

TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN STEIGER
FOR HER EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to and commend Caitlin Steiger for her exemplary service and commitment to her community. On May 7, 2001, Caitlin was named one of America's top ten teen volunteers in Prudential's Spirit of Community Awards Ceremony. She was recognized for her efforts to organize an annual 5K run, which benefits Hope House day care center in Memphis. Through her own initiative, Caitlin created this local service project to strengthen her community and provide much needed services to children suffering with AIDS.

Caitlin has successfully organized this event for the past two years and, during that time, raised over \$50,000 for this day care center that services children with AIDS or who have relatives with AIDS. She was selected to the top ten from over one hundred teenagers who were honored for their community achievements.

It is inspiring to see a young Tennessean give something of quality back to the Memphis community and to the entire state. While there is no doubt that Caitlin found this work rewarding, I am sure that those who have benefitted from her efforts are very grateful for her special contribution. I am very proud of Caitlin's efforts to create a better, stronger community.

Caitlin is an outstanding young leader and is certain to continue to make a difference in the world around her. Her commitment to public service is an example for all ages of what it means to be a leader. I appreciate what she has done for all Tennesseans and am certain that this is just the beginning of many successes for this most impressive young woman. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AIRLINE
CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Airline Customer Service Improvement Act. This legislation is designed to address many of the underlying problems that have led to the recent public frustration with the air travel industry.

On June 17, 1999, the Air Transport Association, the association representing most of the major air carriers, announced that each of these carriers would develop voluntary customer service plans to address the problems the industry is facing. This came in response to several pieces of legislation that had been introduced in the 106th Congress to address this situation.

However, on February 13, 2001, the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General released its final report analyzing the progress made by the airlines under their vol-

untary "Customer Service Commitment." The Inspector General's report concluded that, although progress had been made, there were still significant shortfalls. The report further pointed out that the Service Commitments did nothing to address the underlying problem of delays and cancellations.

When a customer purchases an airline ticket, there are obligations such as arriving on time, staying seated on the plane during take-off and obeying rules and regulations set by airlines. But the contract should be mutual. The passenger needs assurances that the airline lives up to the other end of the bargain.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a uniform check-in deadline and requires airlines to disclose that deadline on their ticket jackets. It states there must be notification that involuntarily bumped passengers must be offered compensation before any offers are made to volunteers. The bill also requires prompt notification and truthful explanation of any flight delays, cancellations or diversions.

The Airline Customer Service Improvement Act requires more detailed and accurate information on mishandled baggage, including the establishment of a luggage tracking system and a toll free telephone number passengers can call to check on the status of their delayed luggage. It also requires that passengers who do not check luggage not be counted when calculating the rate of mishandled luggage.

This bill codifies common sense and common courtesy. If someone's flight is canceled, then that person should be called. Why should someone who owns an airline ticket be forced to pack up the car and drive to the airport on a wild goose chase?

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is urgently needed to address some of the underlying problems in the air travel industry as we move into the summer traveling season. I encourage my colleagues to take a look at this legislation and join me in co-sponsoring the Airline Customer Service Improvement Act.

IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we remember those brave men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom and world stability that we now enjoy. Let us use this day to remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, and our friends who have given their last full measure of devotion to our country.

As part of the ongoing celebration, I rise today to honor the Lehi American Legion of Utah as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The veteran memorial they have constructed in the Third District of Utah, which I represent, is a fitting and proper way to honor those who have served.

The Lehi American Post 19 and their 88 members have designed a memorial wall which includes over 400 names of veterans that are buried in the Lehi cemetery. This memorial stands not only as a tribute to the deceased, but as a tribute to the ideals that American soldiers still embrace and defend today.

Many of us celebrate Memorial Day with parades, social gatherings, and barbeques, but let us not forget the silent pain of the widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen dead. Let us not forget what Memorial Day is really all about: honoring America's fallen heroes. The Lehi American Legion's memorial honors over 400 such heroic veterans who have served since World War I. Its unique presentation is deserving of special attention.

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is a very special day to honor our veterans and current service men and women who contribute to our national defense. The people of Utah are eternally grateful to them and to their families for making such great sacrifices on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO THE MONTGOMERY-AUTAUGA-ELMORE MEDICAL ALLIANCE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding community service organization in my congressional district that is committed to enhancing the medical care of our residents through vital health education and awareness campaigns.

The Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore Medical Alliance serves central Alabama and is comprised of spouses of the area's physicians and surgeons. The Alliance annually conducts a number of worthy projects benefiting the citizens of the community.

For example, members of the leadership of the Alliance assist local and State civic leaders as they participate in the Montgomery County Medical Society's Mini-Internship program for familiarization with the intricacies of the art, science, business and practice of Medicine.

Through the local Blood and Tissue Donors Day program, the Alliance performs a valuable role in helping to collect life-giving blood and cancer curing bone marrow.

Furthermore, through the charitable donation of the funds raised in the annual Physicians' Pheast to many local organizations and causes, the Alliance truly improves the health and the health awareness of the public at large.

I salute the Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore Medical Alliance for their dedication and service to the good health of the residents of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FOSTER B. GIBBS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Foster B. Gibbs upon his retirement after 23 years as Superintendent of the Saginaw Public Schools. Dr. Gibbs is a legend in education circles in Michigan and beyond. His storied career has spanned 42 years, all of them serving the needs of students in the Saginaw Public Schools system.

A native of Royal Oak, Michigan, Foster comes from a family of educators. His father,

H. Britton Gibbs, was a former teacher, principal and superintendent. His mother, E. Marie Gibbs, was a teacher and principal. In addition, Foster's wonderful wife, RaeAnn, and his two sons, Douglas and Stephen, have enthusiastically encouraged and sustained his commitment and dedication to the Saginaw Public Schools.

Foster, who holds three degrees from the University of Michigan—a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in educational administration and a doctorate in administration, supervision and instruction, has had an incredible tenure. His pioneering efforts and many innovative ideas earned the Saginaw Public Schools system a national reputation for progressive approaches to improving educational opportunities for all students. In fact, his own reputation for excellence propelled him to myriad leadership positions in professional and community organizations throughout his career, including Past President of the Michigan Middle Cities Education Association, a founding member and President of the Urban Education Alliance, founding member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saginaw County and board member of Saginaw's America's Promise.

Foster's deep sense of obligation to the future of young people has prompted his faithful adherence to strong educational standards of excellence and a relentless pursuit of better methods to achieve that goal. His service has been marked by exemplary staff development and curriculum improvement that has put the district on the right path for the 21st Century.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Foster my friend. During my time in politics, I have had many opportunities to interact with Foster and each and every occasion has provided more reasons to respect the man and the educator. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Dr. Gibbs for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in his endeavors.

THANK YOU TO GARY DAVID
DEDMAN FOR SERVICE ON MY
STAFF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks and offer special recognition to an intern in my office, Gary David Dedman.

David attends my alma mater Middle Tennessee State University. He interned the entire fall semester in my office, working 35 hours a week.

Interns play an invaluable role in helping congressional offices function efficiently and effectively, often performing the most thankless but essential tasks required. David pitches in wherever and whenever he is needed, never complaining and always accomplishing his work on time and of the highest quality.

David loves interacting with our constituents. He truly goes above and beyond what is expected of him to ensure the satisfaction of our constituents. This high regard for the people of Middle Tennessee is reflected each and every day in his attitude and dependability.

David is a fine young man and has been an invaluable member of my staff. He deserves the highest praise for his dedication to a job well done.

It has been a pleasure to have Gary David Dedman serve in my office, and I join my staff in thanking him for all his hard work and invaluable contribution in serving the people of Middle Tennessee.

HONORING NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Science Foundation on the 50th anniversary of this excellent and important agency. The NSF has been the central advocate for basic and applied scientific research in five decades of service to this country.

Before NSF came into existence in 1950, government-sponsored research system for the sciences was disjointed. Different government agencies had made advances in areas as far-reaching as medical research and atomic energy. Under President Truman, the NSF was directed, among other things, to forge a national policy for the promotion of basic research and science and math education. The success of the Soviet Union's space program, exhibited through the successful launch of Sputnik, focused new attention on the need to promote science research and education at all levels. This was done through a strengthened relationship among the government, universities and researchers, with the Foundation in the lead.

NSF built a project grant system that President Eisenhower found so effective he promoted it as a government-wide model. Proposals were widely solicited from all geographic areas and from all branches of science, including the social sciences. Scientific merit was the main criterion for award. The prestige of American scientists was encouraged through NSF's support of international travel by its project teams and by sponsoring scientific symposia and conferences.

In its early support for science education, NSF increased the number and quality of scientists nationwide that could be used as its research base. Many of today's leading scientists owe their training to the NSF. This was accomplished through a fellowship program for graduate students and post-doctoral scientists.

NSF took the lead in performing "big science," which eventually became a sizable percentage of their budget. The Foundation was able to conduct programs that required facilities and instrumentation so costly that only the government could afford them. These facilities were open to all researchers and led to major developments in atmospheric research and radio and optical astronomy. Big-science projects at NSF also led to major breakthroughs in the theories of the shape of the universe, continental drift, and sea floor spreading.

NSF's role has been essential in producing science that could enhance America's competitiveness. In an effort to improve science and math education, NSF received a big boost in its budget in the mid-1950s for teacher institutes, other educational projects and new curricula in physics, biology, chemistry, and mathematics. Although Congressional support for education at the NSF has wavered over the years, based on each Administration's commitment to science, the need continues to increase as we find ourselves in an increasingly technological society.

The environmental movement provided a context for the growing interest in applied science, and new legislation authorized the Foundation to support applied, as well as basic, research. As President Kennedy stated on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences, "scientists alone can establish the objectives of their research, but society, in extending support to science, must take account of their own needs." The science-government relationship is an essential one, both for the betterment of our society and for the advancement of mankind. NSF has been a leader in this area, and I am sure that we will be celebrating a full century of their contributions fifty years from now.

HONORING DAN GERNATT, SR. UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE DEWITT CLINTON MASONIC AWARD

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both an extraordinary man and a dear friend. On Saturday, May 12, 2001, Dan Gernatt, Sr., will be honored with the prestigious DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Named in honor of former New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, this award recognizes those who have given "distinguished or outstanding community service," and "whose actions exemplify a shared concern for the well-being of mankind."

A dairy farmer who built the largest sand and gravel business in New York State, which today employs more than 200 people in seven plants, Dan Gernatt, Sr., has always worked to improve the quality of life in his community. He was not content simply to build a successful business, and believed strongly in giving back to those less fortunate. As the Dunkirk Observer noted, "Gernatt is a philanthropist by definition: one who practices good will to fellow men; one who is active in the effort to promote human welfare; a humanitarian."

Mr. Speaker, in "Song of Myself," Walt Whitman wrote "I do not give lectures on a little charity. When I give, I give myself." Throughout his life, Dan Gernatt, Sr. has given of himself time and time again, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting those philanthropic works upon his receipt of the DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award.