

torque. They also possess extraordinary cornering power and a steering capacity unsurpassed in the history of the automobile. Today's cars also have braking systems designed to bring thousands of pounds to a halt rapidly. All these forces express themselves through four patches, each the size of a human hand. That tires perform 700 revolutions per mile, mile after mile to 50,000 miles and beyond with such low rates of failure is extraordinary.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said, "great cases, like hard cases, make bad law." Congress was put under extraordinary pressure to act quickly on an extremely complex issue in developing the TREAD Act. The TREAD Act should not be viewed as a panacea for the recent car tragedies. While the TREAD Act sets higher standards for tire performance, tires will continue to fail. Because of the imperfect nature of the tire, it will take continual attention from the industry, consumer groups, regulators and Congress to assure the safety of tire consumers above and beyond the TREAD Act.

While Congress cannot legislate a perfect tire, this is good law and improves current safety standards. In spite of the time constraints, intricacy of the issue, and politically charged atmosphere, the TREAD Act sets out realistic standards that improve safety and can also be reasonably implemented by the industry and enforced by NHTSA.

First, the Act requires manufacturers to report comprehensive foreign and domestic tire data, such as claims and warranty information, that will help NHTSA uncover safety problems across the world, not just in the United States.

Second, the Act holds NHTSA accountable for any data it receives from manufacturers. The agency must tell Congress how it plans to analyze the data as well as what systems it has in place to process the data. This way Congress and the public knows that the information will be used to help identify safety problems and not filed away behind some regulators desk.

The TREAD Act presents a balanced approach to improving tire safety. Because of this Act, we can expect that when a problem occurs, it is identified, its cause is established, and consumers are better protected. In the end, we crafted a bill that is a significant achievement and moves toward greatly improving consumer safety.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SAMOAN HEAVYWEIGHT BOXER DAVID TUA

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 2000*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, what is it that Olympian gold-medalist volleyballer Eric Fonoimoana, Junior Seau of the San Diego Chargers, Joe Salvare'a of the Tennessee Titans, Edwin Mulitalo of the Baltimore Ravens, Naomi Multaupo of the Utah Starzz, Marcus Tuiasopopo of the Washington Huskies, All-American UCLA discus thrower Seilala Su'a, Yokozuna Sumo Grand Champion Musashimaru, Ozeki Sumo Champion Konishiki, WWF Wrestling Champion Tuipei, "The Rock", and heavyweight boxer David Tua all have in common? Mr. Speaker, they

are all Samoans. Not Somalians. Mr. Speaker—they are Samoan Polynesians who share the same cultural heritage like the Maoris of New Zealand, the Hawaiians or Kanaka Maoli, Tongans, and Tahitians.

After the elections Mr. Speaker, I suggest to my colleagues and to the millions of boxing fans throughout America, to kick back and turn their TV sets on to HBO and witness one of the most historical events that will transpire on the evening of November 11th in Las Vegas—the world heavyweight boxing championship fight between Lennox Lewis and Samoan heavyweight boxer David Tua.

Mr. Speaker, it is against Samoan tradition to be boastful and arrogant—but as a totally neutral observer and with all due respect—Lennox Lewis is going to painfully wake up the next morning and count how many ribs he has left, and then he will wonder if he was hit by either a dump-truck or a D-nine caterpillar tractor, after fighting against David Tua.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this guy David Tua—he has the heart and soul of a true Polynesian warrior. He's got a nasty left hook and a deadly right hand knockout punch. He only weighs about 250 pounds. He has no neck, and his legs and calves are like tree trunks—which is typical of Samoan men who also wear what we here in America describe as skirts, but they are actually lavalavas.

I want to express my personal thanks and appreciation to the good people of New Zealand—all the pakehas and our Polynesian cousins the Tangata Maohi for looking after David Tua and his family, and for their acceptance of David Tua—and I say to my Maori cousins—"Tena Koutou! Tena Koutou!" Thank you, Thank you!

Mr. Speaker, in describing David Tua's physical presence, I am reminded of a poem that a Hawaiian comedian Frank Delima once wrote about Samoans. By the way, Mr. Speaker, David Tua's favorite past time is writing poetry. Anyway, the poem, in part, is entitled "Abdullah Fata'ai" and it goes like this:

I'm nine feet tall and six feet wide.  
I got a neck made of elephant hide  
I scrape da haoles off the soles of my feet  
I drive my Volkswagen from the back seat

\* \* \* \* \*  
I eat green bananas, tree and all  
My favorite game is tackle football  
I wear a skirt, but you better not laugh  
Cause it won't be funny when I break you in half

I'm as gentle and sweet as a grizzly bear  
Only difference is he got more hair

\* \* \* \* \*  
I got the nicest smile in all the Pacific  
I got an island home that's super terrific  
But I don't like fight and you don't like die  
So when I say, "Talofa!" you better say, "Hi!"

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Prime Minister of the Independent and Sovereign State of Samoa and the Governor of the U.S. Territory of American Samoa to declare November 11th as National David Tua Day. It will be a day that will be remembered by Samoans throughout the world—the Samoan "David" going up against the Goliath "Lennox Lewis"—and we all know the results of that famous encounter.

I do not know if David Tua is listening to this presentation, Mr. Speaker, but I do know that David Tua is a humble man—never speaks ill of his opponents, and I believe the American people and boxing fans around the world are

going to remember him well for his talents, and above all, his sportsmanship like conduct.

As we say in the Samoan language, (the gentleman spoke in Samoan) "la pouliuli lou tino, ma ia malamalama ou mata, ma tafe toto ou ala—ou mama na, David Tua," which means, Mr. Speaker, "May your body be as invisible as the air and may your eyes be as bright as the sun. May you be victorious in battle—all our hopes and aspirations are with you, David Tua."

PAUL HAMM'S 2000 SUMMER OLYMPIC PERFORMANCE APPLAUDED

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 2000*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young man from my district who has recently returned from Sydney, Australia, where he represented his country proudly in Olympic competition. In August Paul Hamm, along with his brother Morgan, became the first set of twins to ever qualify for the United States' men's gymnastics team. At 18, the young men from Waukesha, Wisconsin, are also the second youngest male gymnasts in U.S. Olympic history.

Paul's overall performance earned him a 14th place finish in the all around competition. The Olympics are always a time of pride in our nation's athletes, however this was especially true for the people of southeastern Wisconsin this summer. Paul and Morgan's story gave us all another reason to watch and cheer for two of our own.

Paul has put years of hard work and dedication into perfecting the skills that have taken him to the pinnacle of his sport. He has worked with his coach, Stacy Maloney, since the age of six to earn the right to compete with the best in the world. To reach the Olympic stature at such a young age and with relatively little experience in major events is truly amazing.

Of course Paul would not have been able to reach the heights that he has attained without a strong support system. The natural competition he had with his brother Morgan pushed them both to be their best. Their parents, Sandy and Cecily, are to be commended for the sacrifices that they have made to help their sons reach their goals. From the time Sandy convinced Stacy Maloney to coach his six year old sons to the trip to Sydney, the Hamms have provided their sons with the opportunity to excel.

Paul is not only an exceptional athlete, he is also a role model for the young people of America. Despite squeezing two daily practices in between his classes, he is an honor student at Waukesha South High School. Even though he has missed the entire fall semester, he intends to graduate with the rest of his class next spring. Paul's successes, both in the gym and in the classroom, prove just how much can be accomplished through hard work and dedication.

And so it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Paul Hamm on his Olympic accomplishments, and wish him all the best as he looks forward to a long career leading the U.S. men's gymnastics team into the new century.