

memories of the Armenian community. Nobody can deny the graphic photos and historical references. And nobody can claim that Armenians live where their ancestors thrived 80 years ago.

It is our responsibility and duty to keep the memories of the genocide alive. A world that forgets these tragedies is a world that will see them repeated again and again. This story, and others like it, must be talked about so all know the truth.

We must also honor the victims of this brutal massacre. We cannot right the terrible injustices that have been inflicted on the Armenian community, nor can we ever completely heal the wounds. But by properly commemorating this tragedy, Armenians will be reassured that the world has not forgotten the misery of those years. Only then will Armenians begin to receive the justice they deserve.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPUTER DONATION INCENTIVE ACT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO as lead cosponsor of the Computer Donation Incentive Act. This legislation will provide enhanced tax incentives to corporations that donate computers, software, and computer training to public schools and to organizations that support individuals with disabilities.

One of my top priorities in representing the Eighth District of Michigan is to ensure that every school has the latest technology in their classrooms. To accomplish this important goal, we cannot look to Government alone to provide support; rather, we need to encourage partnerships and community investment. I am leading this legislation because I believe our communities, businesses and local governments need to work together if we are going to retool our schools for the 21st century.

Under current law, computer donations from computer manufacturers to private schools, colleges, and universities qualify for an enhanced tax deduction, similar donations to public schools do not. I believe this law needs to be changed.

Having a daughter in the public school system and a son who graduated from a public school, I am deeply committed to strengthening our public schools. I believe that we all have a stake in guaranteeing the best possible public schools in every neighborhood, in every community, and in our country. The Computer Donation Incentive Act amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to give all companies the enhanced tax deduction when donating to public schools.

Second, it is not only important that our public schools receive computers, but that our teachers receive the training they need, as well. This legislation also designates up to 8 hours of computer training as a charitable contribution.

In my district, I have been leading efforts such as NetDay and the passage of the Computer Donation Incentive Act because I believe that it is imperative that our students stay competitive in the computer-literate work force of the global market. The Computer Donation

Incentive Act will go a long way in encouraging more companies to invest in schools and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for Congresswoman ESHOO's leadership on this issue and I am very proud to be able to work with her as lead cosponsor on passage of this legislation. I am equally pleased with the bipartisan list of original cosponsors that have endorsed this legislation. As a new Member of Congress, I am heartened by this cooperative spirit and I encourage all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in passing the Computer Donation Incentive Act.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN G. PICILLO, ESQ.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention Martin G. Picillo, Esq. of Berkeley Heights, NJ, who is being honored by the New Jersey State Opera for his support of the arts and their organization.

Martin is a graduate of Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Georgetown University Law Center. Currently, he is a trial attorney and senior partner at the law firm of Picillo Caruso in West Orange. On April 7, 1997, Martin assumed the presidency of the Essex County Bar Association which is the largest county bar association in the State. In addition to his distinguished law career, Martin is also the cofounder of New Jersey Awareness Day, and has been very active in numerous local and national bar associations.

He has been a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge No. 179 in Orange, NJ since 1961, and is active in a number of Italian-American organizations including UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the country. Within the organization, Martin has held numerous offices including national president. Presently, he is president of NIACA, conference of presidents of major Italian-American organizations. An active member of the city of Orange, Martin has been a member and attorney for several boards, has served as deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Affairs, and has served as presiding judge of the municipal court. In addition to this impressive list of civil contributions, Martin has also served as president of the Parent-Teacher Guild and as an elected member of the Parish Council of Our Lady of the Valley Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Martin's family and friends, in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable contribution to the community of Martin G. Picillo.

COMMENDING NEWTON MINOW

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce an old and dear friend to you and my colleagues in the

House, the Honorable Newton N. Minow. In days past Newton was the law partner of the greatest two-time loser in American politics, the late Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. During the early 1960's Newt was head of the Federal communications Commission [FCC] and in describing the marvels of television coined the phrase "a vast wasteland." He is currently a partner in the Chicago law firm of Sidley & Austin. Two weeks past, this next Wednesday, April 16, the Economic Club had the good fortune to share in Newt's wisdom and wit.

I enjoyed Newt's speech so much that I requested he send me a copy so I could bring it to the attention of my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert Mr. Minow's speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I commend Newton Minow for his past contributions to public service and I urge my colleagues to read the following statement.

The speech follows:

ECONOMIC CLUB SPEECH

Campaign spending is as old as the republic. When George Washington ran for the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1757, his total campaign expenditures, in the form of "good cheer," came to "28 gallons of rum, 50 gallons of rum punch, 34 gallons of wine, 36 gallons of beer, and 2 gallons of cider royal."

Today, the era of good cheer is gone. For four decades now, campaign expenditures have been driven relentlessly upward by one thing: television. In 1960, in what would be the first presidential campaign to make wide use of television, Democrats and Republicans together spent \$14.2 million on radio and television commercials. In 1996, candidates for federal office spent more than 128 times that amount on television and radio commercials, an estimated \$1.8 billion.

After the presidential campaign scandals of 1972, Congress tried in 1974 to end the suitcases of cash which sloshed around campaigns in return for favors. But as we now know—and continue to learn—the 1974 campaign reform law has failed to solve the problem.

In the 1996 federal elections, the campaign finance laws were bent beyond recognition. We learned about the availability of the Lincoln bedroom to major contributors; the President's meeting with a convicted stock swindler, a Chinese arms merchant, and others of dubious background and intention; the Vice President's raising campaign cash at a Buddhist temple; and the Republicans soliciting "season ticket holders," donors of \$250,000 who hoped for special treatment for their special interests, including access to important government officials. And don't forget Congressional censure of Newt Gingrich for mixing campaign cash with his television program. The only bipartisan agreement in Washington these days is on one proposition: "Show me the money!"

Strict limits on campaign contributions imposed by the 1974 Act were washed away this year in a flood of "soft money," donations not limited by law because of the foolish fiction that such money was not used to support or oppose particular candidates. Together, the two parties collected \$88 million in soft money in 1992; last year they multiplied this by three—to \$263.5 million.

Interest groups ranging from the AFL-CIO to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce bathed in another form of soft money, which they used to broadcast so-called "issue" commercials. Theoretically, at least, issue commercials are not supposed to advance or oppose anyone's candidacy, and so are exempt from the 1974 law's requirement of full disclosure of who contributes money and how that money gets spent.