The Honorable William J. Howell is the 54th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, a nearly 400–year old institution and the oldest continuously elected law-making body in the world. First elected a delegate in 1987, he represents the 28th House District which includes parts of Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg.

In addition to his noteworthy legislative contributions to public education and public safety, the 2007 enactment of his legislation for historic land use changes were supported by statewide and regional funding of roads, railroads, and transit. He has been a strong supporter of restoring the Chesapeake Bay and also led the effort to enact Virginia's national model program for preserving open spaces using free market principles. He has stood firmly with battlefield preservationists in many of their efforts, including those at Slaughter Pen Farm in Fredericksburg, as well as more recently at the Wilderness. And his leadership enabled the General Assembly to appropriate $5 million in state funding for Civil War battlefield preservation.

Speaker Howell is chairman of the Virginia Sesquicentennial American Civil War Commission that is now preparing to mark the 150th Anniversary in 2011 of Virginia's entry into the Civil War. He has been twice honored by the Civil War Preservation Trust with its State Leadership Award. He was one of the overseers of the recent State Capitol renovations as well as one of the leaders in organizing the commemoration in 2007 of America's 400th Anniversary at Jamestown.

HONORING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eisenhower High School in Rialto, California, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

The students and alumni of Eisenhower High School will celebrate 50 years of continued academic excellence, October 17, 2009. This anniversary is a milestone for Rialto, California. Throughout the past 50 years, the school has provided an exemplary educational service to its students and has contributed greatly to the community.

Eisenhower first opened its doors in fall of 1959, and since then has achieved success in academics, athletics and community service while providing a high level of education. They have always been a school of inclusion and unity regardless of an individual's background.

Eisenhower High School has been able to maintain an outstanding athletic program for their students, allowing them to participate in activities that promote the values of team work, integrity, and dedication. Their athletic teams have consistently won conference titles in varied sports, including football, basketball, wrestling, and swimming. The boy's basketball team currently holds the State Championship title. With this victory they became the first California Interscholastic Federation State title holders for a school from San Bernardino County.

Pro Football Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott graduated from Eisenhower High School. He went on to play for the San Francisco 49ers and was named to the NFL's 75th Anniversary team. Among other Eisenhower High School alumni whom have played on the professional level are Brandi Burton, David Lang, Jeff Conine, Darnell Coles, and Craig Newsome. Another distinguished alumnus is Derek Parra, Olympic Speed-Skating gold medalist and 1500 meter world record holder.

Eisenhower High School has also achieved recognition in academics and community service. They have achieved recognition on the state level as well as national recognition. Anita Ware, alumna of Eisenhower, was its first student to be awarded the prestigious Westinghouse Science Award. The school newspaper, the Eagle's Eye, received an award in 1976 for being one of the nation's best student newspapers from the National Scholastic Press Association and Quill & Scroll. Eisenhower High School was also recognized as a National Blue Ribbon and as a California Distinguished School.

Both of my sons graduated from Eisenhower High School. My son Joe Baca, Jr., served in the State Assembly and is now the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Rialto. Jeremy Baca is an outstanding private consultant.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Eisenhower High School. Their continuing record of accomplishment is due in no small part to the teaching practices of the faculty who have guided the school through the years.

FCC'S HEAVY HAND

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 28, 2009]

THE FCC'S HEAVY HAND

In a speech at the Brookings Institution last week, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski promised that his agency's plan for regulating Internet service providers (ISPs) will be ''fair, transparent, fact-based and data-driven.''

That's nice. But Mr. Genachowski failed to convincingly answer the most important question of all: Is this intervention necessary?

Mr. Genachowski claims to have seen ''breaks and cracks'' in the Internet that threaten to change the ''fundamental architecture of openness.'' He and other proponents of federal involvement cite a handful of cases they say prove that, left to their own devices, ISPs such as Comcast Corp. and AT&T will choke the free flow of information and technology. One example alluded to by the chairman: Comcast's blocking an application by BitTorrent that would allow peer-to-peer video sharing. Yet that conflict was ultimately resolved by the two companies—without FCC intervention—after Comcast's alleged bad behavior was exposed by a blogger.

Mr. Genachowski offered two proposals to combat alleged ISP misconduct. One should be embraced, the other shelved.

Mr. Genachowski is right to insist that ISPs be candid with the agency and the public about network management practices. Such disclosures are necessary, Mr. Genachowski asserted correctly, to ''give consumers the confidence of knowing that they're getting the service they've paid for'' and ''enable innovators to make their offerings work effectively over the Internet.'' Transparency should go a long way toward allaying the concerns of those who fear ISP manipulation of markets. It also puts in doubt the need for Mr. Genachowski's second, dubious offering.

Aptly dubbed an ''immodest proposal'' by the Free State Foundation's Randolph J. May, the FCC would prohibit ISPs from ''discriminating against'' different applications. Mr. Genachowski explains it this way: ISPs ''cannot block or degrade lawful traffic over their networks, or pick winners by favoring some content or applications over others in the connection to subscribers' homes.'' In short, ISPs, which have poured billions of dollars into building infrastructure, would have little control—if any—over the kinds of information and technology flowing through their pipes.

In a slight concession, Mr. Genachowski said that the commission would consider whether to allow ISPs to offer ''managed services in limited circumstances''; this approach could allow ISPs to create a two-track delivery system—one for routine traffic, the other for applications that use exorbitant amounts of bandwidth. But unneeded regulation could still interfere with their ability to manage bandwidth-hogging applications that can hamper service, especially during peak times.

Mr. Genachowski claims that the FCC ''will do as much as we need to do, and no more, to ensure that the Internet remains an unfettered platform for competition, creativity and entrepreneurial activity.'' He will advance this goal by insisting on transparency; he will jeopardize it—and stifle further investments by ISPs—with attempts to micromanage what has been a vibrant and well-functioning marketplace.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that H.R. 2647 contains provisions of H.R. 3403, the Supporting Military Families Act, a bill that I introduced in the House earlier this year.

In the 110th Congress, we passed and the President signed into law the first-ever changes to the Family Medical Leave Act, FMLA, permitting ''next of kin'' of seriously injured and ill servicemembers to take up to twenty-six weeks of unpaid leave to care for these injured and ill servicemembers. In addition, the legislation provides up to twelve weeks of leave to workers when their family servicemembers are about to be deployed overseas to attend to certain ''exigencies'' relating to deployment, such as arranging for alternate child care or going to a lawyer for a will.

The legislation passed in the 110th Congress was a good start, however, it has some gaps in coverage, which H.R. 2647 addresses. Under these new provisions, a next of kin can take up to twenty-six weeks of unpaid leave to care for a seriously injured or ill veteran, so long as that veteran incurred the injury or illness while on active duty and the injury or illness manifests itself within five years of the