

commemorating the VFW's 100 year anniversary (H. Res. 115).

I still believe that we will be able to accomplish this task. I hope that my recent appointment will help move this process along.

MEGAN MONTONI'S ATHLETIC
ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the recent athletic achievements of Megan Montoni, who hails from Wadsworth, Ohio in my Congressional District. As a sophomore at Ashland University this past school year, Megan recently earned All-American honors for her performance in the shot put at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Emporia, Kansas. She also participated in the shot put and the discuss at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, receiving silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Being recognized as an All-America athlete is a prestigious accomplishment in college athletics and in all of sports. Dedication and a solid work ethic have launched Megan to the top of her game. Remarkably, she underwent knee surgery one year before the NCAA championships. Her discipline, resilience, and passion to succeed were clearly illustrated at the NCAA championships. Megan's work ethic and determination are an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Megan for earning All-America honors.

FLAG PROTECTION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial, "Flag Deserves Extra Protection," which appeared in the Wednesday, June 30, 1999, edition of the Norfolk Daily News.

[From the Daily News, June 30, 1999]

FLAG DESERVES EXTRA PROTECTION
COURT'S RULING SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FINAL
DECISION BY AMENDMENT PROCESS

One member of the House of Representatives was careful to note what is sometimes ignored in the heat of debate. "We all believe in our country; this is an honest dispute about how we reflect patriotism," said Rep. Mel Watt, D-NC., of the proposal to amend the Constitution to allow Congress to ban desecration of the flag.

That is proper acknowledgment that people who believe flag burning is an offensive act but one protected by the First Amendment may be no less sincere patriots than those who believe this symbol of the nation is sacred and deserves special protection.

Opponents to an amendment, however, seem too willing to accept court interpretations of First Amendment issues as final, irreversible truth. When such decisions—especially those so narrowly decided as in the flag burning case—are controversial enough,

it is proper that they produce legislative reaction. That can take the form of utilizing the constitutional amendment procedure.

It is rarely invoked, and requires overwhelming popular support. But the amendment process should not be avoided either because it is difficult or because jurists are thought to have the last word. If it is otherwise, then America is not so much a nation governed by laws as one governed by lawyers—in this case, lawyers who have reached the stature of judges. However objective those learned men and women try to be, the American system did provide for amendments and there are some issues which deserve that attention.

It will not diminish the Bill of Rights to allow Congress to define and allow either state or federal enforcement of a law or laws which put Old Glory in a special category for protection. It will, instead, provide a small countermeasure to offensive behavior of a sort which deserves no First Amendment protection.

The argument is not about legitimate free expression, but rather the extent to which free people must tolerate offensive acts. The American people should be given a chance to decide whether or not they want their government to protect their flag from desecrators. The many exceptions to the First Amendment—libelous and slanderous statements, treasonous acts, defacement of property, incitement to riot among them—have been defined by court opinions. In this case, an exception would be made directly by the amendment process.

It should be allowed to go forward. The House of Representatives decided that it should, and by a 305-124 margin. The Senate ought to act positively this time, and acknowledge that the flag deserves to be treated as a living thing.

HONORING DEPUTY TOM PROUD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now take this opportunity to honor Deputy Tom Proud of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Department. I wish to recognize Deputy Proud for his dedication, hard work and involvement in the Pueblo community. I would like to commend him for his efforts and for receiving designation as the Outstanding Deputy of Pueblo County Sheriff's Department.

Serving in various capacities, Proud is particularly dedicated to protecting the youth of Pueblo. Assigned as Crime Prevention Officer to Pueblo West in 1993, he has continued to be involved in prevention efforts including Pueblo County Safety Fair and the implementation of the Pueblo West Crime Watch.

Deputy Proud is an active participant in the Pueblo West Substation Committee in which he contributed to the fulfillment of the Sheriff's Office vision of decentralization. He has taken a leadership role in the Child Safety Seat Program through his work to organize safety check-points to serve thirty families with installation of new car seats.

Currently, he has extended his duties to dedicating time as School Resource Officer for Pueblo West High School, Pueblo West Middle School, Pueblo West Elementary School, and Sierra Vista Primary School. He has undertaken many tasks, in particular, special

missions on traffic control around the schools. Deputy Sheriff Proud is becoming a talented instructor in the subjects of drug and alcohol awareness.

Men like Tom Proud are a rare breed. I appreciate his involvement in the Pueblo community and his dedication to the citizens and youth of Pueblo. Deputy Sheriff Tom Proud is a great asset to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and to Pueblo. I would like to congratulate him on a job well done, and I hope that he will continue in his service.

LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to Washington the members of the Lupus Foundation of America, and my friend and Chairman of the Lupus Foundation of America—Mr. Terry Bell. The delegates are here this week to inform Members of Congress and their staff about the cataclysmic effects of lupus and to request support for my bill, H.R. 762—the Lupus Research and Care Amendments Act of 1999.

The members of the Lupus Foundation have long been on the front line of the fight against lupus, a devastating disease that affects over 1.4 million Americans. The Lupus Foundation is a national voluntary health agency, with more than 100 affiliate chapters across the country, representing people with lupus, their families, friends and others who are concerned about this destructive disease.

I know something about lupus. I lost a sister to lupus. It is because of my experience with this disease that I have introduced H.R. 762. This bill expands and intensifies the research effort of the NIH to diagnose, treat, and eventually cure lupus. My bill increases the funding for lupus research and education, and it establishes a grant program to expand the availability of lupus service. It also protects the poor and the uninsured from financial devastation, by limiting their annual out-of-pocket expenses for lupus services.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease that afflicts women nine times more than it does men, and has its most significant impact on women during the childbearing years. About 1.4 million Americans have some form of lupus—one out of every 185 Americans. An estimated 1 in 250 African American women between the ages of 15 and 65 develop lupus.

Thousands of women with lupus die each year. Many other victims suffer debilitating pain and fatigue, making it difficult to maintain employment and lead normal lives. Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of lupus for sufferers and family members is the fact that there is no cure. Lupus is devastating not only to the victim, but to family members as well.

Since my arrival in the House in 1993, I have urged the Congress to direct the NIH to mount an all-out campaign against lupus. We can and must do more this year to conquer lupus, while offering treatment and protection against financial devastation to the victims of lupus.

Without struggle, there can be no progress. The members of the Lupus Foundation are leading the struggle to inform Members of

Congress about lupus and to help find a cure. In the past, Congressional support has proven to be an important factor in providing the much needed funds to help the National Institutes of Health make important medical breakthroughs in the fight against lupus. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming the members and friends of the Lupus Foundation to Washington. I also urge my colleagues to sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 762. With your help, we will win this fight.

TRIBUTE TO JACK RUDIN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and wish a very happy birthday to a great New Yorker and wonderful American, Jack Rudin. Jack Rudin has served for many years on the boards of many of New York's prominent cultural, education and social service organizations. He is a current member of the executive committee and board of overseers and managers of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; an honorary trustee of the American Museum of Natural History and of the Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue; vice chairman of Jazz at Lincoln Center and director of the Hebrew Free Loan Society and the George C. Marshall Foundation.

In addition, Mr. Rudin is a trustee emeritus of Iona College, where the Rudins established the Roberta C. Rudin Program in Judeo-Christian Studies. As the original sponsor of the New York City Marathon, he is also the chairman of that event.

As a veteran of World War II, he was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star for his courage and patriotism. He also holds awards from many organizations, including the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America, Jewish Theological Seminary for America, the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers/ADL, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Conservancy for Historic Battery Park, and the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Mr. Rudin has received honorary degrees from Iona College, City College, City University of New York and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jack Rudin has been a great friend to Long Island. On behalf of Long Island, Happy Birthday, Jack!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1999, I missed fifteen votes because of scheduled back surgery in Houston.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 262: Aye.

Rollcall No. 263: Aye.

Rollcall No. 264: No.

Rollcall No. 265: Aye.

Rollcall No. 266: Aye.

Rollcall No. 267: Aye.

Rollcall No. 268: No.

Rollcall No. 269: No.

Rollcall No. 270: No.

Rollcall No. 271: Aye.

Rollcall No. 272: Aye.

Rollcall No. 273: Aye.

Rollcall No. 274: Aye.

Rollcall No. 275: Aye.

Rollcall No. 276: Aye.

BROADBAND LEGISLATION WILL
SPUR COMPETITION, BENEFIT
CONSUMERS

HON. JOHN. D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we began to write the law that would become the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in 1993. At that time, the vast majority of the American people were scarcely aware of the Internet's existence and potential. In fact, it's amusing to recall that some of the people we today revere as visionaries—including those in, say, Redmond, Washington—initially failed to understand the importance of the World Wide Web.

Much has changed since then. The Internet is on the front page of every major daily newspaper, and every major daily newspaper is on the Internet. E-mail addresses are exchanged as freely as telephone numbers. And the effect on the nation's commerce has been staggering. But the most amazing thing about this technological revolution is that this is only the beginning.

That is why Representative BILLY TAUZIN (R-LA) and I introduced H.R. 2420, the "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act" on July 1, 1999. We want the exponential growth of the Internet to continue unabated. We want to remove outdated remnants of regulation written when we needed to safeguard and promote a different world of telecommunications. Today, those rules do little more than slow down progress. Out legislation is designed to take the speed limits off the Information Superhighway once and for all.

First, the bill makes sure that Internet service will not become a de facto monopoly for any one provider. As technological convergence allows the cable and telephone wires in every home to deliver virtually the same services to the American people, it makes no sense to treat these wires differently under the law. It grossly distorts the operation of the market by giving one wire an artificial advantage over the other. Our bill protects consumers from a new monopoly in the business of Internet access and guarantees all Americans the freedom to choose the very best service at the lowest possible price.

Second, our bill protects consumers against the increasing concentration of market power in the Internet backbone business. The backbone of the Internet is virtually invisible to the average user, but it's arguably the most important communications link in the chain. It also has the potential of becoming the bottleneck of the 21st century. Virtually every bit and byte that travels over the Internet must cross one or more of these backbone networks to reach

its destination. It is imperative that these networks remain competitive, and our bill will make sure that is so.

We are embarking on a technological journey that has already transformed our lives. The public is clamoring for new, high tech services, but they will be slow in coming and more expensive under current rules. Chairman TAUZIN and I have put together a blueprint for change that we believe will bring tremendous benefits to American consumers and the nation's economy. We propose to leave behind any personal biases and battle scars from past telecom wars, and we look forward to an exciting and stimulating debate characterized first and foremost, by open minds, fresh ideas, and a singular focus on what's best for the American people.

HONORING ONI BUTTERFLY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Ms. Oni Butterfly of Silt, Colorado, for her community involvement, leadership, and instrumental role in forming the Silt Area Chamber of Commerce in 1997. Her exceptional work ethic and willingness to serve and help others are to be commended.

After growing up in New Jersey, Ms. Butterfly attended college in Syracuse, New York where she earned a degree in bacteriology. Later she received her master's degree in environmental sciences. She has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and for the Northeastern U.S. Water Supply Study for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Her integrity and ethics have aided her and have led her to become the executive director of the Silt Area Economic Development Council and the music director for the valley's Hot Strings Band. Ms. Butterfly also dedicates her time as the membership director for the mountain states region of the Better Business Bureau.

Ms. Oni Butterfly provides inspiration and an example to follow as she works to serve and better her community. I am grateful to her for her hard work and dedication. Ms. Butterfly is an amazing individual and it is for her commitment to the citizens of Silt and for her perseverance that I now pay tribute to this remarkable woman.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY LANG LEG-
ENDARY TRACK COACH AT
FLORIDA A&M

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Coach Bobby Lang, the legendary track coach at Florida A&M University, who resigned this past Friday, after 40 years of service.

Coach Lang is the last in a long line of legendary Florida A&M coaches who took little and did much. A full time professor of health