

reason, we propose a range of legislative initiatives that, when combined, offer a comprehensive package. We describe the details of the Comprehensive Long Term Health Care Act elsewhere in today's RECORD. We hope that our colleagues and advocacy groups will join in support and in recommending refinements and improvements.

## SILK ROAD STRATEGY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 2, 1999*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the House, today, considered H.R. 1152, which seeks to promote free market policies in the new republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus and to encourage foreign investment, increased trade and other forms of commercial ties between the countries of these regions and the rest of the world.

These are praiseworthy objectives, and legislation expressing U.S. support for the fledgling democracies of the Silk Road region deserves priority attention. Consequently, I support the goals of H.R. 1152, the Silk Road Strategy Act of 1999.

At the same time, however, many companies from OECD countries, including the United States, have substantial direct investments in several of the Silk Road countries and are not being accorded fair treatment. Investment contracts are not being honored, export permits are not being issued and de facto nationalizations of foreign investment have occurred. In several instances, formal complaints have been lodged by investors through U.S. and other embassies in the region.

In an effort to discourage this kind of mistreatment, the International Relations Committee amended the bill to include language conditioning U.S. assistance on the fair treatment of foreign investors. Specifically, the amendment requires recipient governments to demonstrate "significant progress" in resolving investment and other trade disputes that have been registered with the U.S. Embassy and raised by the U.S. Embassy with the host government.

I was pleased to sponsor this amendment, because without it the Silk Road bill could have caused the beneficiary governments to conclude that they had a green light to renege on commitments to foreign investors, jeopardizing hundreds of millions of dollars of investments. In this regard, a number of pension plans have investments in companies doing business in countries such as Kazakhstan. The average worker participating in a pension is adversely affected as well, and this must stop.

As amended, this bill should send a strong signal that countries should not expect to receive U.S. assistance if they mistreat companies that provide critical investment capital and employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1152.

CONGRATULATING MS. TAMMARA DEANE' CRAWFORD ON HER SELECTION AS A 1999 DEBUTANTE OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

### HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 3, 1999*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a constituent of mine, Ms. Tammara Deane' Crawford on her selection as a 1999 Debutante of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Ms. Crawford is to be commended for her accomplishment and is, in my opinion, very deserving of this honor.

Ms. Crawford is sixteen years old and is a senior at Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge. She sets the example for many of her classmates by being involved in both the Student Government Association and the Woodlawn High School track team.

Not only has Ms. Crawford been a positive example to her peers at Woodlawn High School as a scholar, a student leader, and an athlete, she is also a shining example to her community. Ms. Crawford, in her spare time, is an active member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the Louisiana National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the African American Christian Youth Organization, and the Baton Rouge Area Girl Scouts of America. In addition to her involvement with these community organizations, Ms. Crawford also volunteers her time with the Volunteers as well as teaching the proper handling of horses at a local camp, Camp Marydale.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Crawford represents everything that is right with our youth in America. At a time when the news regarding our young people is so disturbing, and quite frankly depressing, it is refreshing to take the time to look at young women like Ms. Crawford who not only recognize the need to excel in their studies, but also recognize the need to become involved in society at large. I am proud to know that she is a constituent in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you and all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join in congratulating Ms. Tammara Deane' Crawford upon her selection as a 1999 Debutante of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. I know that she has made her parents, Eddie and Myra, and her sister and brother, Taylor and Timothy very proud.

WILLIE MORRIS, FAMED MISSISSIPPI WRITER PASSES AWAY

### HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 3, 1999*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I stand before you, my colleagues and the American people with sad news. One of our nation's greatest artists has passed away.

Yesterday, Willie Morris died. Willie lived in my district down in Jackson. Willie will always live, Mr. Speaker, in the hearts of thousands around our planet who have read his words discovering a world of penetrating wit, warm memories, and prose that can bring the angels to earth and soothe our longings to connect with our broader world.

Willie Morris grew up in Yazoo City. We know about small town America in the 1950's because Willie told us about it. He told us about childhood friends like Bubba and Henjie. And he let us remember the loving wags and pants of childhood pets like his beloved dog Skip. We remember an America that only children can recall; an America of simple dreams poised to enter the turbulent period we call the sixties. Willie's memories were our memories—Christmas with Uncle Percy in Jackson, the smell of turkey and talk of baseball, high school football on cool autumn nights, and those first dates with sweaty palms and nervous laughs. How can we thank Willie Morris enough for putting our memories on paper?

Willie gave us the sixties as a student at the University of Texas and a Rhodes Scholar in England. We came of age with Willie as he recalled campus ramblings and long road trips. Willie Morris told us about the reality of America and being a young person finding his place in the greater American family. We see ourselves seeking to understand and find our places in the words of Willie.

When Willie Morris became editor of Harper's Magazine, he was the youngest to do so in their history. He led Harper's through the late 1960's and early 1970's with courage and honesty. He addressed the tough issues of the day and refused to cave in to conventionality for the sake of getting along. We met Truman Capote, Bill Styron, and so many others through Willie's essays. In broadening his world, ours was enlarged as well.

Following his years in New York, Willie became Writer-in-Residence at Ole Miss and finished his years in Jackson. His commitment in encouraging and bringing out the best of Mississippi's collective nature was impactful and profound. He mentored and gave us new Southern writers like Donna Tartt. Willie made us laugh at ourselves. He brought us together as one.

I think Willie Morris let us embrace our Southernness in the context of being a member of the entire American family. In his prose, Willie was honest about himself and his culture. Yet while embracing the truth, Willie made us proud of our accomplishments, our potential and ourselves. He was a visionary who could make the past alive and relevant while caring for the people and events of the present.

We will always remember and have Willie Morris at our side. We will read the pages of North Toward Home, The Courtship of Marcus Dupree, My Dog Skip, and his many other books and essays with a reverence and realization of our place in the world. Willie Morris was our bridge between past and present, and our voice for the better angels in us all. He always will be.