

Elmer Chaney began his college teaching career at Jacksonville State University in 1962 as Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology. In addition to his duties as a professor, he has served on and chaired a number of committees at the university including screening committees for educational faculty members, the Committees for Educational Resources, the Off Campus Commuter College Committee, and the Assessment Committee.

Elmer Chaney has also been involved in community activities. He has always been a fundraiser for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, but his greatest contribution to the community is his love of the reed organ. Mr. Chaney is an accomplished organist and carillonneur at the Church of St. Michael and All Angeles in Anniston, Alabama. He is a member of the Reed Organ Society and owns a number of outstanding instruments.

Elmer Chaney has been a vital part of Jacksonville State University. His presence at the university is felt in so many ways. I salute him for his dedication to his students, to Jacksonville State University and to the field of Education.

JOHN F. BARRETT: BOYS HOPE/
GIRLS HOPE HEART OF GOLD
AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of John Barrett, a friend, distinguished constituent and community leader who will receive Cincinnati's Boys Hope/Girls Hope's highest honor the Heart of Gold Award, on June 1, 1999.

As a member of the Board of Boys Hope/Girls Hope in Cincinnati, John Barrett has given countless hours of his personal time to further the organization's important mission of helping vulnerable young people in our area. Boys Hope/Girls Hope works to overcome the obstacles of poverty, abuse and neglect and provide a structured, caring educational experience for those deserving students through high school and college. John's enthusiasm for this organization is contagious and he has been instrumental in attracting others in the business community to this most worthy cause.

John Barrett believes in giving back to his community and he is particularly committed to improving the lives of the young people in our area. In addition to the tremendous work he does for Boys Hope/Girls Hope, he serves on the boards of the Children's Hospital, the Dan Beard Council/Boy Scouts of America, and the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Association.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati owe John a debt of gratitude and congratulate him on receiving the Heart of Gold Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
OIL AND GAS LEASE MANAGE-
MENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF
1999

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, production of oil and gas from our public lands is fast becoming a rarity. Today I am introducing a bill, together with Rep. JOE SKEEN of New Mexico, which we trust will stem this decline, and encourage investment in federal mineral leases. We call it the Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act of 1999. Senator MURKOWSKI has already introduced a companion bill in the other body.

The "oil patch" in the United States is in tough shape. Consumers blissfully enjoyed record low gasoline prices until very recently, but producers have suffered immeasurably from the diminished proceeds they have received for their crude oil for many, many months. Even the recent slow climb back to semi-respectable oil and gas prices in the last few weeks has turned back down again in the last week of trading. Our bill, it will provide some incentives to federal oil and gas lessees to "stay the course" when prices drop below \$18 per barrel, or \$2.30 per million BTU's for natural gas. Furthermore, our bill says to producers "you know better than the government what your make or break price threshold is, so if low prices are sustained your lease terms are suspended, *at your option*, not the Secretary of the Interior's."

But, Mr. Speaker, its not just producers who are being squeezed by today's global oil price environment. So are the oil patch states for which their share of federal mineral receipts are critical in meeting budget priorities. For many public land states, these receipts are dedicated to education trust funds, yet since 1991 these states have had to "share" in the burden of the federal government's costs to administer the Mineral Leasing Act before receiving their half of the remaining revenue. My home state of Wyoming has had over seven million dollars annually taken from the receipts flowing into its Treasury because of this law. And, these states, until now have had no option to take over the federal government's responsibilities and perform the same tasks more cost effectively.

That will change with the Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act. This bill offers states the opportunity to take over post-lease issuance duties from the federal Bureau of Land Management and allow the state's oil and gas conservation commission to perform those functions on federal leases within their borders, if they so choose. As an incentive to take over the fed program, thereby saving federal budget outlays, volunteering states would no longer have to share in the federal administrative burden which unfairly diminishes their school funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues from other public land states to cosponsor this legislation and work with me toward its passage. This bill seeks the balance necessary to keep a domestic oil and gas industry working to explore and develop our public mineral resources. Without such balance, the long term decline in domestic production will continue to

worsen and the royalties the taxpayers receive for such production will decline as well. Our oil patch states have shown the way this year by passing numerous severance tax reductions and other legislation designed to keep production on-stream and the workers associated with that production paying taxes. The Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act of 1999 is a small step in that direction by the federal government, and I urge its adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANES-
THESIA OUTCOMES STUDY ACT
OF 1999

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with several of my colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee—Representative MATSUI, Representative LEWIS (GA), Representative THURMAN, and Representative BECERRA—to introduce the Anesthesia Outcomes Study Act of 1999.

When the Health Care Financing Administration issued regulations to remove a Federal requirement of physician supervision of nurse anesthetists and instead leave that decision up to State rules, it threw a technical, medical debate into the realm of Congress.

I have absolutely no idea who is right or wrong on the issue or whether there is a quality difference with or without physician supervision. Yet, we are being asked to choose sides and advocate for the nurse anesthetists or for the anesthesiologists on this matter. I am very uncomfortable with Congress making decisions about which type of health professional should provide which type of service.

My colleagues and I advocate that this issue be resolved on a scientific, rather than political, basis. For that reason, we are introducing the Anesthesia Outcomes Study Act of 1999. This bill calls for the Secretary of HHS to conduct a study of mortality and adverse outcome rates of Medicare patients by providers of anesthesia services. In conducting such a study, the Secretary is to take into account the supervision, or lack of physician supervision, on such mortality and adverse outcome rates. This report is due to the Congress no later than June 30, 2000.

Once again, our intent with this legislation is absolutely neutral. We are not medical experts and we do not know whether physician supervision is a factor in the provision of anesthesia services. This study will provide us with the facts that are lacking today so that the final decision on this matter is a medically appropriate decision. Congress should not take action without that data.

HONORING EMMA BUCK

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Emma Buck, who recently celebrated her 95th