

she has served faithfully and tirelessly for over a decade.

During our many good years together, Muriel has served not only as my employee, but also as a trusted friend, always willing to go the extra mile to help her boss with whatever needed to be done. From knowing the proper way to address the President to soothing unhappy or angry constituents, she always knew the proper way to do things. Her sensitive and able assistance to the numerous constituents in my district has always made my job much easier.

And, as a friend to her co-workers, who looked at her as a teacher, she has won praise and admiration for always handling things just right.

I, as well as my entire staff, will very much miss Muriel's calm demeanor and gracious manner. Her legacy of excellence will be felt in my office for a long time to come. One thing for sure is Muriel will rarely be found at home. She loves to travel and visit places of interest with her many friends. We wish her health and happiness in the years ahead. She truly deserves it.

OPERATION OF THE GRAND LAKE,
CO, CEMETERY

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today legislation that will authorize an important and unique management agreement between the National Park Service and the town of Grand Lake, CO. This agreement will grant to the town the permanent right and responsibility to manage its century-old cemetery that is now inside the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park.

This bill, on which my colleague from Colorado, Mr. MCINNIS, joins as a cosponsor, matches legislation introduced earlier this month by our State's two Senators.

The cemetery legislation is based on extensive negotiations between town and national park officials, with both groups supporting it.

Under the agreement, the cemetery will remain inside the national park; no boundary adjustments will be made. Normally, such a situation would be handled through a park service special use permit, which must be renewed every 5 years. Such a short-term permit is not appropriate for a site like this one.

The area to be used and managed by the town is precisely defined and limited to avoid future disputes. The agreement reflects an important spirit of cooperation and good will between the town and the Federal Government.

I recommend this legislation to my colleagues in the House, and I urge swift action on it.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF KATZ

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Jeff Katz, a radio

talk-show host in my district. Jeff's wonderful insights blasted the Indianapolis-area airwaves during the evening drive-time slot on WIBC. Jeff's program played a very integral role in the recent Republican revolution. You see, Jeff is one of the gaggle of conservative talk-radio hosts who helped spread the word before last fall's telling elections. Their courage and ability to bring moral, social, and political issues into the publics' eye had a very positive impact on helping the Republicans gain control of the Congress last November. Jeff continues his good work even today.

Jeff Katz has been a good friend of mine, and unlike some in the mainstream media, he covers issues fairly and honestly. Jeff is moving to the Sacramento, CA, area to another radio station. I wish him well and will miss him. While central Indiana is losing one of the finest talk-radio hosts in the country, the people of northern California will be gaining a very talented and capable radio personality. Jeff, thank you for all of your hard work, and best of luck.

H.R. 1386, THE CLINICAL LABORATORY
ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1995

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing H.R. 1386 to reduce the burdens on physicians who perform laboratory tests in their offices and thereby, improve patient care and reduce patient costs. The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act of 1988 [CLIA] has greatly increased health care costs associated with laboratory testing. Some physicians have reported that compliance with CLIA regulations have more than doubled the cost of providing tests in their offices. In fact, the Health Care Financing Administration estimated in 1992 that CLIA would add between \$1.2 billion and \$2.1 billion annually to the cost of performing clinical laboratory tests in a physicians office.

The CLIA 1988 restrictions have caused thousands of physicians in their offices to discontinue all or some portion of essential clinical laboratory testing on site. This creates a barrier to patient compliance with diagnostic and treatment protocols and causing patient inconvenience. For example, for many tests a patient must be referred to an outside laboratory to have the specimen taken and tested. This poses a substantial hardship for many patients, most notably the elderly, the disabled and families who live in underserved areas. Oftentimes these patients cannot travel or find someone to taken them to these facilities. The result is that they do not obtain the necessary test which may interfere with their treatment.

I hope that my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, will join me in supporting this legislation which will reduce health care costs and improve the ability of patients to receive appropriate laboratory tests conveniently and in a timely fashion.

AN HONEST DIALOG WITH MY
CONSTITUENTS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, since the November election, there has been a lot of national attention on the U.S. House of Representatives, the Republican majority and the Contract With America.

During all of this, I have been honored to serve 3 months as a Representative in Congress. It has been a time of both great change and opportunity. More than 7,000 constituents have taken the time to write or call me, visit my office or attend one of my town meetings.

Having read each of their letters and listened to their concerns, I have learned that we share common goals—putting our Nation's fiscal house in order, and balancing the Federal budget, making Government more efficient and more accountable, and preserving programs that actually work, that serve the national interest and that take care of the most needy in our country.

Unlike a lot of the media commentary on the contract and the speechmaking in Washington, their letters have expressed these concerns in very real terms.

Families are worried about financing their children's college education but are also concerned about whether or not the future holds the same opportunities for their children that we enjoy.

The people who serve the needy in our communities worry about Federal aid cuts but also feel they could do more with the money if there were less Federal strings attached.

And, thousands of constituents just ask why the Federal Government cannot balance their budget like American families do. People just cannot comprehend, and quite frankly neither can I, a national debt of over \$4.5 trillion and annual deficits of \$200 billion.

Many people have offered imaginative and sensible ideas about how to address these concerns and I sense a real willingness to try new approaches, including doing more with less if it means making real strides on our budget problems. Most important, there is once concern that weighs on all of us—our children's future and whether or not we leave them debt-free or debt-burdened.

In the pass 3 months, many citizens feel that we in Washington have started the process of really listening, and taking real steps to address their concerns.

Whether we agree or disagree on the specifics, the direction is clear:

They want accountability. We changed the way Congress conducts business. We brought term limits to the House floor for the first vote ever. We required Congress to live by the same laws as everyone else. We opened all committee meetings to the public and press, and we limited chairmen to a term of 6 years, probably the single most effective way to dismantle the arrogance of power that characterized past Congresses.

They want us to make the tough choices. We passed the balanced budget amendment and the line-item veto. And, we passed a first installment of \$17 billion in real spending reductions.