which continues to help instill greater awareness of the preservation of the environment as a spiritual obligation in denominations throughout Colorado.

In addition to his work with the Sierra Club and religious groups on environmental efforts, John's strong sense of civic responsibility was demonstrated in other ways. He was outspoken on social justice issues through his work on university campuses throughout the Southwest. He jointed marches for labor and human rights—especially as those issues arise in connection with the growing, interconnected global economy. He was concerned about urban sprawl and growth and its attendant impacts to the environment and communities. In addition, he served on a panel, created by Governor Roy Romer in 1994, to address issues related to the grazing of livestock on the federal public lands. His work here, along with the other members of the group, helped steer a new course on these issues and led to the successful creation of public advisory boards which provide input to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on resource management issues. He did all of this and more in retirement.

Especially impressive was John's energy and vigor. He climbed 32 of Colorado's 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks. He continued to hike, march and contribute right up until his unfortunate accident. His robust condition and positive outlook clearly helped shape his views and helped inspire many to join his causes.

John died doing what he loved—enjoying the splendor and beauty of the natural world. His legacy rests with those who knew him, shared his beliefs and were influenced by his teachings, inspiration and leadership. In the heated debates over environmental polices and issues, the underlying—and overarching—principle of stewardship and our spiritual relationship to the Earth is too often overlooked. John understood this spiritual connection implicitly. He understood that the health, sustainability and stewardship of the environment not only sustains and enriches our lives, but brings us closer to our obligations under religious teaching to care for and not squander the natural bounty that has been entrusted unto us. John's life stands as a reminder that we cannot forget the importance of our place in the world and our obligations to it and to provide an enhanced environment for future generations to inherit.