

on the line to save the lives of others. In addition, he has dedicated his time as a baseball coach and organizes sporting and recreational events for members of his community.

Mr. O'Reilly is a lifelong resident of Jersey City. He attended school there and he and his wife have raised their children there. He is a fine constituent of whom I am very proud.

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, let us remember all of those Irish-American men and women who have made a difference in the United States. This is a day for us to acknowledge their achievements and feel proud to have them in the United States. This holiday is an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to Irish-Americans; past and present.

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## NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

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### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 3, 1995*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to commemorate the profession of engineering.

February 19–25 was National Engineers Week. As the Nation's second largest profession, engineering provides a challenging and rewarding career choice to roughly 1.8 million people in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, engineers often complain that many people do not know what it is that engineers do. Well, virtually everything that you and I do every day of the year has been invented, improved, or made safer because of engineers.

National Engineers Week is always celebrated at the time of George Washington's birthday. Washington had the educational background of an engineer and land surveyor and is considered the Nation's first engineer. As President, Washington led a growing society toward technical advancements, invention and education. He promoted the construction of roads, canals, the U.S. Capitol, docks and ports and development of manufacturing resources.

Engineers Week falls during Black History Month. African-Americans have engineered some of our most important and best-known inventions.

There are numerous examples of leaders in the engineering profession, Mr. Speaker, but one has especially touched my heart. It is the story of Archie Alexander, who although advised against a career in engineering because of racial prejudice, persisted and gained recognition. If it were not for Mr. Alexander's perseverance, the Tidal Basin Bridge and Seawall and the Whitehurst Freeway in Washington, DC would not have been built.

It is African-American role models like Alexander who have helped pave the way for others wishing to pursue careers in engineering, including women and members of other minority groups.

As we approach the 21st century, the profession of engineering will help us cope with our changing world, while creating numerous new jobs and career paths. Long live engineering.

## TRIBUTE TO INVENTOR AUSTIN STANTON

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 3, 1995*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American, Austin N. Stanton, who died November 27, 1994, at the age of 91 following a brief illness. Austin Stanton was the inventor of microcircuitry—the precursor to the computer age. He was a long-time resident of Garland, TX, and lived in Bonham, TX, in my Fourth Congressional District, during the past 8 years.

Austin Stanton dared to dream, and through hard work and determination made those dreams come true. Born on May 31, 1903, in Cromwell, IA, to Harriet L. Stanton, teacher, and the Rev. Jay B. Stanton, pastor and teacher, he left home at the age of 12 and worked at various odd jobs until he decided as a teenager that he should develop his own potential. He hopped a freight train to State University of Iowa and paid his way through school by working as a night serviceman for a power company. He received a B.E. degree in Electrical Engineering from the university in 1925, followed by an M.S. degree in physics in 1927. His thesis, "Phenomena in Resonance Radiation of Cesium," was the foundation for later scientific and technological achievements.

He was married in 1926 to Margaret L. Saveraid, and following college, they drove to Texas, where Mr. Stanton began working with a seismograph crew in oil exploration. From 1927 to 1945 he gained experience in geophysics and electronics, serving as president of Geophysical Exploration Co. and Texas Geophysical Co., both of Dallas, and as associate professor and acting head of the electrical engineering department and head of the preradar school, U.S. Army, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

In 1945, he founded Varo Corp. in an old building on his farm in Garland, TX, with about \$800 in capital. The building was converted into a laboratory, and his young, small staff began work on the design for a revolutionary power conversion unit for military aircraft. They also developed tiny power supplies, microcircuitry, and precision timing devices for space vehicles. Varo conceived and developed the first light-amplifying, night-vision telescope, first electronic inverters, and the first microcircuits. Microcircuitry led to the development of integrated circuits, which brought about the computer age. Varo was the only producer and supplier of microcircuitry for more than 5 years. Their microcircuit transmitter was donated to the Smithsonian Institution, where it was placed on display. When Mr. Stanton retired as chairman of the board of Varo in 1967, he had parlayed his \$800 investment into a successful \$60 million per year international business. He also provided advice and assistance to Texas Instruments Co. in the microelectronics field.

Since 1967 Mr. Stanton has been actively involved in developing advanced technology. He was chairman of the board of the Keller Corp. and Methacoal Corp., both research and development companies and leaders in various phases of the alternative fuels, power and

energy, electric generation, and waste utilization fields. With Leonard J. Keller, an expert in engineering, he developed Ambient Energy Corp. and built the first Ambient Energy Home, a model of affordable, all-electric energy homes. In 1990 he coined the cleanest, most efficient, and least costly coal-based electric generating plant in the world. He earned approximately 40 patents during his lifetime and was actively involved in technology development until his recent illness.

Mr. Stanton was for many years a personal friend and associate of Wernher von Braun, the principal scientist of space-age technology. He provided valuable assistance to Von Braun and was the first to propose the commercialization of space. He made presentations on the subject at the first international conference on space utilization.

Austin Stanton also was a philanthropist. Before he moved to Bonham from Garland, he donated 25 acres of land near downtown Garland and pledged \$350,000 in Varo stock—which later sold for \$1 million—for construction of a hospital, which became the nucleus of Baylor Medical Center in Garland. He also contributed more than 100 acres of ranch land to the city's parks and recreation system.

Austin Stanton received many awards during his lifetime, including "Pioneer of the Space Age" award from the U.S. Army and the "Lloyd Berkner Space Utilization" award and the "Pioneer and Leader in Space and Microelectronics" award from the American Astronautical Society. He was a fellow of the American Astronautical Society and the British Interplanetary Society and a member of Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Margaret L. Stanton, 2 daughters, a sister, 17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. He was a good friend of mine, and he will be missed and remembered by all those who knew him.

It is a rare privilege, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to pay tribute to this singular individual, who shared his talents and the fruits of his labors with his country, his community, his peers, and his family. Austin Stanton's life touched our lives in many ways—through scientific and technological advances, in our defense and space programs, and in our environmental efforts. As we adjourn today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to a truly great American—Austin Stanton.

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## IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

### HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 3, 1995*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, much of the current budget debate centers on America's children—we all want to ensure our young people can achieve the American dream. Experience has shown that investing in education is one of the surest ways to achieve this important national goal. Increased levels of education translate into higher wages for individuals and a more productive workforce. In 1993, the median weekly wages of a high school graduate exceeded those of someone without a diploma