

of the National Skill Standards Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 5933), and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the National Skill Standards Board for a 4-year term to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. William L. Lepley, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

There was no objection.

SO LONG TO SYLVAN RODRIGUEZ, ONE OF HOUSTON'S NATIVE SONS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first let me offer my deepest concern and sympathy for the Marines who lost their lives on behalf of this Nation, and to a native son from Houston and his family.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and acknowledge Sylvan Rodriguez, a "minister of information," a local news anchor for Channel 11 news in Houston, Texas, who passed away last week. Sylvan Rodriguez was an anchor for 23 years, but what we know him most for, those of us who watched him in the community, is as a caring deliverer of the news, someone who believed that the news should be informational but passionate and compassionate.

He died from cancer. The viewers of Channel 11 will miss him and the Houston Community will miss him.

Rodriguez was born in San Antonio, Texas, on March 20, 1948. He came to Houston in 1977. He went to Los Angeles but returned to our Houston family in 1987. He anchored the noon and 6:00 p.m. newscast. He reported on major issues in our community.

He was a founding member of the I Have a Dream Foundation, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, he loved his family and his community. I salute him and my regrets and sympathy go to his wife; his two daughters; his son; his stepson; and as well his stepdaughter; his mother and three brothers and sister in Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a valued leader, a member of the Houston Community who will be remembered as much for how much he cared for people as for his professional approval to delivering the news to us. Sylvan Rodriguez through his work was a friend to us all, he will be missed by our entire city.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of Mr. Sylvan Rodriguez, distinguished Houston news anchor, journalist and community activist. Mr. Rodriguez recently passed away after a bout with cancer.

Since the shattering news of his illness, Sylvan showed determination and courage. Instead of turning inward when this disease was diagnosed, Sylvan realized that he could play a special role in educating the community about cancer, its devastation, and one's ability to survive. Sylvan continued to educate the Houston Community about cancer and tire-

lessly raised funds for numerous charities while still fighting this horrific disease.

More than one of Houston's most beloved news anchor and journalist; Sylvan was a leader in the community and dedicated his life's work to making this world a better place than the way he found it. Sylvan was a very special person and meant a lot to all who knew him. He loved people and he made us better because he educated and challenged us!

At this time, I do not think Sylvan would have wanted the Houston communities to anguish over his passing; instead, he would want all of us to pick up the torch of leadership and responsibility, and work together to ensure that our communities continue to grow and learn from one another, and to continue God's work.

Nevertheless, Sylvan's passing will forever leave a void in all of our hearts in Houston, and throughout the great state of Texas. I hope that in time, his family, friends, and colleagues are comforted by the legacy of accomplishments Sylvan leaves behind. In addition, I hope that fond memories of Sylvan Rodriguez will continue to inspire all who knew him and the Houston community for the future. In closing, I offer my deepest sympathy on Sylvan Rodriguez passing and bid him a fond farewell.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1800

MICROSOFT BREAK-UP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation of laws. Without a codified, uniform, and fairly administered systems of laws, American society would be harmed, lives would be ruined and businesses would falter and fail.

I also know that our system is not perfect. Sometimes it is possible for existing laws to be misapplied or misinterpreted. Sometimes it is possible for reasonable men and women to look at the same set of facts and to simply draw different conclusions. And sometimes our very human and very American desire to side with the little guy overwhelms our objectivity and colors our view of the facts; that I believe is happening in the case of Microsoft versus the Department of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Microsoft is being unfairly judged, not only in

the federal courtroom, but also in the court of public opinion, and I believe this good company stands a chance of being unfairly punished. That is why I am here today to do what I can to stop an injustice from occurring.

Microsoft is the great American success story. Today, it is a company whose products have increased the efficiency of our work force immeasurably. It is a company whose products are used and respected worldwide. It is a company who has shared more of its wealth creation with its workers than any other business in this country. It is a company whose founder has made more charitable contributions than any other business leader in the entire world.

And this American success story is under attack today, because it wanted to offer better products to its customers in order to stay competitive. That seems absurd to me. Even more absurd is the precedent that this decision would set for all of American business, because the attack on Microsoft is not simply an attack on a single very successful company.

It is an attack on the very principles of business competition and technological innovation. It is an attack that threatens to undermine one of the most successful engines of economic growth and technological innovation in our Nation.

One of the first rules of business is to anticipate changing markets, to predict what competitors will do, and try to do better. The way to win in a competitive marketplace is to produce better products more quickly and more economically. That is the basis of our free enterprise system. It is why our economy leads the world, and it is why we are the envy of the rest of the world.

It is a terribly, terribly serious matter for the government to intrude in that process of healthy competition. And it is simply not acceptable or reasonable for our government to seek to destroy a fundamental engine of our economy.

Microsoft is a generous and responsible corporate citizen, one of the most innovative and creative success stories in American history. Microsoft should not be attacked simply because they sought to provide more integrated, advanced, and efficient products to the marketplace, that is what consumers want companies to do. Far from harming consumers, that is what consumers want from products that and the companies that make them.

The theory behind antitrust actions is to prevent monopolistic or anti-competitive practices that could stifle development or competition and thereby hurt the consumer.

I understand that principle, but the key phrase is thereby hurt the consumer. And what is most important to consider here is not whether there is a specific level of competition, but whether consumers have, in fact, been harmed.