

needs of veterans since 1946, assured veterans the assistance and recognition they deserved prior to approval of this Government department and continue to encourage fair consideration of veterans' issues. For this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 7765 a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The famous historian George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember history are bound to repeat it." V.F.W. posts all across America have not forgotten the past or those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I ask all Members in the House to rise in tribute to V.F.W. Post 7765 and join me in saluting all the members, past and present, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

LIFEJACKETS: THEY FLOAT—YOU DON'T

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, each year an estimated 76 million Americans—more than one-fourth of our population—enjoy recreational boating as a means to forget the stress and pressure of everyday life. Fortunately, our Nation is blessed with vast water resources that provide a means of escape for those who just want to "get away from it all."

Tragically—and to a great extent needlessly—approximately 800 people die each year in boating-related accidents. Recreational boating is second only to motor vehicles in the number of transportation-related fatalities.

Since 1958, by sponsoring National Safe Boating Week and other activities promoting boating safety throughout the year, the United States Coast Guard has continuously worked to remind the American public of the importance of boating safety. "Lifejackets: They Float—You Don't!" is the slogan of this year's boating safety campaign. National Safe Boating Week is being observed this week, May 18–24, just prior to Memorial Day weekend which is the beginning of the traditional summer boating season.

Falling overboard and capsizing are the leading causes of boating accidents. In 77 percent of the documented recreational boating fatalities reported to the Coast Guard, the victim was not wearing a personal flotation device, more commonly referred to as a lifejacket. The Coast Guard considers wearing a lifejacket the single most important factor to ensure survivability in these accidents. It is unfortunate that, while hundreds of people die needlessly each year, the boating public still does not understand the importance of wearing lifejackets.

The most recent tragic example of the need for lifejackets was the drowning of former CIA Director William Colby. It is presumed that Mr. Colby drowned when he fell out of his canoe as he was boating in a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, Mr. Colby was not wearing a flotation device when found. Another tragic example is an incident that occurred in Arkansas in July 1993. A family of nine (two parents and seven children) went out on the Fourche LaFave River in a 14-foot flat-bottom boat designed for only three people. Although the weather was clear and the

water was calm, the overloaded boat quickly began to take water, and within minutes of leaving the shore the boat went down. There were no lifejackets on board even though only two of the people could swim. Both parents and five of the children drowned. This incident is a textbook case of failure to observe basic boating safety rules.

So as Americans everywhere flock to our Nation's rivers, lakes, and oceans to enjoy the hot summer weather, remember "Lifejackets: They Float—You Don't!"

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL HUGHES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a man of outstanding public service from my district who recently passed away—Mr. Bill Hughes, director of the Pleasantdale Park District.

Mr. Hughes, who battled colon cancer for 10 months, served the district for 5½ years. His tenure saw explosive growth in both the communities Pleasantdale served and programs the district offered.

Perhaps Mr. Hughes' greatest achievement was helping to guide the development of Flagg Creek Golf Course, a premiere 9-hole course, in conjunction with the city of Countryside.

Countryside Mayor Carl LeGant, who worked closely with Mr. Hughes said of his passing: "It's sad. He was a good person to work with. He will be missed."

Mr. Speaker, I join Mayor LeGant in mourning the loss of this community leader, and extend to Mr. Hughes' family my condolences.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARAPAHOE LIBRARY DISTRICT

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arapahoe Library District on its 30th anniversary. This is an operation that began back in April 1966 with a used bookmobile and 4,000 books borrowed from the State of Colorado. Now, the district operates 8 branch libraries throughout Arapahoe County and serves over 100,000 people annually.

The Arapahoe Library District is a shining example of a locally run organization that provides effective programs without appropriations and regulations from Washington.

Besides promoting the obviously worthy cause of literacy, the district also sponsors an annual photo contest and a children's summer reading program which focuses on a specific topic—this summer's suggested reading deals with the history of the West. It also provides an information center available to small businesses and technology classes on how to utilize the internet. Another mark of distinction is the Glendale branch's dual function as library and community center for the local population

of Russian-Jewish immigrants. Here they receive vital classes in English and general life-skills.

The Arapahoe Library District is an example of how locally run institutions can contribute to the educational benefit of the surrounding communities. Thus, it is with great pleasure I join with my colleagues in the House in commending the board of trustees, the employees, and the over 100,000 patrons of the Arapahoe Library District on its 30th anniversary.

END TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRAUD NOW

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to alert my colleagues and the American people to the growing nationwide problem of telecommunications fraud. Last month, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, I conducted hearings on telemarketing fraud against the elderly, and the tremendous toll that it takes. Telemarketing fraud is just one aspect of the telecommunications scheme and the elderly are not its only victims.

Telecommunications fraud can manifest itself in several forms including crimes like "shoulder surfing," where criminals literally look over the shoulder of unsuspecting victims entering their calling card number on a payphone. These victims are often unsuspecting tourists in a crowded airport, hotel lobby, or shopping mall who use a pay telephone for a long distance call. The criminal then can use their calling card number himself/herself or it or sell it later, costing the victim or phone company hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Criminals have also been known to pose as law enforcement officials, and approach elderly citizens claiming they need to bill a call to a residential number as part of an investigation. As cellular technology has progressed, so has the criminal methods. For example, cloning devices are used to steal cellular phone serial numbers from the radio waves that carry the phone signal. These unique codes are used to charge thousands of dollars of calls to the accounts of innocent phone users.

Telecommunications fraud affects millions of Americans each year, and the damage done is appalling. This year alone telecommunications fraud is expected to reach \$3.7 billion, an increase of \$395 million from 1995. A survey of over 90 businesses who were victims of telecommunications fraud found that the losses ranged from a few thousand dollars to \$4 million. The amount of long distance charges stolen through business equipment in the United States is around \$1.5 billion. The cost to telephone users in "800" line charges, run up by thieves and attempted thieves, is estimated to reach a minimum of \$215 million this year.

We must stop these criminals and protect Americans from this deceptively simple fraud. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Florida many elderly citizens have come to retire comfortably, and many tourists visit our attractions, especially now as the summer season is about to begin. When they pick up the phone