

the shareholders' expectations. If the stock went down, even briefly, the trial lawyers sued the companies and harassed them into settlements. The real winners in these cases were the lawyers, who recovered fees that dwarfed the settlements their individual clients received.

This especially hurt high-tech businesses which were easy targets because their stocks tended to fluctuate more than average. Because we wanted to keep America competitive in this vital market, in 1995 we passed the Securities Litigation Reform Act, overriding President Clinton's veto. That bill protected shareholders' legitimate interests but made it harder for the strike suit lawyers to coerce companies into unfair settlements.

The problem was that in inventing a new mousetrap we had forgotten how smart the mice were. The strike suit lawyers began filing their suits in state courts, where our bill had little effect.

This bill realizes the intent of the 1995 bill by closing this loophole. Securities law is predominantly federal. This bill would prevent strike suit lawyers from abusing convenient state law by giving company defendants the opportunity to move strike suits filed in state courts to federal courts, where they would have the protection of the 1995 bill.

Mr. Speaker, this superb piece of legislation will protect shareholders, it will protect our growing high-tech sector from needless harassment, and it will protect the high-paying, stable jobs that these industries will create now and in the future. I urge my colleagues to support it.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, today we had an important vote regarding federal lands in our country. I believe Chairman REGULA did an excellent job of handling this difficult and controversial appropriations bill. However, one project that was left out of the bill was funding of the new Seba Dalkai school in my congressional district that has been on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) priority list for several years.

As you may know, Mr. Chairman, Seba Dalkai is located on the Navajo Nation, the largest and most economically-challenged sovereign Indian nation. Education is vitally important for children to achieve their full intellectual and economic potential. A healthy learning environment is central to this goal.

Seba Dalkai has been patiently waiting for new school facilities, while educating their children in substandard conditions. They are presently the highest ranked school on the BIA priority list that has yet to receive funding. Unfor-

tunately, this has been the situation for several years. Seba Dalkai needs and deserves funding. It is my hope that since the new Sac and Fox and Pyramid Lake schools will be completed this year, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will begin funding the new Seba Dalkai school in fiscal year 2000. I will continue to fight for funding for Seba Dalkai, although I am disappointed that the Subcommittee could not begin funding this important project in fiscal year 1999.

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER JOHN
H. BLANK, RETIRING AFTER 33
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Communications Manager John H. Blank. On July 31, 1998, after 33 years of distinguished service, he will be retiring from the police force in Milpitas, California, in California's 13th Congressional District.

Communications Manager Blank began his career serving the Milpitas community in October, 1965. He was sworn in as a police officer on October 1, 1965. He served in the patrol unit until January, 1970 at which time he was appointed as Supervisor of the Traffic Investigation Unit. In 1967, he cofounded the Milpitas Police Officer's Association. His concern for the welfare and development of employees of the Department as well as his knowledge and skills in the field of organizational development provided a solid foundation for the Association which continues to serve as an important resource for law enforcement officers today.

While serving in the Milpitas Police Department, John continued his education. He was awarded a B.S. degree from San José University in 1973 after completing the requirements for a double major in Public Administration and Political Science. Concurrent to his service in the Milpitas Police Department, he also served in the California National Guard. He completed his service in 1971, after attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant.

On July 1, 1973, John was promoted to Police Inspector with the responsibility of supervising the Records, Communications and Property functions of the Police Department. Under his supervision, the Department acquired its own dispatching capability and was able to upgrade its services substantially. In April of 1979, as a result of departmental restructuring, John became a Detective Sergeant. His responsibilities included investigating crimes against persons, property crimes, fraud and missing persons.

In 1980, John embarked upon a significant career change—he left service as a sworn employee to become a communications dispatcher. In 1985, he became an acting communications supervisor. In 1986, he became permanent supervisor, and, in 1992, he became Communications Manager. As Communications Manager, he managed the growth of this service by improving the size, staff training, and complexity of the Communications Center.

He oversaw many improvements during his tenure as Manager, including the change from

“status tags” to Computer Aided Dispatch, public safety tactical dispatching, and the development of a state of the art Communications Center.

He was a co-founder of an organization called C.O.M.A.—the Communications Operations Managers Association of Santa Clara County. C.O.M.A.'s goals are interagency cooperation, support training, and the furtherance of the public safety communications profession.

John has always been an active member of the community. He has lived in Milpitas for the last 15 years—in a home that he built himself. He has been a long time member of the Walnut Green Homeowners Association, he founded the Milpitas Tennis Association, has been very active in the Y.M.C.A., and has been a member and president of the Milpitas Kiwanis Club. He is also an active member of his church, serving as both a deacon and usher.

John has received numerous awards and commendations throughout his career. He has amassed over forty letters of commendation from citizens, his supervisors, and from a wide variety of governmental agencies. In 1987, he was recognized by the San José-Evergreen Community College District for his assistance in the development and presentation of the Basic Public Safety Dispatcher Development Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Communications Manager John H. Blank will be honored at a celebration dinner on the occasion of his retirement on August 7, 1998. I would like to thank John for his 33 years of dedicated service on behalf of the residents of Milpitas, CA. His professionalism and dedication will be sorely missed. I wish him luck in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING SCRUGGS, INC.

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Scruggs, Inc., a leading Knoxville business, has recently received national recognition as the “1998 Dealer of the Year” by “Foodservice Equipment and Supplies Magazine.” Scruggs, Inc. is a 66-year-old, third generation restaurant equipment and design company in Knoxville, TN.

Scruggs, Inc., founded in 1932, by Mr. Carlton Scruggs, now has over 55 employees and sales of over \$15 million a year. In a time where many family businesses may be experiencing difficulties, it is wonderful to see this family business doing so well.

The Scruggs family is one of east Tennessee's most respected families. I have known Mr. Jim Scruggs, who recently retired from the company, for many years. Now, the day-to-day operations are managed by his sons, Lee and Andrew.

I congratulate the Scruggs family on this well-deserved honor, and I wish them continued success. I would like to call to the attention of all of my Colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the article from the “Knoxville News Sentinel” concerning this outstanding award.