

the newsletter of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, Linda Boothe, the mother of Jay Boothe, wrote about the memorial dedication:

The honor and tributes paid to these fallen heroes is a wonderful display of how a country does care and remember its other heroes—those who serve their country in their own communities and fight the war against the fiery dragon that threatens through carelessness. The monumental plaque with the names of the firefighters that died in 1994 now stands at the monument site so that others can read these heroes' names for years to come.

That, Mr. Speaker, truly sums up the valuable role these volunteers play in so many lives each and every day across this great country. On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I say Thank you and God bless you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SATELLITE HOME VIEWER PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, the Satellite Home Viewer Protection Act of 1996 seeks to break the logjam in negotiations between the satellite TV industry and network broadcasters created by the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1994, and to provide subscribers with rights and remedies with respect to reception of satellite-delivered network signals. The Home Viewer Protection Act accomplishes these goals in several ways.

The bill adds new section 119(a)(2)(D) which requires satellite carriers to notify their new and existing subscribers of the network signal restrictions of the 1994 Home Viewer Act. Many subscribers have complained that they have spent hundreds of dollars on satellite equipment without being told that they may not be eligible for service of certain network signals. Further, existing subscribers have had their network service turned off with little or no explanation or information from their satellite carriers. The bill will resolve this problem by placing an affirmative duty on satellite carriers to inform their potential subscribers of the network restrictions prior to their providing service, as well as inform their current subscribers of the restrictions by a date certain.

The bill also provides subscribers, whose service of network signals is challenged by their local network affiliates, a direct means of determining whether they are still eligible for service. If a local affiliate challenges a subscriber in its local service area under the 1994 act, the satellite carrier must inform the subscriber of the challenge in writing. The subscriber then has 30 days to request the satellite carrier to conduct a signal intensity measurement at his household to determine if he is eligible for service of the network signal that is the subject of the challenge. If the subscriber does not make a timely written request, then the satellite carrier must terminate service. The limits placed on the number of measurements that the satellite carrier must conduct, established in the 1994 act, are retained.

If the signal intensity measurement determines that the subscriber is an unserved

household, then the local network affiliate must reimburse the satellite carrier for the cost of the survey. If the measurement reveals that the subscriber does not reside in an unserved household, then subscriber must reimburse the satellite carrier.

In order for the new signal intensity measurement procedure to work, there must, of course, be accepted standards for the measurement. Both satellite carriers and broadcasters agreed in 1994 that they would work out the parameters of the measurement under the current law, but they have been unable to do so. The bill provides both sides with a short negotiation period in which to voluntarily agree to terms and conditions, followed by binding arbitration. Arbitration would be governed by the provisions of title 9 of the United States Code. Whether the signal intensity measurement standards are developed through agreement or arbitration, they must be deposited with the Register of Copyrights for public inspection and copying.

Finally, the bill makes two additional changes regarding the signal intensity measurement. By deleting section 119(a)(8)(D), the measurement is confined to only those subscribers residing within the predicted grade B contour, local service area, of the network affiliate station issuing the challenge. Under the current law, the network has the option of challenging and testing subscribers outside their local service area. As a practical matter, however, most broadcast stations' advertising rate cards are based upon viewers residing within the stations' local service area, so loss of viewership resulting from subscribers outside the local service area does not economically harm broadcasters. Consequently, there is no reason to vest broadcasters with the ability to issue challenges against, and terminate the service of, subscribers who do not reside within their local service area.

The signal intensity measurement procedures of the current law are scheduled to expire at the end of this year. Because of the lack of industry agreement, the procedures have not functioned as envisioned in 1994. Consequently, the bill extends the procedures by an additional year, so that the network challenge and signal intensity measurement regime will not expire until December 31, 1997. I intend to announce a hearing date and a date for markup after the Easter/Passover break.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLETTE JOHNSON

HON. GREG GANSKE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to the excellent work and accomplishment of Colette Johnson for being a national winner in the Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary. Colette is a senior at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, IA.

I want to offer my congratulations to Colette and to VFW Post 737 in Council Bluffs for sponsoring her in this contest. Following is Colette's inspirational essay "Answering America's Call."

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Colette Johnson)

It's time to put the phone back on the hook. She's been trying to get through to you. You took the phone off to forget about your responsibilities. But it's an urgent call. She's been trying to get through. She needs your help. She's calling now. America's calling. You need to answer her call.

Who's calling? America? Your country. But without people she's just a name. A country isn't great because of its land. A country isn't great because of its buildings or cars or weapons. The only thing that can make a country great is its people—people who care, people who are willing to give of themselves, because they have a dream bigger than themselves—a dream of what America should be. America needs dreamers. She needs people who see a land free from the destruction of pollution, where the beauty of nature is cherished and protected. She needs people who see a land free from the shame of pornography, where women and children are never exploited, but are respected. America needs people who see a land where every home is safe from drug abuse and alcoholism, where it is safe to drive through every neighborhood, where every child is free from the fear of abuse and kidnapping, where no one is discriminated against because of their age or color or disability, where all men are brothers, and all brothers are kind. America needs dreamers.

But America needs dreamers who will wake up and do something. It's not enough to dream. America needs people who will make their dreams a reality. She needs people who will do what they should do and not just what is easy to do. America needs dreamers who will plant trees, conserve water, ride bikes, people who will protest pornography and protect its victims. She needs dreamers who will provide foster homes and adopt and love unloved children. America's dreamers need to work with drug and alcohol rehabilitation. America needs dreamers who will look beyond age and color and disability and love all people.

Be a dreamer. America needs dreamers. But more importantly, be a dreamer who makes a dream a reality. As Henry David Thoreau said, "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." Don't leave the phone off the hook any longer. Answer America's call. She needs you.

ELIMINATE DOUBLE TAXATION OF LUMP SUM SEPARATION BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, H.R. 3183, which would eliminate double taxation of lump sum separation benefits for a veteran who is subsequently determined to be entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability.

This bill would not only do equity, it would correct a legislative oversight.

Prior to 1981, the Department of Veterans Affairs was required to recoup only 75 percent of the total amount of the military separation payment by withholding disability compensation. This provision was intended to account for the inequity of recouping taxable separation pay with nontaxable compensation.