

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

“POSTAL SERVICE HAS ITS EYE ON YOU”

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to draw my colleagues' attention to the attached article "Postal Service Has Its Eye On You" by John Berlau of Insight magazine, which outlines the latest example of government spying on innocent citizens. Mr. Berlau deals with the Post Office's "Under the Eagle's Eye" program which the Post Office implemented to fulfill the requirements of the Nixon-era Bank Secrecy Act. Under this program, postal employees must report purchases of money orders of over \$3,000 to federal law enforcement officials. The program also requires postal clerks to report any "suspicious behavior" by someone purchasing a money order. Mr. Speaker, the guidelines for reporting "suspicious behavior" are so broad that anyone whose actions appear to a postal employee to be the slightest bit out of the ordinary could become the subject of a "suspicious activity report," and a federal investigation!

As postal officials admitted to Mr. Berlau, the Post Office is training its employees to assume those purchasing large money orders are criminals. In fact, the training manual for this program explicitly states that "it is better to report many legitimate transactions that seem suspicious than let one illegal one slip through." This policy turns the presumption of innocence, which has been recognized as one of the bulwarks of liberty since medieval times, on its head. Allowing any federal employee to assume the possibility of a crime based on nothing more than a subjective judgment of "suspicious behavior" represents a serious erosion of our constitutional rights to liberty, privacy, and due process.

I am sure I do not need to remind my colleagues of the public's fierce opposition to the "Know Your Customer" proposal, or the continuing public outrage over the Post Office's proposal to increase monitoring of Americans who choose to receive their mail at a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA). I have little doubt that Americans will react with the same anger when they discover that the Post Office is filing reports on them simply because they appeared "suspicious" to a postal clerk.

This is why I will soon be introducing legislation to curb the Post Office's regulatory authority over individual Americans and small business (including those who compete with the Post Office) as well as legislation to repeal the statutory authority to implement these "Know Your Customer" type policies. I urge my colleagues to read Mr. Berlau's article and join me in protecting the privacy and liberty of Americans by ensuring law-abiding Americans may live their lives free from the prying "Eagle Eye" of the Federal Government.

POSTAL SERVICE HAS ITS EYE ON YOU  
(By John Berlau)

Since 1997, the U.S. Postal Service has been conducting a customer-surveillance program, "Under the Eagle's Eye," and reporting innocent activity to federal law enforcement.

Remember "Know Your Customer"? Two years ago the federal government tried to require banks to profile every customer's "normal and expected transactions" and report the slightest deviation to the feds as a "suspicious activity." The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. withdrew the requirement in March 1999 after receiving 300,000 opposing comments and massive bipartisan opposition.

But while your bank teller may not have been snooping and snitching on your every financial move, your local post office has been (and is) watching you closely, Insight has learned. That is, if you have bought money orders, made wire transfers or sought cash cards from a postal clerk. Since 1997, in fact, the window clerk may very well have reported you to the government as a "suspicious" customer. It doesn't matter that you are not a drug dealer, terrorist or other type of criminal or that the transaction itself was perfectly legal. The guiding principle of the new postal program to combat money laundering, according to a U.S. Postal Service training video obtained by Insight, is: "It's better to report 10 legal transactions than to let one illegal ID transaction get by."

Many privacy advocates see similarities in the post office's customer-surveillance program, called "Under the Eagle's Eye," to the "Know Your Customer" rules. In fact, in a postal-service training manual also obtained by Insight, postal clerks are admonished to "know your customers."

Both the manual and the training video give a broad definition of "suspicious" in instructing clerks when to fill out a "suspicious activity report" after a customer has made a purchase. "The rule of thumb is if it seems suspicious to you, then it is suspicious," says the manual. "As we said before, and will say again, it is better to report many legitimate transactions that seem suspicious than let one illegal one slip through."

It is statements such as these that raise the ire of leading privacy advocates on both the left and right, most of whom didn't know about the program until asked by Insight to comment. For example, Rep. RON PAUL, R-Texas, who led the charge on Capitol Hill against the "Know Your Customer" rules, expressed both surprise and concern about "Under the Eagle's Eye." He says the video's instructions to report transactions as suspicious are "the reverse of what the theory used to be: We were supposed to let guilty people go by if we were doing harm to innocent people" when the methods of trying to apprehend criminals violated the rights of ordinary citizens. PAUL says he may introduce legislation to stop "Under the Eagle's Eye."

The same sort of response came from another prominent critic of "Know Your Customer," this time on the left, who was appalled by details of the training video. "The postal service is training its employees to invade their customers' privacy," Greg Nojeim, associate director of the American

Civil Liberties Union Washington National Office, tells Insight. "This training will result in the reporting to the government of tens of thousands of innocent transactions that are none of the government's business. I had thought the postal-service's eagle stood for freedom. Now I know it stands for, 'We're watching you!'"

But postal officials who run "Under the Eagle's Eye" say that flagging customers who do not follow "normal" patterns is essential if law enforcement is to catch criminals laundering money from illegal transactions. "The postal service has a responsibility to know what their legitimate customers are doing with their instruments," Al Gillum, a former postal inspector who now is acting program manager, tells Insight. "If people are buying instruments outside of a norm that the entity itself has to establish, then that's where you start with suspicious analysis, suspicious reporting. It literally is based on knowing what our legitimate customers do, what activities they're involved in."

Gillum's boss, Henry Gibson, the postal-service's Bank Secrecy Act compliance officer, says the anti-money-laundering program started in 1997 already has helped catch some criminals. "We've received acknowledgment from our chief postal inspector that information from our system was very helpful in the actual catching of some potential bad guys," Gibson says.

Gillum and Gibson are proud that the postal service received a letter of commendation from then-attorney general Janet Reno in 2000 for this program. The database system the postal service developed with Information Builders, an information-technology consulting firm, received an award from Government Computer News in 2000 and was a finalist in the government/nonprofit category for the 2001 Computerworld Honors Program. An Information Builders press release touts the system as "a standard for Bank Secrecy Act compliance and anti-money-laundering controls."

Gibson and Gillum say the program resulted from new regulations created by the Clinton-era Treasury Department in 1997 to apply provisions of the Bank Secrecy Act to "money service businesses" that sell financial instruments such as stored-value cash cards, money orders and wire transfers, as well as banks. Surprisingly, the postal service sells about one-third of all U.S. money orders, more than \$27 billion last year. It also sells stored-value cards and some types of wire transfers. Although the regulations were not to take effect until 2002, Gillum says the postal service wanted to be "proactive" and "visionary."

Postal spokesmen emphasize strongly that programs take time to put in place and they are doing only what the law demands.

It also was the Bank Secrecy Act that opened the door for the "Know Your Customer" rules on banks, to which congressional leaders objected as a threat to privacy. Lawrence Lindsey, now head of the Bush administration's National Economic Council, frequently has pointed out that more than 100,000 reports are collected on innocent bank customers for every one conviction of money laundering. "That ratio of 99,999-to-1 is something we normally would not tolerate as a reasonable balance between privacy and the collection of guilty verdicts," Lindsey wrote in a chapter of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Competitive Enterprise Institute's book *The Future of Financial Privacy*, published last year.

Critics of this snooping both inside and outside the postal service are howling mad that the agency's reputation for protecting the privacy of its customers is being compromised. "It sounds to me that they're going past the Treasury guidelines," says Rick Merritt, executive director of Postal Watch, a private watchdog group. The regulations, for example, do not give specific examples of suspicious activity, leaving that largely for the regulated companies to determine. But the postal-service training video points to lots of "red flags," such as a customer counting money in the line. It warns that even customers whom clerks know often should be considered suspect if they frequently purchase money orders.

The video, which Gibson says cost \$90,000 to make, uses entertaining special effects to illustrate its points. Employing the angel-and-devil technique often used in cartoons, the video presents two tiny characters in the imagination of a harried clerk. Regina Goodclerk, the angel, constantly urges the clerk to file suspicious-activity reports on customers. "Better safe than sorry," she says. Sam Slick, the devil, wants to give customers the benefit of the doubt.

Some of the examples given are red flags such as a sleazy-looking customer offering the postal clerk a bribe. But the video also encourages reports to be filed on what appear to be perfectly legal money-order purchases. A black male teacher and Little League coach whom the female clerk, also black, has known for years walks into the post office wearing a crisp, pinstriped suit and purchases \$2,800 in money orders, just under the \$3,000 daily minimum for which the postal service requires customers to fill out a form. He frequently has been buying money orders during the last few days.

"Gee, I know he seems like an okay guy," Regina Goodclerk tells the employee. "But buying so many money orders all of a sudden and just under the reporting limit, I'd rather be sure. He's a good guy, but this is just too suspicious to let go by."

Gillum says this is part of the message that postal clerks can't be too careful because anyone could be a potential money launderer. "A Little League coach could be a deacon in the church, could be the most upstanding citizen in the community, but where is that person getting \$2,800 every day?" Gillum asks. "Why would a baseball coach, a schoolteacher in town, buy [that many money orders]? Our customers don't have that kind of money. If he's a schoolteacher, if he's got a job on the side, he's going to have a bank account and going to write checks on it, so why does he want to buy money orders? That's the point."

Despite the fact that the Little League coach in the video was black, Gillum insists that the postal service tells its employees not to target by race or appearance.

One thing that should set off alarms, the postal service says, is a customer objecting to filling out an 8105-A form that requests their date of birth, occupation and driver's license or other government-issued ID for a purchase of money orders of \$3,000 or more. If they cancel the purchase or request a smaller amount, the clerk automatically should fill out Form 8105-B, the "suspicious-activity" report. "Whatever the reason, any customer who switches from a transaction that requires an 8105-A form to one that doesn't should earn himself or herself the honor of being described on a B form," the training manual says.

But the "suspicious" customers might just be concerned about privacy, says Solveig Singleton, a senior analyst at the Competi-

tive Enterprise Institute. And a professional criminal likely would know that \$3,000 was the reporting requirement before he walked into the post office. "I think there's a lot of reasons that people might not want to fill out such forms; they may simply think it's none of the post office's business," Singleton tells Insight. "The presumption seems to be that from the standpoint of the post office and the Bank Secrecy regulators every citizen is a suspect."

Both Singleton and Nojeim say "Under the Eagle's Eye" unfairly targets the poor, minorities and immigrants—people outside of the traditional banking system. "A large proportion of the reports will be immigrants sending money back home," Nojeim says. Singleton adds, "It lends itself to discrimination against people who are sort of marginally part of the ordinary banking system or who may not trust things like checks and credit cards."

There's also the question of what happens with the information once it's collected. Gillum says that innocent customers should feel secure because the information reported about "suspicious" customers is not automatically sent to the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to be shared with law enforcement agencies worldwide. Although he says FinCEN wants the postal service to send all reports along to it, the postal authorities only will send the clerks' reports if they fit "known parameters" for suspicious activity. "We are very sensitive to the private citizenry and their rights," Gillum insists. "For what it's worth, we have every comfort level that, if we make a report, there are all kinds of reasons to believe that there is something going on there beyond just a legitimate purchase of money orders."

But Gillum would not discuss any of the "parameters" the postal service uses to test for suspicious activity, saying that's a secret held among U.S. law-enforcement agencies. And if a clerk's report isn't sent to the Treasury Department, it still lingers for some time in the postal-service database. Gillum says that by law the postal service will not be able to destroy suspicious-activity reports for five years.

Gillum says the postal service is very strict that the reports only can be seen by law-enforcement officials and not used for other purposes such as marketing. A spokeswoman for the consulting company Information Builders stated in an e-mail to Insight, "Information Builders personnel do not have access to this system."

Observers say problems with "Under the Eagle's Eye" underscore the contradiction that despite the fact that the postal service advertises like a private business and largely is self-supporting, it still is a government agency with law-enforcement functions.

Gibson says his agency must set an example for private businesses on tracking money orders. "Being a government agency, we feel it's our responsibility that we should set the tone," he said. The Treasury Department "basically challenged us in the mid-nineties to step up to the plate as a government entity," Gillum adds.

In fact, Gillum thinks Treasury may mandate that the private sector follow some aspects of the postal-service's program. He adds, however, that the postal service is not arguing for this to be imposed on its competitors.

In the meantime, the private sector is getting ready to comply with the Treasury regulations before they go into effect next January. But if 7-Eleven Inc., which through its franchises and company-owned stores is one of the largest sellers of money orders, is any guide, private vendors of money orders probably will not issue nearly as many sus-

picious-activity reports as the postal service. "Our philosophy is to follow what the regulations require, and if they don't require us to fill out an SAR [suspicious-activity report] . . . then we wouldn't necessarily do it," 7-Eleven spokeswoman Margaret Chabris tells Insight. Asked specifically about customers who cancel or change a transaction when asked to fill out a form, Chabris said, "We are not required to fill out an SAR if that happens." So why does the U.S. Postal Service?

That's one of the major issues raised by critics such as Postal Watch's Merritt. He says that lawmakers and the new postmaster general, Jack Potter, need to examine any undermining of customer trust by programs such as "Under the Eagle's Eye" before the postal service is allowed to go into new businesses such as providing e-mail addresses. "Let's hope that this is not a trend for the postal service, because I don't think the American people are quite ready to be fully under the eagle's eye," he says.

## TRIBUTE TO LLOYD OYSTER

### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lloyd Oyster, a decorated soldier from World War II. I would like to acknowledge his bravery as a servicemen fighting on the front lines in Europe at the Battle of the Bulge. His many medals and awards demonstrate his bravery and patriotism. I am proud to stand and honor this outstanding citizen of the United States and would like to call his admirable actions to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

I have attached for the record an article printed in the Ogemaw County Herald by Deanna Cahill about Mr. Oyster's experience as a World War II soldier.

Six decades ago, at the end of World War II, Lloyd Oyster was given a choice. The Lupton man had to decide whether or not to spend an extra few months in Europe and receive the medals he was entitled to, or return home to his wife and baby daughter.

Critically wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, Oyster didn't hesitate. He wanted to go home. He didn't regret that decision until recently, when he remarked to his youngest son, Joe, that he wished he would have stayed and received his medals.

Without letting his father know, Joe went on a mission to grant his father's wish.

On Monday, June 4, that wish was granted when Rep. Dave Camp presented Oyster, one by one, with the Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Honorable Service Lapel Button WW II.

An honored but humble Oyster graciously accepted his medals from Camp, but said many others were far more deserving.

"I didn't do any more than anybody else did," he said.

Lloyd Oyster was born at home Jan. 19, 1922, to parents Joseph and Verna Mae Oyster in Lupton. The youngest of six boys, Oyster lost his mother when he was only 5 years old. She died giving birth to her seventh son. The baby died as well.

"I remember burying her," said Oyster somberly. "(After his mother died) we stayed together and Dad raised us on the farm."

Eventually two of his older brothers enlisted in the service. One went off to fight in Europe, the other in the Pacific. At the age of 21, Oyster was working at Borden's Dairy in West Branch and met 17-year-old Marge.

Oyster worked with Marge's sister's husband, and Marge and her sister would often visit at the dairy. He would walk Marge home after he was finished with work because she was frightened to walk alone.

"That started it," Oyster said. "That is how we got acquainted, and from there she tried to rope me in, and she did."

In late 1942 Oyster was drafted into the Army. He could have been deferred because Borden made products for the government, but Oyster opted against deferment.

"I was no worse or better than anyone else," he said. Thirty days before he was shipped overseas, he received word that his brother had been killed in Europe.

His brother's death made him a bit uneasy about the future, but he still wanted to serve his country.

"I wanted to go over and finish the job," he said.

On Dec. 7, 1942, Oyster embarked on the first leg of his journey. He attended basic training at Camp Claibourne, La., and went on to Camp House, Texas, where he was trained as a machine gunner.

On his first furlough from the service, Oyster married Marge on April 21, 1942.

He was then shipped to New York. Three days later he boarded the U.S.S. Montacella for the long trip across the Atlantic.

"I went over to France on my honeymoon," Oyster said. His young bride stayed with her parents in West Branch while he set off to fight for his country.

"(The journey) was kind of hairy," Oyster remembered. "We would run into a storm and have to change course. One time we had to change course for an enemy submarine."

"There were close living conditions," he said, adding that he volunteered for duty with the Navy sailors in the PX to get out from below decks. "You can't realize—(below decks) it was three bunks high by two to eight bunks wide. Let me just say this—you didn't want to be on the bottom bunk."

The soldiers finally arrived in France and went directly across into Germany. For six months Oyster, assigned to Company E of the 103rd Infantry Division, served on the front lines as a machine gunner.

"The Germans didn't like machine gunners," he said, adding that the gunners were the first targets of the enemy. The battles were fierce and Oyster witnessed the deaths of many of his fellow soldiers and friends.

"When your buddies got killed right alongside of you, it makes you want to finish it," he said. "You really didn't have time to think. You do what you have to do, and that was it."

Oyster added that fear was always present. "Anyone who says they weren't afraid, they're nuts," he said. "You have got guns and artillery aimed at you."

In December 1944 as Allied forces were pushing their way into Germany, the Germans made a surprise counterattack and the Battle of the Bulge ensued.

During an artillery barrage, Oyster was showered with shrapnel. He was hit in the leg and a small piece of shrapnel struck him in the back.

He was taken to a field hospital for treatment. The hospital was located in the woods and consisted only of some tents. Oyster underwent surgery and lay there for several days. The battle was still being waged and he couldn't be moved.

By the time Oyster got to a hospital in England, gangrene had set in.

"They said they were going to take my leg," Oyster said. "I said no. At this time penicillin was just being introduced."

Doctors administered penicillin to Oyster. "The infection cleared up and I got to save my leg," he said.

On Dec. 31, 1944, as Oyster lay in a hospital in England, Marie gave birth to their first child, Nancy. Oyster was then put into limited service and transferred to the Air Force.

"I wanted to be in the Air Force in the first place," he said. "It (the Air Force) is the best place you can be, as far as I'm concerned. It was almost like sending me home, putting me in there."

For the remainder of the war, Oyster was stationed at the 8th Army Headquarters, located about 30 miles from London, taking care of three generals' vehicles.

"They were going to send our division to Japan," he said. "But before we got shipped out, the war was over."

Oyster sailed home, this time on the Queen Mary. Upon arrival back into the United States, Oyster was given a choice.

"They told me that I could go in the hospital for two to three months and get my disability. I wanted to go home," he said, looking at his wife of 59 years.

Oyster returned home to claim his bride, and the couple settled back into the Lupton area.

Two more daughters, Joyce and Susan, followed in 1946 and 1948. Oyster yearned for a son.

"You take them as they come," he said. "But I wanted a boy."

In 1950, Marge delivered their first son, Larry. Another daughter, Jean, arrived in 1951, followed by Russell in 1954, Linda in 1956, and finally Joe was born in 1957.

"I kept trying to have a good one," said Oyster teasingly. "If I couldn't do better than that, I thought I better stop."

The Oysters now have 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Years later Oyster traveled to the veterans' hospital to receive his medical benefits. He didn't realize that when he was discharged from the hospital in England, he was listed as an amputee.

"Veterans records showed that I had a wooden leg," he said, chuckling. "They wanted to know where my wooden leg was."

For many years, Oyster worked construction for Strand Steel Construction and also worked for himself for a time. At age 65, he retired on Social Security, but never stopped working.

In fact, at 79, Oyster still works full-time as a park ranger at the Rifle River Recreation Area in Lupton. He is expecting to finally retire later this summer after 20 years at the park.

In addition to working full-time, he also takes care of Marge, who is now confined to a wheelchair.

"My day starts at 5 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m., seven days a week," he said. "I just do it."

A couple of years ago, Oyster was reading a VFW magazine and remarked that he wished that he would have stayed in the service and received his medals.

His son, Joe, went home and told his wife. They contacted the Veteran's Affairs office in West Branch to determine how they would go about acquiring his medals.

They filled out a medal request form and mailed it to St. Louis, Mo. After six months, they heard nothing. Joe then mailed in a second request and still received no satisfaction.

A representative at Veteran's Affairs suggested they contact Camp, and within just a matter of a few months the medals were in Camp's possession.

Camp hand-delivered those medals to a surprised Oyster at Joe's home on June 4.

Joe had invited his father to his home on the pretense of having a pizza party. Oyster

patiently waited for the pizza to arrive. He was getting hungry and also a bit suspicious.

"You don't very often surprise me," Oyster said. "But they did surprise me. It felt good."

"I didn't expect to get them. There are a lot of soldiers who deserve the same thing," he added. "I was just defending my country. I didn't do any more than anybody else did."

"I would do it again before I would send my grandsons to do it," he added.

## KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT PARK CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 75th anniversary of the formal beginning of one of Northeastern Pennsylvania's primary tourist destinations, the Knoebels Amusement Park near Elysburg, which is also Pennsylvania's largest free admission amusement park.

In those 75 years, Knoebels has grown from a small local park to hosting more than a million guests each year. At the same time, the Knoebel family maintains a strong sense of tradition and family.

The land has been owned by the Knoebel family since 1828, when it was purchased by the Reverend Henry Hartman Knoebel. His grandson and namesake was the one who first envisioned the land's recreational potential. The younger Henry, better known as H.H. or "Ole Hen," farmed the land and pursued a lumbering business operating saw mills at several locations on the property.

Around the start of the 20th century, the Knoebel farm began to be visited by "tally-hos," Sunday afternoon rides to a destination, in this case people who came to sit by the creek banks, picnic in the woods and jump from the covered bridge to the swimming hole below.

As the site became more popular, the family installed picnic tables and benches, hired a lifeguard to protect the swimmers, and began selling food and soft drinks. The formal beginning of the amusement park was July 4, 1926, the opening of a concrete swimming pool. That same year, the family opened the first ride, a steam-powered merry-go-round, and the first restaurant.

Since that time, Knoebels has grown tremendously. Today, in addition to 50 rides and great food, the park offers the award-winning Alamo Restaurant, unique gift shops, numerous games, a miniature golf course, two campgrounds, picnic pavilions and the large Crystal Pool with its 900,000 gallons of mountain spring water. Knoebels is a major contributor to the economy of the region, employing 1,400 seasonal workers.

Voted "America's Best Park for Families" two years in a row by the National Amusement Park Historical Association, Knoebels is also known as "Pennsylvania's Hometown Park." The park is managed by the third generation of the Knoebel family, and members of the fourth generation are coming on board and taking their places. Brothers Dick and Ron Knoebel serve as co-general managers of the park.

Mr. Speaker, the Knoebel family continues to do a fine job of carrying on their trademark tradition of "fun, food and fantasy," and I wish them all the best.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT I. WEHLING,  
UPON ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE PROCTER &  
GAMBLE COMPANY

### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Robert L. Wehling, a good friend and community leader, who will retire on August 10, 2001 from the Procter & Gamble Company in Cincinnati. Bob started with P & G on June 27, 1960 exactly 41 years ago today.

Bob Wehling currently serves as Procter & Gamble's global marketing and government relations officer. He joined the company as a brand assistant, and during his long and distinguished career, held various positions including brand manager, advertising manager, and vice president of public affairs. Bob has been a true leader and innovator, developing new approaches to marketing and responsible advertising.

A long-time advocate for quality family entertainment, he co-founded the Family Friendly Programming Forum in 1999, a consortium of major advertisers dedicated to increasing family oriented shows on network television. Bob believed it was possible to have positive programming choices for multigenerations to watch together—and for all to be entertained. In 2000, he was named the most powerful person in marketing by the trade journal Advertising Age. He was recognized for his work in making advertising more efficient as audiences become more fragmented.

His volunteer involvement in the Cincinnati community is legendary. He is particularly well known for his advocacy on behalf of children and his passion for education. His public service has taken him from president of the Wyoming, Ohio School Board in 1986 to more recent positions as Co-Chair of the Ohio Education Improvement Council and membership on the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Bob has capably led numerous local organizations, including the Greater Cincinnati March of Dimes, the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the National Advertising Council Board, and Beech Acres For the Love of Kids Parenting Conference.

All of us in Cincinnati congratulate Bob on his outstanding career with Procter & Gamble, thank him for his many years of dedicated community service, and wish him well in the new challenges to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND MARY  
KOLIMAS

### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John and Mary Kolimas who recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on June 16, 2001.

John and Mary represent the epitome of married life and family values. They have raised six wonderful children—Mamie, Chris, Bob, Barb, Rich, and Paul. I can attest firsthand to their ability as parents; their son Paul is a former employee of mine and a man I have great respect for. John and Mary have also been blessed with nine beautiful grandchildren: Nicole, Jordan, Kelly, Amie, Cathy, Samantha, Alexandria, Jesenia, and Michael. They also have one deceased grandchild, Elizabeth.

Friends of the couple fondly recall their meeting at a dance in 1948 at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Catholic Church. They were married at that same church three years later in 1951 by Mary's brother, Father Edwin Karłowicz. Their outstanding devotion to the Catholic Church has continued throughout their marriage.

Both John and Mary attended St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Catholic Grammar School. John graduated from Foreman High School, where he was class president. He served in the Navy for two years, and then attended Loyola University in Chicago under the GI Bill. Mary graduated from Holy Academy High School.

The couple was surrounded by seventy-five relatives and friends for mass and a joyous reception at the Rosewood West Restaurant on Saturday, June 16. Mary's brother, Father Edwin Karłowicz, presided over the mass along with Father John Sayaya. In attendance for the celebration were Mary's four sisters: Therese, Kay, Janet, and Jean; and John's sisters: Helen, Bernice, and Emily. The group enjoyed a video presentation of pictures and music from the couple's fifty years together.

I have the highest level of respect for devoted couples like John and Mary. Their ability to love and raise children serves as a model for all of us to follow. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fiftieth wedding anniversary of John and Mary and the strong family values they represent.

ARE PRODUCTION CONTROLS  
DESIRABLE FOR AGRICULTURE?

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the House prepares to consider the next Farm Bill, this Member commends to his colleagues the following analysis by Roy Frederick, a highly respected public policy specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Frederick's analysis examines the pros and cons of production controls for agriculture and provides helpful insights on this difficult issue.

[From the Nebraska State Paper]

ARE PRODUCTION CONTROLS DESIRABLE FOR  
AGRICULTURE?

(By Roy Frederick)

LINCOLN—You can count on it. One of the more contentious items in the upcoming farm bill debate will be whether we should return to production controls in a new law.

Set-asides and other land-idling schemes were a part of most every farm bill from 1933 through 1990. But passage of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act in

1996 broke the mold. Under current law, farmers are not required to take land out of production as a precondition to receiving supports from the federal government.

Critics say that the lack of a supply-adjustment mechanism in the 1996 act is a serious flaw. Prices for all the major crops grown in Nebraska have been lackluster since mid-1998. Why not spur prices higher by restricting bushels offered to the marketplace? It seems like a logical question that deserves an answer.

Supporters of the current system respond that commodities are produced and marketed around the world. Any attempt to reduce U.S. production might be met by increased production elsewhere. Some livestock feeders also wouldn't be happy with the prospect of higher feed costs. Then there's the matter of how agribusinesses feel about it. Many survive on the basis of volume; the more acres in production, the better it is for farm-related businesses.

Recently, formal studies by agricultural economists at the University of Maryland and Iowa State University examined the land-idling question in greater depth.

In the first study, the focus was on inefficiencies caused by taking land out of production. That is, not only may land be taken out of its highest and best use, but other inputs, such as machinery and equipment, may be underused as well. The estimated cost to producers and consumers of a modest land retirement scheme is \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year, the study found.

The Iowa State study assumed that land planted to all major crops in the United States was reduced by 10 percent. Moreover, that reduction remained in place for eight years. At the end of the period, prices for corn and soybeans would be 13 percent higher and 6 percent higher, respectively, than if the idling had not occurred. So far, so good.

However, the authors of the latter study point out two big caveats. First, with 10 percent fewer acres, total revenue declines by whatever the revenue would have been on acres taken out of production. More importantly, if producers do what they've done in the past, they will attempt to increase production on the remaining 90 percent of land left in production. To the extent they are successful, price increases of the magnitude suggested above may not be realized. The authors conclude that the price impact of a 10 percent reduction in planted acreage is probably overstated.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LUIS  
CENTENO

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Luis Centeno, the founder of Proclaimers of Hope Ministries, a faith-based recovery and addiction prevention program in West Kensington, Philadelphia.

Reverend Centeno, who also is the pastor at Bethel Temple Church, was recently chosen to receive the nation's highest honor for community health leadership—a 2001 Community Health Leader award from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The distinction, conferred annually on only 10 people nationwide, includes a \$100,000 award to continue his work.

Reverend Centeno saw first hand the ravaging effects of addiction on individuals and

families in West Kensington—known as the “Badlands” because of its reputation as one of the worst drug centers in the United States. He was once a gang member himself and spent time in juvenile detention before turning his life around. In 1988, he created Proclaimers of Hope Ministries to take his message of change directly to the neighborhood’s worst drug corners and create a local rehabilitation center.

The Proclaimers of Hope Ministries now has 200 volunteers donating 5,000 hours annually to serve the youth of the community and provide counseling and support to addicts. Its staff of 14 raises funds through personal donors and other churches throughout the country.

With Reverend Centeno’s leadership, Proclaimers of Hope and Bethel Temple Church have created a diverse approach to prevention and recovery, using programs in the martial arts, music, drama, and tutoring, to help prevent crises in the lives of the community’s young men and women. As one of his nominators explained, “part of the reason Luis has been so effective is that he has not set himself apart from the people he serves. His brand of healing requires hard work and discipline as well as grace and forgiveness, and he freely dispenses them all.”

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Luis Centeno has demonstrated tremendous leadership in the fight against drug addiction in his community and is clearly well deserving of this prestigious community health award. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Centeno on this wonderful achievement.

CONNIE BREMNER, RECIPIENT OF  
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON COMMUNITY  
HEALTH LEADERSHIP  
AWARD

**HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, Connie Bremner, lifelong resident of Browning, Montana, is of the age when retirement is an option, but it’s the last thing on her mind. Connie doesn’t have the time nor inclination for anything but selfless service to the elderly and disabled in her community.

Connie, director of the Eagle Shield Senior Citizens Center, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, is the recipient of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award of \$100,000. The award gives \$95,000 to the center and \$5,000 to Connie. This award is one of only ten given nationwide. Most of the award money will go to fund short-term care for terminally ill people who are unable to get help elsewhere. Some of it will be used as startup money for a proposed Blackfeet home health care program.

Browning is in a lonely community on the windswept plains down the eastern slopes of the Montana Rockies. It’s the heart of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, a place where things have never been easy. When Connie became director of the Eagle Shield Senior Citizens Center in Glacier County, the nation’s 95th poorest, she found the center and the seniors in distressed conditions. Connie made it her objective to transform the facility into a

model health and wellness center. She took the barest of bare-bones facilities and breathed life into it—and not just life, but spirit. Eagle Shield now serves over 600 elders with a wide range of programs, from nutrition education and meal delivery to home personal assistance and social activities. Connie’s efforts to expand, improve and modernize health care for the impoverished, the elderly and the disabled has not only met physical needs, but has lifted spirits and provided hope.

Connie began with a loan of \$70,000 from the tribal government, which has already been repaid. The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program’s press release states that Connie’s “hard work has yielded great success for Eagle Shield, including the creation of an Alzheimer’s screening and treatment program and a licensed, Medicaid reimbursed personal care attendant program for over 100 people with a disability unable to care for themselves.”

Connie expanded the personal care attendant program until now it serves over 100 people, ranging from age 4—94. In addition, the center “has trained 300 younger tribal members to become certified personal care attendants. Of those, 95 are currently employed on the reservation, an important contribution to a community who whose unemployment rate is over 70 percent.” Through Connie’s leadership, the Eagle Shield Senior Citizens Center provides breakfasts and lunches to 200 seniors every day.

People like Connie have far greater influence than government programs. Government can oversee public health and public safety, but only people can give love and compassion. Connie has shown us that the most vital thing we do in life is look after each other by reaching out in kindness to the oldest and youngest and weakest among us. It is known in Browning that nothing will keep her from taking care of her elders. The elders count on Connie. Montana counts on Connie.

It is an honor to read Connie Bremner’s accomplishments into the Congressional Record, although it should be recognized that this woman’s deeds of love and kindness will leave a record much more enduring and significant in the community of Browning than this RECORD of ink and paper in the Halls of Congress. Connie Bremner has shown that the true treasures in Montana—The Treasure State—are people, the old and the young, the weak and the strong. Connie is a treasure to the Blackfeet Nation, to the state of Montana, and to the United States of America.

A TRIBUTE TO LESTER C.  
PHILLIPS

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great North Carolinian and son of Harnett County, Mr. Lester C. Phillips who recently received the Distinguished Service Award of the Occaneechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Lester Phillips was born on August 25, 1930 in Sampson County, North Carolina to Floyd and Erma Phillips and spent the majority of his early years working on the family farm. He

married Winifred Naylor in 1950 and together they raised two sons Ray and Robert. In 1959, Lester moved his young family just up the road to Harnett County, and the town of Dunn, to seek employment opportunities and a better life for his family.

Upon his arrival in Dunn, Lester landed a job with the H.P. Johnson Oil Company, where he quickly became Mr. H.P. Johnson’s most trusted employee. In fact, Mr. Johnson was often over heard saying that “when he wanted something done right, he always looked to Leck.” After several years of working for Mr. Johnson, Lester began his career in the trucking business, which would later lead to his ownership of a small gas station on Highway 301 South in Harnett County and later the development of a waste management enterprise. From these humble beginnings Lester built a nationally recognized business that served locations all the way from Florida to Alaska.

Not only is Lester an outstanding success in the business world, but he is also a remarkable family man and community leader. He is also an active member at Spring Branch Baptist Church in Dunn.

But today we are here to pay tribute to Lester’s contributions to the young people of Harnett County and to celebrate his recent accomplishment, receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America. As the father of an Eagle Scout and a recipient of the Boys Scouts’ Silver Beaver Award, I know first hand the importance that the organization plays in the lives of our nation’s young people. With the help of men like Lester, the Boy Scouts mold young men to be active and productive citizens. I want to honor Lester today for helping to strengthen our nation’s social fabric.

Mr. Speaker, Lester Phillips is a remarkable example of a citizen servant. He selflessly uses his time and energy to better the lives of the young men in Harnett County. He touches so many lives in so many public ways, but Lester’s most important contributions to others are the ones only he knows about. And that is the way he wants it to be. That is a true testament to his unique and special character and the reason we honor him in this House today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN  
AND ALASKA NATIVE FOSTER  
CARE AND ADOPTION

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to be joined by Representatives HAYWORTH, KILDEE and BONIOR to introduce legislation to correct an inequity in the laws affecting many Native American children. This effort is also supported by the National Indian Child Welfare Association, American Public Human Services Association, and National Congress of American Indians.

Every year, for a variety of often tragic reasons, thousands of children across the country are placed in foster care. To assist with the cost of food, shelter, clothing, daily supervision and school supplies, foster parents of children who have come to their homes through state court placement receive money through Title

IV-E of the Social Security Act. Additionally, states receive funding for administrative training and data collection to support this program. Unfortunately, because of a legislative oversight, many Native American children who are placed in foster care by tribal courts do not receive foster care and adoptive services to which all other income-eligible children are entitled.

Not only are otherwise eligible Native children denied foster care maintenance payments, but this inequity also extends to children who are adopted through tribal placements. Currently, the IV-E program offers limited assistance for expenses associated with adoption and the training of professional staff and parents involved in the adoption. These circumstances, sadly, have meant that many Indian children receive little Federal support in attaining the permanency they need and deserve.

In many instances, these children face insurmountable odds. Many come from abusive homes. Foster parents who open their doors to care for these special children deserve our help. These generous people who take these children into their homes should not have sleepless nights worrying about whether they have the resources to provide nourishing food or a warm coat, or even adequate shelter for these children. This legislation will go a long way to ease their concerns.

Currently, some tribes and states have entered into IV-E agreements, but these arrangements are the exception. They also, by and large, do not include funds to train tribal social workers and foster and adoptive parents. This bill would make it clear that tribes would be treated like States when they run their own programs under the IV-E program. The bill would make funding fair and equitable for all children, Native and non-Native.

This companion legislation to S. 550 would do the following: extend the Title IV-E entitlement programs to tribal placements in foster and adoptive homes; authorize tribal governments to receive direct funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for administration of IV-E programs (tribes must have HHS-approved programs); allow the Secretary flexibility to modify the requirements of the IV-E law for tribes if those requirements are not in the best interest of Native children; and allow continuation of tribal-State IV-E agreements.

In a 1994 report, HHS found that the best way to serve this underfunded group is to provide direct assistance to tribal governments and qualified tribal families. I want to emphasize that this bill would not result in reduced funding for the States, as they would continue to be reimbursed for their expenses under the law. I strongly believe Congress should address this oversight and provide equitable benefits to Native American children who are under the jurisdiction of their tribal governments, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bipartisan and bicameral proposal.

LEONARD CARLIN HONORED ON  
RETIREMENT FROM EDCNP

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Leonard Carlin, who is retiring after 28 years with the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Len will be honored with a retirement dinner on June 27.

Len is a graduate of Coughlin High School and attended Wilkes College, Penn State University and the Scranton branch of Temple University. In addition to his work at EDCNP, his varied and broad experience includes service with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission.

Since joining EDCNP, Len has worked in many capacities, including regional planner and cartographic supervisor and duties including environmental planning and programs, land use planning, comprehensive planning, flood mitigation, assistance to local governments, and other duties too numerous to list here.

He is a member of several community and professional organizations, including the Pennsylvania Planning Association, the Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Rails-to-Trails. For his dedicated work, he was named the Pennsylvania Planning Association's Planner of the Year in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives Len's distinguished career because his hard work was very helpful in securing the American Heritage River designation for the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna Watershed in 1998. Working closely with my office, Len was an invaluable assistant in compiling a great deal of information and working with local elected officials and other interested parties. I wish him all the best.

HONORING DR. JERRY SASSON,  
PRINCIPAL OF TERRACE PARK  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPON HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerry Sasson, a friend and constituent, who is retiring after 11 years as principal of Terrace Park Elementary School (TPES) in the Second District of Ohio.

Jerry is a special kind of principal because he is a special kind of person. He has been called a one-of-a-kind educator, who spends time in the classroom every day, knows the name and face of every one of his 300 students, writes a personal, handwritten birthday card to each student every year, and sends students notes at home to recognize personal accomplishments. He encourages kindness and respect among students, teachers and parents, and is aware of each student's specific challenges and talents.

An Ohio native, Jerry received his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the

University of Cincinnati in 1992. He graduated with a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Dayton. Jerry received his school psychology certificate from Xavier University in 1972. Jerry began his career as a high school English teacher at Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio, and went on to become Fenwick's Director of Guidance and Counseling. From 1972 through 1979, he served the Hamilton County Office of Educational Services as a school psychologist and, in 1979, he joined the Mariemont, Ohio City School District as Director of Special Services, a position he retained while serving as principal. In 1990, he became the principal of TPES, a school within the Mariemont School District.

Jerry is well known for his regular column on parenting, Parent Pride, which appears in the publication of the Mariemont City School District. He tackles tough subjects such as tolerance, assertiveness, morals and responsibility. He's not afraid to tell us as parents that the best way to raise happy, productive children is to create and maintain home, school and community environments that focus on nurturing and support for all. Jerry believes that most difficult school-related issues—such as bullying, behavior problems, or violence—are not just school issues, but family and community issues, too. And he's right: schools can create zero tolerance policies, but it all comes back to the attitudes and relationships at home.

All of us in the Greater Cincinnati area are grateful for Jerry's many years of dedicated and caring service. We appreciate his outstanding leadership and friendship, and wish him well in many new challenges and opportunities to come.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD SIMS

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most respected citizens in my district, Bernard Sims. Bernard Sims died on June 3rd at the age of 97.

Bernard was well known throughout his hometown of LaGrange, Illinois as a leader, counselor, and teacher. During his ninety-seven years, Bernard fought for equal rights for all citizens. Bernard refused to tolerate discrimination in any form. His promotion of mutual respect has forever made the city of LaGrange a better place.

One of the most respectable traits of Bernard's character was his ability to get things done. He led through action. His friends respectfully recall when Bernard led a sit-in at the Walgreen's lunch counter until the establishment agreed to serve African Americans. His nonviolent approach and his positive attitude shaped the LaGrange civil rights movement. Bernard was wholly diplomatic in his actions and respect for him crosses all racial and ethnic lines.

Bernard was a well-known football and baseball star at Lyons Township High School. He worked as an auto mechanic, a handyman, and a real estate entrepreneur. He was born to the first African American family in LaGrange and Bernard met his wife, Helen, in

1923 at a LaGrange diner. The couple spent a remarkable seventy five years together until his death. Bernard lived his ideals through membership in the Knights of Columbus, Toastmasters, and the NAACP. His active life and positive attitude helped him make a difference everywhere he went.

Bernard was an asset to our community and will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Bernard's family and the La-Grange community during this time of mourning. I am certain Bernard's legacy will live on in the community for years to come.

His community minded spirit holds a lesson for all of us. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in remembering Bernard Sims and the contributions he made to his community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 25, I missed three recorded votes because my flight from St. Louis was canceled. Had my flight not been canceled, I would have voted 'as follows on these three Resolutions:

"Yea" on H. Res. 160, calling on Communist China to release Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry;

"Yea" on H. Res. 99, expressing the sense of the House that Lebanon, Syria and Iran should call upon the Hezbollah to allow Red Cross representatives to visit four abducted Israelis presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon; and

"Yea" on H. Con. Res. 161, honoring the 19 U.S. servicemen who died in the terrorist bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996.

#### HIGH-SPEED RAIL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2001

### HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my friend, Mr. OBERSTAR, and 123 of our colleagues, in introducing the bipartisan "High-Speed Rail Investment Act of 2001." We believe this bill is critical to getting high-speed rail projects started across the country and liberating our Nation's highways and airways from increasingly serious congestion. This legislation, a companion to S. 250 in the other body, is designed to put into place a federal program to support States in the development of high-speed rail. The House passed a similar bill in the 106th Congress.

Congestion on our highways and in our skies is at a crisis point. The cost to our nation in terms of lost productivity and wasted fuel could be as high as \$ 100 billion a year. This will only get worse as road and air travel continue to increase. We cannot resolve this problem simply by building new roads and new airports, the costs are enormous and in many places we simply do not have the space. Our rail system has fallen far below the standards of systems in most other developed industrial

countries. We have scarce fiscal and land resources and we must make more efficient use of our existing infrastructure. The rail lines are there already.

Our bill would build on the current rail infrastructure. The bill would authorize Amtrak to issue \$12 billion in bonds over the next 10 years for high-speed rail projects in up to 12 regional corridors identified by the Department of Transportation. The bond proceeds could be invested in high-speed rail rights-of-way, rolling stock and other capital improvements. Bonds could also be issued by Amtrak on behalf of any other qualified intercity passenger rail carrier with the approval of the Secretary of Transportation. The bondholders would receive federal tax credits in lieu of interest payments and the credits would be included in taxable income. States would provide at least a 20 percent match which would be deposited in a trust account to redeem the bonds, but Amtrak would remain ultimately responsible for repaying the principal. The state match would help ensure that only high priority projects are funded.

The bill provides that not more than \$1.2 billion in bonds could be issued in each fiscal year from 2002 to 2011. Also, not more than \$3 billion could be designated for qualified projects on the northeast rail corridor between Washington, DC and Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, not more than \$3 billion could be designated for any individual state for qualified projects.

We believe this proposed legislation is forward looking, cost-effective, and absolutely necessary if we are to ensure that our nation's transportation system can handle the expected growth in travel without being overwhelmed by congestion and gridlock. We encourage our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

#### COMMENDING LOUNSBERRY HOLLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL

### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, each and every day Americans are exposed to a deluge of negative images of our younger citizens. Television, radio and newspaper reports are replete with stories of the misdeeds of young Americans. Frankly, coverage of ringing alarm bells and scandal sells.

However, this kind of coverage does not tell the entire story. Nor is it fair to the millions of younger Americans who are doing good, helping their friends and neighbors and volunteering to improve their communities.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise this today to draw the attention of my Colleagues to the efforts of just one group of young people—the students at the Lounsberry Hollow Middle School. This weekend I was pleased and gratified to participate as the Vernon Township Fireman's Association honored this group of community-minded, energetic youngsters. Under the guidance of the Director of the School's "enrichment program", their outstanding teacher, Vernoy Paolini, the students at Lounsberry Hollow Middle School worked for over 2½ years to raise \$36,000 to help fire fighters do their lifesaving work.

These students in Vernon Township have set a record and a high standard for all of us to recognize.

Nearly three years ago, the students became interested in an emerging firefighting technology—thermal imaging cameras. The students embarked on an effort to raise the funds to provide Vernon's firefighters with these cameras. They organized a range of creative activities. They sponsored Tupperware Bingo, sold pens and pencils, sponsored games, collected cans, gathered food, sold 15,000 lollipops, established the "Change Makes a Difference" program, etc. With this dedication and commitment, they raised over \$36,000.

In the meantime, State Senator Bob Littell (R-Franklin) stepped in and through his leadership on the Senate Appropriations Committee, provided communities all across the state assistance to purchase the thermal cameras.

Undaunted, the young people rededicated themselves to helping reduce fire dangers. They changed their focus and purchased a "Safety House Trailer" for the various area fire departments to use in their fire prevention and training activities.

Clearly, these students had help—assistance from their teachers, community leaders, elected officials, and parents. All of them deserve our heartfelt thanks for their role in this project.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate Lounsberry Middle School, its faculty and staff. But I also rise to offer, on behalf of the Sussex County community, my heartfelt thanks to its students. They are great Americans and their actions typify the kind of community dedication that has made America strong.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR BALANCE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADVERTISEMENT ACT OF 2001

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Balance Prescription Drug Advertisement Act, a bill to deny tax deductions for unbalanced direct to consumer (DTC) pharmaceutical advertising placing more emphasis on product benefits rather than risks or failing to meet Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act Requirements.

The bill will ensure that DTC advertisements are presented in a fair manner, balancing risks and consequences. Print ads would be required to display pros and cons in equal typeface and space, and on the same or facing pages. If the advertisements ran onto additional pages, those pages would have to be consecutive with the first pages. In television and radio ads, risk and benefit descriptions would be allotted equal airtime and volume level. Pharmaceutical companies who do not follow these guidelines will not be eligible for an advertising tax deduction.

Since the FDA relaxed restrictions on television advertising in 1997, DTC advertising has soared. Drug companies' advertising expenditure doubled between 1998 and 2000.

Last year, Merk-Medco cited a report that projected that by 2005, DTC advertising expenditure will reach seven billion dollars annually.

This increased spending correlates with increased prices of prescription drugs. Like any other commodity, greater product recognition leads to increased demand, and higher prices.

Large-scale advertising may also lead consumers to demand drugs that may not be medically necessary or appropriate for the patient's condition. According to the National Institute for Health Care Management, 86% of patients who request a prescription for Claritin from their doctor receive one.

Doctors often find that patients are difficult to dissuade when they have heard the promises of a new drug. Physicians who acquiesce, however, can put their patients' health at risk. Before the FDA had published clinical trial results of the arthritis drug Celebrex, physicians had prescribed \$1 billion worth of the drug in response to patient demands. The doctors had done this without realizing that Celebrex contains an ingredient to which many patients are allergic. In another example, between its release in October of 1999, and the summer of 2000, 22 patients taking the flu drug Relenza had died. The FDA later determined that in the majority of these cases, the drug should never have been prescribed.

Physicians are beginning to recognize dangers of DTC as well. This month, the American Medical Association in their annual convention decided to ask the FDA to require pharmaceutical companies to include a disclaimer in all ads that physicians may suggest other alternative, medically appropriate treatments.

In addition to health dangers, physician's responses to pressure from "informed" patients can have economic consequences. According to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, a one year dosage of the arthritis medicine Celebrex costs \$900, while the same dosage of ibuprofen, which may be adequate to treat many patients' pain, costs only \$24.

Just yesterday, the Wall Street Journal raised concerns about the power of DTC advertising. Due to an intensive new campaign by the Genzyme corporation, many dialysis patients who used to use the over-the-counter medication Tums as a calcium supplement are switching to Renagel, a prescription medication that costs up to \$12 a day.

DTC advertisements may also prevent patients from requesting, and physicians from prescribing generic brand drugs. According to a Merk-Medco 2000 study, increasing a health care plan's dispensing rate of generic drugs by 1% can reduce drug spending by 12%.

Although prescription drug advertisements are purportedly intended to educate consumers, a University of California study determined that drug companies frequently fall short of this goal. In a survey of 320 print ads, only 9% included information on the drug's success rate, and the same number attempted to clarify misconceptions about the condition the drug is prescribed to treat. Clearly, something must be done to make these ads more honest.

According to a May 2000 Business Week article, some drug companies claim that the increased advertising can alert hospital physicians to new medications that may reduce a patient's length of stay, and thus reduce overall costs. However, most of the money spent on DTC drug advertisements goes to heart-

burn, allergy medications, and vanity drugs like those that prevent hair loss. These advertisements promote consumers to seek expensive treatment for conditions that they might not have felt the need for treatment in the past.

This bill I am introducing today would decrease the economic incentives for DTC advertising by taking away the tax deduction for ads that are not fairly balanced. Why should taxpayer funds go to drug companies' questionable advertising techniques that endanger lives and ultimately raise overall health expenditures? By denying tax deductions for unbalanced prescription drug ads, we may be able to change pharmaceutical company behavior to ensure that their advertising includes clear, life saving information that will better inform the American public, reduce health care costs, and save lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation, and look forward to working with them to make fair, balanced drug advertising a reality.

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IN HONOR OF "THE HOMECOMING"

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**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and commemorate the dedication of a great Navy Memorial Statue in my congressional district. "The Homecoming" will be dedicated on July 4, 2001, in Kirkland, Washington. This bronze statue is the third of its kind in the nation and will be dedicated "for those families that also served,"—the families that kept the home fires burning while their loved ones fought for their country. We often overlook these unsung "veterans" of the battles the United States has fought and this sculpture dramatically calls attention to the families' sacrifices. I cannot help but feel indebted to those who have paid a great individual expense to preserve and strengthen the freedom that we enjoy, and future generations will cherish.

The statue is a 7-foot high, 36-inch platform bronze depiction of a returning serviceman embracing his wife and child. It will be installed at Marina Park near the water's edge of Lake Washington at a ceremony on the 4th of July.

Kirkland resident Edward L. Kilwein, Sr. is on the Board of Directors of the US Navy Memorial Foundation and, along with the Lake Washington Navy League, spearheaded the push to have "The Homecoming" permanently grace the City of Kirkland. Kirkland Mayor Larry Springer, along with a unanimous motion from the Kirkland City Council, assured the expansion of Kirkland's first-class public art inventory that honors the men and women of the US Armed Services and their families.

I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to please join me in commemorating the dedication of "The Homecoming."

CONGRATULATING THE PEPSI GIANTS, 2001 GUAM MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS, AND MVP BENJIE PANGELINAN

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Pepsi Giants for having recently won the Guam Major League Baseball's championship. Having swept the University of Guam Tritons in four of the best-of-seven series, the Giants became only the fourth team in GML history to win back-to-back championships.

Although they lost the season opener to the Continental Golden Jets, this past season proved to be truly amazing for the Giants. The team went on to win all 15 of their regular season games and later swept the GML's National League division best-of-five series enroute to finishing the season with a 22-game winning streak.

More impressive, however, was the record set by Benjie Pangelinan, this year's series Most Valuable Player (MVP). Scoring 11 runs, 6 RBI's, and 15 hits—including 11 singles, two doubles, one triple, and a homer, this Giant's catcher/right fielder did enough to merit the coveted award. His second year in a row as MVP, Benjie finished the series 15-for-18 for an .833 batting average. A feat that will go down in GML history, Benjie's batting average broke the series record of .556 set in 1993 by Fernando Diaz.

Always a team player, Benjie claims to have derived more satisfaction from the fact that his team won the championship. He recognizes that this is a feat that was not singlehandedly accomplished. Despite his superior performance, he still credits all of his team members for the victory. He notes that although the Giants have lost formidable players in the past, a new crop of athletes has emerged to fill in the void. In addition, he credited the team's family members for their sacrifices and support in giving the players the chance to be out on the field and have such a wonderful season. Benjie is married to Nicole Oulette Pangelinan and they have a three-year-old child, Kianna.

Regional and local competitions such as the Guam Major League baseball games provide entertainment, promote community relations and prepare our athletes for higher levels of competition. Once again, I would like to commend and congratulate the Pepsi Giants and especially the series MVP, Benjie Pangelinan, for their superb performance and efforts which resulted in this year's championship. I am sure that they will stay committed to their winning ways in the years to come.

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A BILL TO MAKE PERMANENT THE AUTHORITY TO REDACT FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on

Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, Representative Berman, I rise to introduce a bill to make permanent the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers.

Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. However, due to the nature of the judicial function and the increased security risks it entails, section 7 of the "Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998" allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where the release of the information could endanger the filer or his or her family. This provision will sunset on December 31, 2001, in the absence of further legislative action.

The Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure recently submitted a report on section 7. The Committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute, reviews redaction requests, and approves or disapproves any request for the redaction of statutorily mandated information where the release of the information could endanger a filer. In 2000, the Committee noted that: (1) 13 financial disclosure reports were wholly redacted because the judge was under a specific, active security threat; (2) 140 judges' reports were partially redacted (59 of which were based on specific threats; the other 81 due to general threats and the potential risk of disclosure of a family member's unsecured workplace or a residence of a judge or a judge's family); and (3) a total of 218 financial disclosure reports, which includes reports from previous years, were partially redacted.

The purpose of the annual financial disclosure reports required by the Ethics in Government Act is to increase public confidence in government officials and better enable the public to judge the performance of those officials. However, federal judges should be allowed to redact certain information from financial disclosures when they or a family member is threatened. Importantly, the practice has never interfered with the release of critical information to the public.

This bill will eliminate the sunset in section 7 and permit the Judicial Conference to permanently redact information in financial disclosure reports where the information could endanger the filer or his or her family. This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it when it is brought to the House Floor for consideration.

REMARKS HONORING FORMER  
DALLAS COWBOYS QUARTER-  
BACK TROY AIKMAN

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend NFL quarterback Troy Aikman on his very successful football career, and extend my gratitude for his steadfast dedication to improving the lives of children. Mr. Aikman has more than equaled his professional career with his personal involvement in the community. His character both on and off the field has been a tremendous asset to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Troy Aikman was born in West Covina, California. His family moved to Henryetta, Oklahoma where he graduated from Henryetta High School. Aikman went on to play college football at the University of Oklahoma and the University of California, Los Angeles. He quickly became a star. Upon Mr. Aikman's graduation, he was the third highest rated quarterback in NCAA history. He also won the highest award for college quarterbacks, the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award.

When Mr. Aikman was drafted in the first round by the Cowboys, he quickly became the leader of the team and an integral part of the Dallas-Fort Worth community. During his 12 seasons with the Cowboys, Mr. Aikman led them to three Super Bowl Championships and played in six Pro Bowls. He was named Super Bowl XXVII Most Valuable Player for his performance in the Cowboy's first Super Bowl of the 1990's. Mr. Aikman is also the Cowboy's all-time leader in passing yards, touchdown passes, completion percentage, pass attempts and completions. The Cowboys will surely miss his talent and leadership.

Mr. Aikman has devoted himself to helping critically ill children. In 1992, he established The Troy Aikman Foundation to provide financial support for the physical, psychological, social, and educational needs of critically ill children whose needs are not being met by any other viable resource. Through the Foundation, Mr. Aikman created "Aikman's End Zones" for children's hospitals. "Aikman's End Zones" are interactive playrooms and theaters designed to give critically ill children a place of refuge during their stays in the hospital. Depending on the space available, the facility includes an 8-foot-tall replica of Troy's helmet, a 1,100 gallon saltwater aquarium, a theater, and an interactive computer network. Mr. Aikman established End Zones at The Children's Hospital of Dallas, Texas and at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. His ultimate goal is to have Aikman's End Zones in every NFL city.

Mr. Aikman has also teamed up with the Starbright Foundation, founded by Stephen Spielberg and General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. The Starbright Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of critically ill children through technology and entertainment. Starbright provides the interactive computer network in "Aikman's End Zones."

In addition to his foundation activities, Mr. Aikman has served on the board of Stars for Children and has been honorary chairman for numerous charitable fundraisers throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Mr. Aikman sponsors a scholarship at Henryetta High School for students who want to attend college but can't afford it, and has also established a permanently endowed scholarship at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1994, Aikman was honored for his community service when he received the Byron "Whizzer" White Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Aikman has also become a children's book author. In 1995 he published his first book titled Things Change. The message of the book is how to use change to one's advantage and view difficult times as learning experiences rather than as setbacks. In 1998, he published a second book called Aikman: Mind, Body & Soul which is his autobiography.

Troy Aikman continues to give unselfishly to our community, and we are grateful for the work he has done. He is the perfect example

of what a terrific role model professional athletes can be if they use the fame and wealth they have been blessed with in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again congratulate Troy Aikman on a wonderful football career and thank him for his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of children.

### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DEBORAH L. THORN

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Sergeant First Class Deborah Thorn, of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, who was recently named as the 2001 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year. SFC Thorn was chosen out of 2400 drill sergeants across the active Army. The Army's drill sergeants are responsible for all initial entry training for the Army's 120,000 new recruits annually.

SFC Thorn enlisted in the Army on her birthday, 3 September 1993 and has served in Fort Huachuca, Arizona and Germany before moving to Fort Leonard Wood to become a drill sergeant. She has served as a drill sergeant for the last 25 months in Alpha Company, 795th MP Battalion, 14th MP Brigade. She will attend the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course in July. Following her completion of the course, she will then serve a year at Training and Doctrine Command headquarters as an advisor to the commander on drill sergeant and basic training matters.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of this body will join me in congratulating SFC Thorn for her outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army. She is a tremendous role model for soldiers, not only at Fort Leonard Wood, but across the entire U.S. Army. I join her husband Lee and daughter Samantha in wishing SFC Thorn all the best in the days ahead.

### VASSAR POLICE CHIEF JOHN HORWATH: A BADGE OF HONOR

### HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vassar Police Chief John Horwath as he prepares to close the book on a long and venerable career serving and protecting the citizens of Vassar, Michigan. John's faithfulness and dedication in his work has made him an invaluable part of law enforcement in his community and throughout the state during his 36 years on the job, the past 32 years of which he served as Police Chief.

As Chief, John has made great strides in making and keeping Vassar a safe and enviable place to call home. Just last February, John put himself at great personal risk when he chased and apprehended a bank robbery suspect who had fled by car and later took off on foot. John's valor, talent and dedication to duty have been a hallmark of his tenure. He has helped establish the Vassar Police Department as a top-shelf agency that others

should seek to emulate. Moreover, the impact of his hard work and adherence to excellence have undoubtedly made a profound difference in the lives of countless people throughout his career.

John, however, has never been content to limit his contributions to the workplace. He has been an avid and frequent community activist who has touched the lives of friends, neighbors and strangers for many years. During the Persian Gulf War, John made it his mission to garner homefront support and display patriotism for our overseas troops. He also has often gone the extra mile in helping coordinate safety measures for scores of events in the Vassar area. In addition, John was one of the first to respond to the needs of his neighbors during the 1986 flood that devastated the community and he earned a special commendation for providing relief and support to the victims.

Those employed in law enforcement fully understand the important role family plays in supporting such work. John's wife, Katherine, and four children, RaeAnn, Michael, Matt, and John Thomas, have willingly and generously shared John with the community and everyone is the better for it.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to praise John Horwath's work ethic and steadfast dedication. He has been an outstanding asset to the Vassar Police Department and the entire community. His presence will be sorely missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John for his 36 years of service and in wishing him the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE  
"THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN  
TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL  
RECOGNITION ACT"

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by Representatives. JO ANN DAVIS, RICK BOUCHER, TOM DAVIS, BOBBY SCOTT, and EDWARD SCHROCK in introducing the "Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act."

This legislation will grant federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia: the Chickahominy Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Monacan Tribe, and the Nansemond Tribe.

As we approach the 400th anniversary of the first permanent European settlement in North America, it seems appropriate that the direct descendants of the native Americans, who met these settlers, should be recognized by the federal government and that we acknowledge these historic tribes and the significance of their heritage. Together, the men and women of these tribes represent a long neglected part of our nation's history.

The Virginia tribes have fought hard to retain their heritage and cultural identity. The legislation we are introducing today describes the history of the tribes and their early treaty rights with the Kings of England and the colonial government. Like much of our early history as a nation, the Virginia tribes were subdued, pushed off their land, and up to the mid 20th Century, denied full rights as U.S. citi-

zens. Despite their devastating losses of land and population, the Virginia Indians successfully overcame the years of racial discrimination that denied them equal opportunities to pursue their education and preserve their cultural identity.

Federal recognition would provide what the government has long denied, legal protections and financial obligations, including certain social services and benefits the federal government provides the 558 recognized tribes. At a time when our nation is trying to remedy past injustices to the Indians, Virginia's Indians are denied these benefits because none are recognized by the federal government. Not one of the 558 tribes recognized by the federal government reside in Virginia.

I know that the gambling issue may be at the forefront of some members' concerns. In response to this concern, we have worked to close any potential legal loopholes in the legislation to ensure that the state could prevent casino-type gaming by the tribes. Having maintained a close relationship with many of the members of these tribes, I believe they are sincere in their claims that gambling is inconsistent with their values. This position is already borne out by the fact that none of the tribes today engage in bingo gambling despite the fact that they have all established nonprofit organizations that are permitted under Virginia law to operate bingo games despite compelling financial needs that revenues from bingo could address.

The real issue for the tribes is one of recognition and the long overdue need for the federal government to affirm their identity as Native Americans. Coupled with this affirmation is an opportunity for the tribes to establish a more equitable relationship with the state and secure federal financial assistance for the tribes' social services, health care and housing needs. Many of their older members face the prospect of retiring without pensions and health benefits that most Americans take for granted.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:  
"MEDICARE RURAL AMBULANCE  
SERVICE EQUITY ACT OF 2001"

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, from an urban setting to the furthest reaches of rural America, Americans have come to expect and rely on health care that includes emergency ambulance service. Unfortunately, for many of us, our first exposure to medical care is, all too often, the EMS unit that responds to our call for help. Yet, for millions of Americans living in rural America this cornerstone of medical care is in danger of collapse.

Typically, rural EMS is a small one or two unit service, staffed by volunteers, not affiliated with a major medical facility, that responds to 350 to 500 calls per year within a large radius (37 miles average) who's greatest danger to its existence comes from Medicare.

From the Pacific Northwest to the Florida panhandle to the rural setting of Pennsylvania, an unrealistic and unresponsive Medicare fee

schedule has done more to erode emergency medical service in rural America than any other threat to medical care in this country. Because Medicare fees fail to accurately reflect the rural medical environment, rural EMS is facing grave danger of being put out of business by a fee schedule that fails to recognize the actual costs confronting rural ambulance/EMS service.

Therefore, I am introducing the "Medicare Rural Ambulance Service Equity Act of 2001," to increase by 20 percent the payment under the Medicare program for ambulance services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas.

For rural ambulance/EMS, the majority of their revenue (60 to 70 percent) comes via Medicare reimbursements. Unfortunately, existing reimbursement fee schedules do not accurately reflect real-world circumstances confronting rural service. New Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) (previously referred to as HCFA) fee schedules, anticipated to go into effect by early fall, will not adequately correct the problem. Rural ambulance/EMS providers in every State will remain the hardest hit under the new fee schedule due to their low-volume of calls and transfers each year.

Timely and accurate reimbursement schedules for ambulance/EMS services that accurately reflects real-world costs and expenses are critical to the rural providers' ability to continue to operate. Passage of the "Medicare Rural Ambulance Service Equity Act of 2001" will level the playing field for rural emergency medical service.

All too often we are seeing rural EMS providers go out of business—citing financial loss. The primary contributing factor they cite for their loss—an unrealistic and unresponsive Medicare reimbursement fee schedule.

Recently the town council in Avonmore, Pennsylvania voted to close their ambulance/EMS after 27 years. Their reason, they couldn't afford to remain in business. Why, because with nearly 68 percent of their revenues from Medicare reimbursements they couldn't afford any longer to maintain the service for the community—A sad but all too true reality confronting rural medical care in America.

The "Medical Rural Ambulance Service Equity Act of 2001" is not the panacea for the growing shortcomings of health care in American, but its 20 percent increase in reimbursement will stop the hemorrhaging that we are experiencing in rural emergency medical service.

We all have something to lose by not putting a halt to the erosion of rural EMS. Therefore, I call on all Members of Congress to immediately pass this important piece of health legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER SHARON  
BECKER, A HEALTH CARE  
COMMUNITY LEADER

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate Sister Sharon Becker of St. Mary Medical Center in Apple Valley, California, who has been elected to the

leadership council of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. In that position, she will be one of five Sisters who are responsible for giving direction to this health care community.

Since she joined St. Mary Medical Center in 1993, Sister Sharon's vision and leadership has helped make the hospital one of the most highly-regarded in the High Desert and recognized throughout San Bernardino County for its quality of care. Her dedication to serving the poor and disadvantaged has made St. Mary's a leader in services to the needy in the area. She has been forceful in convincing other community leaders to also ensure that a safety net remains in place for the truly needy.

While in Apple Valley, Sister Sharon developed a program for at-risk pregnant women that is now a full-fledged outreach center. She opened a High Desert office for Catholic Charities, making its disaster relief and services to the poor available for the first time. She established a Food Resource Center that provides a range of counseling services for families receiving government food assistance. She started an annual "Share the Warmth" drive to acquire shoes and coats for needy children. And she started an annual Thanksgiving food drive for needy families. She was one of the original members of the San Bernardino County Children and Families Commission.

As a member of the leadership council, Sister Sharon will help direct the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Through the St. Joseph Health Care System, the council oversees the operation of 15 acute health care facilities, as well as an array of clinics, home-health-care services and hospices in California, Texas and Arizona. The sisters have been ministering to the sick since 1912 in California, and their hospitals served 143,000 inpatients and 2.3 million outpatients in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the patients who receive top-notch care at St. Mary's Medical Center will enthusiastically endorse Sister Sharon as a good choice to help run the ministries health care system. We will miss her direct leadership in the High Desert, but have no doubt that she will ensure that the entire system improves over her five-year term. Please join me in congratulating her and wishing her well in this important new role.

#### INTRODUCING THE RENTERS RELIEF ACT

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that addressing a crisis in our country. My bill, the Renters Relief Act, provides a refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 for people paying more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs.

Throughout our nation, millions of working families are struggling to make ends meet. Housing costs are often the greatest drain on a family's economic resources.

I would like to call to my colleagues' attention some disturbing facts from around the country: In Atlanta, Georgia there are 11,907 families waiting for housing assistance from HUD; In the Los Angeles Metro region more than 400,000 renters have incomes less than 50 percent of the area median income, and

pay over half of their income for rent or are living in severely substandard housing, the "worst" case scenario; In Boston, the average monthly fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the metro area is \$874, that means a family must earn at least \$35,000 or else they will be spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing.

We have heard the statistics over and over. The fact is we are not producing enough housing that is guaranteed for low and moderate-income people. We are not building nearly enough public housing to accommodate our needs. Incomes are not keeping up with housing costs. I have been frustrated at not being able to help more of my constituents.

In fact, three years ago Secretary Cuomo said that "Not even families working full-time at minimum wage can afford decent quality housing in the private rental market. This is not just a big city problem but affects America's growing suburbs as well."

HUD's own research indicates that a wide variety of market forces have contributed to this crisis of housing affordability through the 1990s. Among these are "continued suburbanization of population and employment, regulatory barriers to development of multifamily housing, underinvestment in affordable housing by local communities, continuing discriminatory barriers, and the simple economics of supply and demand in which rising incomes for higher income families drive up rents faster than the poorest families can afford. Also, the growth in the crisis during the 1990s can also be attributed to the elimination of Federal appropriations for additional rental vouchers between 1995 and 1998."

I urge my colleagues to turn the tide. Join me in moving the Renters Relief Act forward!

#### HONORING DR. BOBBY JONES OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GOSPEL MUSIC INDUSTRY

### HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Bobby Jones of Nashville, Tennessee. For more than twenty-five years, he has promoted and performed gospel music during his "Bobby Jones Gospel" shows worldwide. In fact, I have known him for a number of years and consider him to be a personal friend.

Bobby Jones is truly a pioneer in taking gospel music to a wider audience via television programming beginning with his local television show on WSMV—Channel 4 in Nashville, and over the past twenty years as a personality on Black Entertainment Television (BET). His programs have inspired, informed, and entertained a generation of Americans. In fact, "Bobby Jones Gospel" is credited with being the first and only nationally syndicated black gospel television show.

Jones has also introduced a wealth of new musical talent to the world through his television shows. Artists such as Yolanda Adams, Kirk Franklin, and Hezekiah Walker first came to the attention of the public after being showcased on "Bobby Jones Gospel." Additionally,

his video program on BET, is the only national black gospel video program to date. He also hosts a weekly syndicated gospel countdown show heard on radio stations across the nation.

Bobby Jones has always aspired to great things. The Henry County, Tennessee, native dreamed of a musical career at an early age, which drove him to graduate from high school at the age of 15 and to earn a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University (TSU) at the age of 19. An education major, he went on to earn a master's degree from TSU, and doctorate from Vanderbilt University. Upon graduation, Jones successfully taught in both the Tennessee and Missouri school systems.

He is also credited with forming the now familiar "Black Expo,"—fair like events, which take place across then nation and celebrate the many contributions of African Americans to the community in which they take place.

Bobby Jones has been honored numerous times by his peers. In 1980, he received The Gabriel Award and an International Film Festival Award for writing and performing *Make A Joyful Noise*. In 1982, he was nominated for a Grammy Award, along with his group, *New Life*. The Gospel Music Association (GMA) honored him in 1984, with a Dove Award for *Black Contemporary Album of the Year*. That same year he picked up a Grammy Award for "Best Vocal Duo for a Soul/Gospel Performance" for the single he recorded with Barbara Mandrell, "I'm So Glad I'm Standing Here Today." He also won an NAACP Image Award in 1984. The GMA honored him with the "Commonwealth Award for Outstanding Contribution to Gospel Music" in 1990. In 1994, Jones was nominated for a Cable ACE Award.

His autobiography, "My 25 Years in Gospel Music: *Make a Joyful Noise*" was recently released by Double Day Books. Another recent venture is his new television program "Bobby Jones Presents . . ." for the Word Network. This show contains classic performances from "Bobby Jones Gospel."

Jones is to be commended and honored for twenty-five years of outstanding service to the gospel music industry. He is a beloved figure who no doubt will continue to enlighten audiences for many years to come.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago this month, on June 3, 1976, a law was enacted creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. We know it as "the Helsinki Commission." One of the smallest and most unique bodies in the U.S. Government, it perhaps ranks among the most effective for its size. I have been proud to be a member of the Commission for the past 16 years.

When President Gerald Ford signed, in Helsinki in 1975, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, he said that "history will judge this Conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow—not only by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep." That

piece of rhetoric has not only been repeated in various forms by every United States President since; it has continually served as a basis for U.S. policy toward Europe.

Credit for this fact, and for the Commission's establishment, first goes to our late colleague here in the House, Millicent Fenwick, and the late-Senator Clifford Case, both of New Jersey. Observing the foundation of human rights groups in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to monitor and, it was hoped, to encourage their governments to keep the promises made in Helsinki, she and other Members of Congress felt it would be good to give them some signs of support. Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that this was in the midst of detente with Moscow, a polite dance of otherwise antagonistic great powers. It was a time when the nuclear warhead was thought to be more powerful than the human spirit, and the pursuit of human rights in the communist world was not considered sufficiently realistic, except perhaps as a propaganda tool with which to woo a divided European continent and polarized world.

The philosophy of the Commission was otherwise. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is, as the Helsinki Final Act indicates, a prerequisite for true peace and true security. As such, it is also a principle guiding relations between states, a legitimate matter for discussion among them. This philosophy, broadened today to include democratic norms such as free and fair elections and respect for the rule of law, remains the basis for the Commission's work.

Of course, the Commission was not meant to be a place for mere debate on approaches to foreign policy; it had actually to insert itself into the policy-making process. The Commission Chairman for the first decade, the late Dante Fascell of Florida, fought hard to do just that. It was, I would say, a bipartisan fight, with several different Congresses taking on several different Administrations. Moreover, it was not just a fight for influence in policy-making; it was a much tougher fight for better policies. The Commission staff, led during those early years by R. Spencer Oliver, was superb in this respect. It knew the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. It worked with non-governmental organizations to increase public diplomacy and, subsequently, public support for human rights advocacy. The staff developed the ability to insert principle into policy at the negotiating table. Over time, as State Department and other Executive-branch officials would come and go, the Commission staff developed the institutional memory to recall what works and what doesn't, allowing human right as an element of East-West relations consistently to strengthen. With the Commission staff represented on U.S. delegations to follow-up and experts meetings which emerged from the Final Act—collectively called the Helsinki process—our country addressed issues at the heart of Cold War, forthrightly confronting the Soviets and their allies in the presence of our European allies, neutral and non-aligned states and the more reluctant Warsaw Pact members. The Commission was viewed as unique in the role it played to “co-determine” with the Executive branch U.S. human rights policy toward the Soviet Union and East-Central Europe.

In 15 years at the East-West divide, the Commission also championed policies, like the Jackson-Vanik amendment, linking human

rights to trade and other aspects of U.S. bilateral relationships. The concept of linkage has often been chastised by the foreign policy establishment, but it comes from the passion of our own country's democratic heritage and nature. With persistence and care, it ultimately proved successful for the United States and the countries concerned.

The Helsinki Commission also became the champion of engagement. Commission members did not simply speak out on human rights abuses; they also traveled to the Soviet Union and the communist countries of East-Central Europe, meeting dissidents and “refuseniks” and seeking to gain access to those in the prisons and prison camps. At first, the Commission was viewed as such a threat to the communist system that its existence would not be officially acknowledged, but Commissioners went anyway, in other congressional capacities until such time that barriers to the Commission were broken down. The Commission focus was on helping those who had first inspired the Commission's creation, namely the Helsinki and human rights monitors, who had soon been severely persecuted for assuming in the mid-1970s that they could act upon their rights. Ethnic rights, religious rights, movement, association and expression rights, all were under attack, and the Commission refused to give up its dedication to their defense.

Eventually, the hard work paid off, and the beginning of my tenure with the Commission coincided with the first signs under Gorbachev that East-West divisions were finally coming to an end. Sharing the chairmanship with my Senate counterparts—first Alfonso D'Amato of New York and then Dennis DeConcini of Arizona—the Commission argued against easing the pressure at the time it was beginning to produce results. We argued for the human rights counterpart of President Reagan's “zero option” for arms control, in which not only the thousands of dissenters and prospective emigrants saw benefits. They were joined by millions of everyday people—workers, farmers, students—suddenly feeling more openness, real freedom, and an opportunity with democracy. Dissidents on whose behalf the Commission fought—while so many others were labeling them insignificant fringe elements in society—were now being released and becoming government leaders, people like Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek and Czech President Vaclav Havel. The independence of the Baltic States, whose forced incorporation into the USSR was never officially recognized by the United States, was actually reestablished, followed by others wishing to act upon the Helsinki right to self-determination. The Commission was among the first to suggest not as rhetoric but as a real possibility the holding of free and fair elections, tearing down the Berlin Wall, and beginning a new world order in Europe.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, those of us on the Commission knew that the fall of communism would give rise to new problems, namely the extreme nationalism which communism swept under the rug of repression rather than neutralized with democratic antiseptic. Still, none of us fully anticipated what was to come in the 1990s. It was a decade of democratic achievement, but it nevertheless witnessed the worst violations of Helsinki principles and provisions, including genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and brutal conflicts elsewhere in the Balkans as

well as in Chechnya, the Caucuses and Central Asia, with hundreds of thousands innocent civilians killed and millions displaced. Again, it was the Commission which helped keep these tragedies on the U.S. foreign policy agenda, holding hearings, visiting war zones and advocating an appropriately active and decisive U.S. response. In the face of such serious matters, too many sought to blame history and even democracy, equated victim with aggressor and fecklessly abandoned the principles upon which Helsinki was based. Again the Commission, on a bipartisan basis in dialogue with different Administrations, took strong issue with such an approach. Moreover, with our distinguished colleague, CHRISTOPHER SMITH of New Jersey, taking his turn as Chairman during these tragic times, the Commission took on a new emphasis in seeking justice for victims, providing much needed humanitarian relief and supporting democratic movements in places like Serbia for the sake of long-term stability and the future of the people living there.

In this new decade, Mr. Speaker, the Commission has remained actively engaged on the issues of the time. Corruption and organized crime, trafficking of women and children into sexual slavery, new attacks on religious liberty and discrimination in society, particularly against Romani populations in Europe, present new challenges. Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado, the latest Commission Chairman, has kept the Commission current and relevant. In addition, there continue to be serious problem areas or widespread or systemic violations of OSCE standards in countries of the Balkans, Central Asia and the Caucuses, or reversals of the democratization process as in Belarus. The Commission was born in the Cold War, but its true mission—the struggle for human rights, democratic government and the rule of law—remains as important now as it was then. It remains an essential element for true security and stability in the world, as well as, to paraphrase Helsinki, for the free and full development of the individual person, from whose inherent dignity human rights ultimately derive.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I wish to erase any illusion I have given in my praise for the Helsinki Commission on its first quarter of a century that it had single-handedly vanquished the Soviet empire or stopped the genocidal policies of Slobodan Milosevic. No, this did not occur, and our own efforts pale in comparison to the courage and risk-taking of human rights activists in the countries concerned. But I would assert, Mr. Speaker, that the wheels of progress turn through the interaction of numerous cogs, and the Commission has been one of those cogs, maybe with some extra grease. The Commission certainly was the vehicle through which the United States Government was able to bring the will of the American people for morality and human rights into European diplomacy.

To those who were in the Soviet gulag, or in Ceausescu's Romania as a recent acquaintance there relayed to me with much emotion, the fact that some Americans and others were out there, speaking on their behalf, gave them the will to survive those dark days, and to continue the struggle for freedom. Many of those voices were emanating in the non-governmental community, groups like Amnesty International, Freedom House and Human Rights Watch. Through the Helsinki Commission, the

voice of the United States Congress was heard as well, and I know that all of my colleagues who have been on the Commission or worked with it are enormously proud of that fact.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JAMES V.  
PSENICKA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a very fine man, Mr. James V. Psenicka, for his dedicated years of service and countless contributions to the community.

Mr. Psenicka was born in Maple Heights to Czech immigrants who met and married in the United States. The family then moved to Streetsboro to purchase land. Mr. Psenicka graduated from Kent State High School in 1950 and immediately joined the staff of "The Neighborhood News" where he served as a reporter and advertising salesman. He soon earned his bachelors degree in journalism from Kent State University in 1955.

Mr. Psenicka assumed the role of owner and publisher of "The Neighborhood News" in 1961 after serving in the U.S. Navy Air force in Guam. As publisher, Mr. Psenicka campaigned for cleaner air and strict anti-pollution regulation. He fought for countless causes to make life better for hard-working Czech and Polish-American readers. Under his leadership, the newspaper was named Best Weekly Newspaper by the Neighborhood and Community Press Association of Greater Cleveland in 1999.

Although his commitment to "The Neighborhood News" earned the newspaper countless awards and honors, Mr. Psenicka kept family and friends first. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and three sons to Canada, Greece, Europe, and many other places. He relished boating and gardening. You would often see Mr. Psenicka off the coast of Lake Erie fishing.

Mr. Psenicka also had an incredible dedication to his local community. He served as a member of Karlin Hall on Fleet Avenue and the Small Business Advisory Council to the U.S. Congress. In addition, Mr. Psenicka served as a dedicated member to the Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland, the world's largest service organization.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. James V. Psenicka, a man that has touched the Cleveland and world community in many ways. His love, dedication, and honor will be greatly missed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making ap-

propriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2217, the Interior Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. Among the components of that act is funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and its program of oil and natural gas research and development. Few among us understand what an important role oil and natural gas research and development plays in our nation's ability to produce critical quantities of those resources for our domestic consumption.

I would like to introduce into the RECORD today one of the recommendations contained in a report of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) entitled A Dependent Nation: How Federal Oil and Natural Gas Policy is Eroding America's Economic Independence. This report contains the IOGCC governors' own set of recommendations for a national oil and natural gas policy. It is my hope that this information will help explain why federally funded oil and natural gas research and development is so vitally important to this country.

RECOMMENDATION 2: PROMOTE THE EXPANSION OF RESEARCH TO RECOVER DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS RESOURCES

This far-reaching recommendation encompasses a number of initiatives designed to ensure the nation's reserves are fully developed. First, to make informed decisions regarding the nation's energy future, the public must have definitive information on the actual domestic petroleum resource.

For example, there are vast known reserves of oil in the United States. The IOGCC estimates that 351 billion barrels will remain in the ground after conventional recovery technologies have been applied.

In addition, there are oil and natural gas reserves located on private and public lands and offshore that have not been analyzed or catalogued. Some of these reserves may exist in environmentally sensitive areas or in difficult-to-access locations that would require extraordinary exploration and production measures or advanced research to develop. Therefore, in addition to identifying the entire oil and gas resource base of the country, research should include estimates of the time required to bring these resources into production.

Defining these resources is only a first step. As an advocate for oil and natural gas research, the IOGCC also strongly supports programs that create technology to improve recovery rates and lower finding and production costs. Such research and development (R&D) is an investment in the country's future and its energy security. Technological advance might be the most important factor in ensuring America's nonrenewable resources are fully developed.

As noted by the Task Force on Strategic Energy Research and Development, "There is growing evidence of a brewing 'R&D crisis' in the United States—the result of cutbacks and refocusing in private-sector R&D and reductions in federal R&D. Support for research and development is indeed being simultaneously reduced in the private and public sectors. R&D cannot be turned on and off like a water tap. The acquisition of new knowledge and the embodiment of new knowledge in new products and services for the economy is a cumulative process that requires continuous effort to sustain. The accumulation of cutbacks in public and private R&D could be setting the stage for a major

shortfall and setbacks in R&D in the United States—characterized by the lack of consistent attention to longer-term needs and problems, a shrinking population of scientists and engineers available to perform high-quality R&D, and a loss of incentives and opportunities for new generations of technologists."

A 1997 report commissioned by the IOGCC confirmed the declining trend in oil and gas research and development. "When private R&D is compared to federal expenditures, the outlook is more bleak. Private spending is substantiated . . . but federal spending remains disproportionately small compared to the relative importance of oil and gas to U.S. energy requirements."

Enrollment in petroleum-related majors at America's colleges and universities has shrunk as well. At the University of Texas at Austin, home of one of the largest petroleum engineering programs in the nation, undergraduate enrollment in the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering has plummeted more than 80 percent from a high of 1,200 in 1982 to 222 in 1999. About 1,300 students currently are enrolled in undergraduate petroleum engineering programs in the U.S., down sharply from more than 11,000 in 1983.

A 1997 study published by the IOGCC expressed alarm at the loss of experienced and entry-level technical personnel, noting "there is a 5- to 7-year gap between decisions to increase exploration budgets and resulting new oil production, even when experienced technical staff are available. However, few have considered the long-term effects of the 1986 petroleum jobs massacre (in which 500,000 jobs were lost) and how the events of 10 years ago will influence future energy policy and supplies . . . Any crisis in oil supply causing increases in domestic activity will be constrained by lack of qualified staff."

The federal government could fulfill a vital leadership role in reversing the trend. The country's network of national laboratories, for example, seems ideally suited for the mission of energy research.

In addition, the IOGCC supports a reallocation of U.S. Department of Energy resources to provide additional research and development funding for oil and natural gas. The DOE's budget request totals \$18.9 billion for fiscal year 2001. For fossil energy research and development, DOE is requesting \$376 million, less than 2 percent of the budget. About \$160 million is requested for oil and natural gas research. This represents slightly more than one-half of one percent of the DOE budget request—for fuels that deliver more than 85 percent of the country's energy.

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy highlights the importance of R&D. "Looking forward, the domestic oil and gas industry will be challenged to continue extending the frontiers of technology. Ongoing advances in E&P productivity are essential if producers are to keep pace with steadily growing demand for oil and gas, both in the United States and world wide."

The NPC notes "producers are turning to the service sectors to develop new technology for specific applications. Industry consortia have been formed to address critical technology challenges such as deep water development. While many of these changes improve the efficiency with which research and development dollars are spent, concerns have been widely expressed that basic and long-term research are not being adequately addressed."

Meanwhile, solar and renewables technologies, which provide less than 10 percent of U.S. energy, would receive more than \$457 million. The 28 percent increase in funding (\$99 million) for 2001 represents more than the total request for oil and natural gas research.

Reality dictates that additional funding for oil and natural gas research and development is unlikely. However, the IOGCC supports a drastic shift in how available tax dollars are spent. In the early years of the DOE, large and expensive demonstration projects dominated R&D spending. "That early emphasis on demonstration projects, reflecting the turmoil of the late 1970s, was, in retrospect, misplaced."

Despite billions of dollars spent on renewable energy R&D during the period of 1990-1999, there has been little impact by renewables on the nation's total energy consumption pattern (Figure 6). In fact, in 1999, renewables supplied a nearly identical percentage of the nation's total energy consumption as in 1990.

According to Hodel and Deitz, "however important alternative sources eventually may be, our best estimate is that we will continue to meet our energy needs with oil and gas for at least the remainder of this and the next generation of Americans, and very possibly several succeeding ones as well. Without some kind of energy breakthrough or aggressive government mandates, oil and gas appear certain to be our predominant fuels for the next 40 to 100 years."

A broad range of parties assembled by the National Petroleum Council to assess the future of the oil and gas industry expressed "... surprisingly broad agreement ..." on the outlook for the next 25 years, including, "The United States and the world will still be using large amounts of oil and gas in 2020, not significantly different from the more than 60 percent share of world energy consumption these fuels represent today."

The case for redirecting R&D dollars to where they would prove more effective is especially important as government considers budget freezes and cutbacks. Past successes, including three-dimensional seismic, polycrystalline diamond drill bits and horizontal drilling, which have helped lower costs and improve recovery, should be built upon.

To ensure that these limited resources are spent wisely, the IOGCC recommends the budgets for energy research and development be considered by the same congressional subcommittees. Current congressional structure requires fossil fuel and renewables research budgets to be evaluated in separate budget bills handled by separate subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. As a result, side-by-side comparisons of expenditures and impacts are difficult, and there is a lack of flexibility in allocating finite resources.

The NPC notes "in the past three decades, the petroleum business has transformed itself into a high-technology industry ... Looking forward, the domestic oil and gas industry will be challenged to continue extending the frontiers of technology. Ongoing advances in E&P productivity are essential if producers are to keep pace with steadily growing demand for oil and gas, both in the United States and world wide. Continuing innovation will also be needed to sustain the industry's leadership in the intensely competitive international arena, and to retain high-paying oil and gas industry jobs at home."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES V. HANSEN**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 21, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes;

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2217, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, contained language under the National Park Service/Land Acquisition and State Assistance section regarding federal grants to the State of Florida for acquisition of lands or waters within the Everglades watershed, including the areas known as the Frog Pond, the Rocky Glades and the Eight and One-Half Square Mile Area. This language begins on page 29, line 15 of the House engrossed bill and continues until page 30, line 11.

This language does not constitute any new authority to acquire land or to obligate funds beyond existing law under Public Law 101-229, the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989. The Committee on Resources has primary jurisdiction over this statute. The authority of the federal government to acquire land, directly or indirectly by eminent domain, must be specific. If I felt that this language in the Interior appropriations bill authorized new acquisition authority, I would have exercised my prerogative under the rules of the House of Representatives to have the language struck on a point of order.

Similarly, nothing in this language from the Interior appropriations bill provides any new project authorization beyond that contained in the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act. Again, I would have raised a point of order against the text if I believed that it constituted new or amended project authority.

I hope this clarifies any questions or concerns that my colleagues or the public might have regarding these provisions.

HONORING REVEREND JOHN L.  
FREESEMAN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ORDINATION

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reverend John L. Freeseemann of the Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in San Jose, California, on the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination. On the 27th day of June, 1976, Reverend John L. Freeseemann was ordained in the Lutheran Church. For 25 years he has served both his parish community and the people of Santa Clara County faithfully and devotedly.

Reverend John Freeseemann has been a tireless advocate of ecumenism in San Jose

and the surrounding communities; he has provided a decade of responsible leadership as a board member and past president of the California Council of Churches, and is a founding member and the current president of California Church Impact. Reverend Freeseemann has also served for eight terms as president of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. Reverend John Freeseemann gives tirelessly of his time and talents to support children and families as a founding member, two-term vice president, and current president of Resources for Families and Communities in Santa Clara County.

As the pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church for 11 years, Reverend Freeseemann has established his San Jose parish as a place of safety, of compassion and of hope. Under his loving guidance, Holy Redeemer has expanded its ministries to the community at large.

I wish to congratulate Reverend John L. Freeseemann on this, the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination, and to thank him for his many years of service to the people of San Jose. Our community is the richer for his faithful service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIO-  
TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE  
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD ACT  
OF 2001

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish a grant program under the Secretary of Agriculture to support research and development programs in agricultural biotechnology to address the food and economic needs of the developing world.

My bill recognizes the great potential of agricultural biotechnology to combat hunger, malnutrition, and sickness in the developing world and provides the mechanism to encourage the pursuit of this exciting technology.

Portions of the developing world are facing a pandemic of malnutrition and disease; 200 million people on the African continent alone are chronically malnourished. Traditional farming practices cannot meet the growing needs of the developing world. Africa's crop production is the lowest in the world and even with about two-thirds of its labor force engaged in agriculture, Africa currently imports more than 25 percent of its grain for food and feed.

Biotechnology offers great promise for agriculture and nutrition in the developing world. Vitamin-enhanced foods, foods higher in protein, and fruits and vegetables with longer shelf-lives have been developed using biotechnology. Biotechnology can promote sustainable agriculture, leading to food and economic security in developing nations. Biotechnology can help developing countries produce higher crop yields while using fewer pesticides and herbicides. My bill does not encourage the development of pesticide-resistant crops.

An added benefit of increased yields through biotechnology is that increased productivity on existing crop land reduces the amount of land that needs to be farmed as

well as the need for new crop acreage, which can greatly slow the rate of habitat destruction. Since most food production and farming in the developing world is done by women, such an increase in productivity also enables women to spend their time on other productive activities and better care for their families.

Biotechnology can also improve the health of citizens of developing countries by combating illness. Substantial progress has been made in the developed world on vaccines against life-threatening illnesses, but, unfortunately, infrastructure limitations often hinder the effectiveness of traditional vaccination methods in some parts of the developing world. For example, many vaccines must be kept refrigerated until they are injected. Even if a health clinic has electricity and is able to deliver effective vaccines, the cost of multiple needles can hinder vaccination efforts. Additionally, the improper use of hypodermic needles can spread HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Biotechnology offers the prospect of orally delivering vaccines to immunize against life-threatening illnesses through agricultural products in a safe and effective manner.

My bill establishes a grant program under the Foreign Agricultural Service in the Department of Agriculture to encourage research in agricultural biotechnology. Eligible grant recipients include historically black colleges and universities, land-grant colleges, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal colleges or universities. Non-profit organizations and consortia of for-profit and in-country agricultural research centers are also eligible.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the International African Arts Festival which annually contributes to the Brooklyn community through weekend long cultural events.

For the past thirty years, the International African Arts Festival has brought together those who wish to enjoy the music, dance, art, craft, flavors, colors, laughter, and love of the African Diasporan family as well as visitors from across the globe. Born on a stage, the festival grew into a block party. However, soon thereafter the location changed once again to the Boys and Girls High field.

In an effort to give back to the community, the International African Arts Festival holds an annual talent search, in which cash prizes and performance contracts are awarded to young people. The talent search has helped to launch the careers of several young stars. In addition, the Festival has awarded over \$23,000 in annual scholarships to graduating high school seniors over the past eleven years. The International African Arts Festival is also responsible for the success of the Living Legends Award as well as the Ankh Award, both bestowed upon leaders and inspirational figures in the community.

The International African Arts Festival is committed to maintaining a connection with Af-

rican tradition itself. A traditional African libation ceremony officially opens the Festival each year in salute to the spirit of the African ancestors. Over the course of its thirty years, the International African Arts Festival has brought a wealth of world-class entertainment to Brooklyn stages. The Festival maintains a deep connection with the residents of Brooklyn, employing over 300 people every year.

Mr. Speaker, for the past thirty years the International African Arts Festival has been an integral part of the community. As such, the Festival is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable event.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE LINKS  
ACROSS AMERICA

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Postal Service links together cities and towns, large and small, across America through delivery of the mail. Since our nation's founding, mail delivery has been especially important to rural America, places that were at first a long walk away, then a long horse ride, and even for years a long automobile ride from the nearest downtown of a major city. The Internet today has helped reduce the distance between cities, and even countries, but mail delivery continues to be an important function for all Americans.

Most Americans, probably, are unaware that for decades rural letter carriers have used their own transportation to deliver the mail. This includes rural letter carriers who today drive their own vehicles in good weather and bad, in all seasons, in locations that can range from a canyon bottom to mountain top, ocean view to bayou. Rural letter carriers drive over 3 million miles daily and serve 24 million American families on over 66,000 rural and suburban routes. The mission of rural letter carriers has changed little over the years, but the type of mail they deliver has changed substantially—increasing to over 200 billion pieces a year. And although everyone seems to be communicating by email these days, the Postal Service is delivering more letters than at any time in our nation's history. During the next decade, however, we know that will change.

Electronic communication is expected to accelerate even faster than it has in the last five years. Some of what Americans send by mail today will be sent online. According to the General Accounting Office (GAO), that will include many bills and payments. In its study, U.S. Postal Service: Challenges to Sustaining Performance Improvements Remain Formidable on the Brink of the 21st Century, dated October 21, 1999, the GAO reports that the Postal Service's core business—letter mail—will decline substantially. As a result, the revenue the Postal Service collects from delivering First-Class letters also will decline.

While the Internet will eventually reduce the amount of letter mail rural letter carriers deliver, the Internet will present some new opportunities for delivering parcels. Rural letter carriers have for decades delivered the pack-

ages we order from catalogs, and now they deliver dozens of parcels every week that were ordered online. For some rural and suburban Americans the Postal Service still remains the only delivery service of choice. Today, the Postal Service has about 33 percent of the parcel business. However, if the Postal Service is as successful as it hopes in attracting more parcels, that could create a problem for rural carriers. Most items ordered by mail are shipped in boxes that, once filled with packing materials, can be bulky—so bulky, in fact, that many rural letter carriers already see the need for larger delivery vehicles.

In exchange for using their own vehicles, rural letter carriers are reimbursed for their vehicle expense by the Postal Service through the Equipment Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Congress recognized this unique situation in tax legislation as far back as 1988. That year Congress intended to exempt EMA from taxation through a specific provision for rural letter carriers in the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 (TAMRA). This provision allowed rural mail carriers to compute their vehicle expense deduction based on 150 percent of the standard mileage rate for their business mileage use. Congress passed this law because using a personal vehicle to deliver the U.S. Mail is not typical vehicle use. Also, these vehicles have little resale value because of their high mileage and most are outfitted for right-handed driving.

As an alternative, rural letter carrier taxpayers could elect to use the actual expense method (business portion of actual operation and maintenance of the vehicle, plus depreciation). If the EMA exceeded the actual vehicle expense deductions, the excess was subject to tax. If EMA fell short of the actual vehicle expenses, a deduction was allowed only to the extent that the sum of the shortfall and all other miscellaneous itemized deductions exceeded two percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

The Taxpayers Relief Act (TRA) of 1997 further simplified the taxation of rural letter carriers. TRA provides that the EMA reimbursement is not reported as taxable income. That simplified taxes for approximately 120,000 taxpayers, but the provision eliminated the option of filing the actual expense method for employee business vehicle expenses. The lack of this option, combined with the effect the Internet will have on mail delivery, specifically on rural letter carriers and their vehicles, is a problem we must address.

Expecting its carriers to deliver more packages because of the Internet, the Postal Service already is encouraging rural letter carriers to purchase larger right-hand drive vehicles, such as sports utility vehicles (SUV). Large SUVs can carry more parcels, but also are much more expensive to operate than traditional vehicles—especially with today's higher gasoline prices. So without the ability to use the actual expense method and depreciation, rural carriers must use their pay to cover vehicle expenses. Additionally, the Postal Service has placed 11,000 postal vehicles on rural routes, which means those carriers receive no EMA.

All these changes combined have created a situation contrary to the historical Congressional intent of using reimbursement to fund the government service of delivering mail, and

also has created an inequitable tax situation for rural letter carriers. If actual business expenses exceed the EMA, a deduction for those expenses should be allowed. I believe we must correct this inequity, and so I am introducing a bill that would reinstate the deduction for a rural letter carrier to claim the actual cost of the business use of a vehicle in excess of the EMA reimbursement as a miscellaneous itemized deduction.

In the next few years, more and more Americans will use the Internet to get their news and information, as well as receive and pay their bills. But mail and parcel delivery by the United States Postal Service will remain a necessity for all Americans—especially those in rural and suburban parts of the nation. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and ensure fair taxation for rural letter carriers.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASS  
ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my good friends from Virginia, Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. MORAN, and the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2001.

This much-needed bipartisan legislation corrects a serious flaw in our federal jurisdiction statutes. At present, those statutes forbid our federal courts from hearing most interstate class actions—the lawsuits that involve more money and touch more Americans than virtually any other litigation pending in our legal system.

The class action device is a necessary and important part of our legal system. It promotes efficiency by allowing plaintiffs with similar claims to adjudicate their cases in one proceeding. It also allows claims to be heard in cases where there are small harms to a large number of people, which would otherwise go unaddressed because the cost to the individuals suing could far exceed the benefit to the individual. However, class actions have been used with an increasing frequency and in ways that do not promote the interests they were intended to serve.

In recent years, state courts have been flooded with class actions. As a result of the adoption of different class action certification standards in the various states, the same class might be certifiable in one state and not another, or certifiable in state court but not in federal court. This creates the potential for abuse of the class action device, particularly when the case involves parties from multiple states or requires the application of the laws of many states.

For example, some state courts routinely certify classes before the defendant is even served with a complaint and given a chance to defend itself. Other state courts employ very lax class certification criteria, rendering virtually any controversy subject to class action treatment. There are instances where a state court, in order to certify a class, has determined that the law of that state applies to all claims, including those of purported class

members who live in other jurisdictions. This has the effect of making the law of that state applicable nationwide.

The existence of state courts which broadly apply class certification rules encourages plaintiffs to forum shop for the court which is most likely to certify a purported class. In addition to forum-shopping, parties frequently exploit major loopholes in federal jurisdiction statutes to block the removal of class actions that belong in federal court. For example, plaintiffs' counsel may name parties that are not really relevant to the class claims in an effort to destroy diversity. In other cases, counsel may waive federal law claims or shave the amount of damages claimed to ensure that the action will remain in state court.

Another problem created by the ability of state courts to certify class actions which adjudicate the rights of citizens of many states is that often times more than one case involving the same class is certified at the same time. In the federal court system, those cases involving common questions of fact may be transferred to one district for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

When these class actions are pending in state courts, however, there is no corresponding mechanism for consolidating the competing suits. Instead, a settlement or judgment in any of the cases makes the other class actions moot. This creates an incentive for each class counsel to obtain a quick settlement of the case, and an opportunity for the defendant to play the various class counsel against each other and drive the settlement value down. The loser in this system is the class member whose claim is extinguished by the settlement, at the expense of counsel seeking to be the one entitled to recovery of fees.

Our bill is designed to prevent these abuses by allowing large interstate class action cases to be heard in federal court. It would expand the statutory diversity jurisdiction of the federal courts to allow class action cases involving minimal diversity—that is, when any plaintiff and any defendant are citizens of different states—to be brought in or removed to federal court.

Article III of the Constitution empowers Congress to establish federal jurisdiction over diversity cases—cases “between citizens of different States.” The grant of federal diversity jurisdiction was premised on concerns that state courts might discriminate against out of state defendants. In a class action, only the citizenship of the named plaintiffs is considered for determining diversity, which means that federal diversity jurisdiction will not exist if the named plaintiff is a citizen of the same state as the defendant, regardless of the citizenship of the rest of the class. Congress also imposes a monetary threshold—now \$75,000—for federal diversity claims. However, the amount in controversy requirement is satisfied in a class action only if all of the class members are seeking damages in excess of the statutory minimum.

These jurisdictional statutes were originally enacted years ago, well before the modern class action arose, and they now lead to perverse results. For example, under current law, a citizen of one state may bring in federal court a simple \$75,001 slip-and-fall claim against a party from another state. But if a class of 25 million product owners living in all 50 states brings claims collectively worth \$15

billion against the manufacturer, the lawsuit usually must be heard in state court.

This result is certainly not what the framers had in mind when they established federal diversity jurisdiction. Our bill offers a solution by making it easier for plaintiff class members and defendants to remove class actions to federal court, where cases involving multiple state laws are more appropriately heard. Under our bill, if a removed class action is found not to meet the requirements for proceeding on a class basis, the federal court would dismiss the action without prejudice and the action could be refiled in state court.

In addition, the bill provides a number of new protections for plaintiff class members including a requirement that notices sent to class members be written in “plain English” and provide essential information that is easily understood. Furthermore, the bill provides judicial scrutiny for settlements that provide class members only coupons as relief for their injuries, and bars approval of settlements in which class members suffer a net loss. The bill also includes provisions that protect consumers from being disadvantaged by living far away from the courthouse. These additional consumer protections will ensure that class action lawsuits benefit the consumers they are intended to compensate.

This legislation does not limit the ability of anyone to file a class action lawsuit. It does not change anybody's rights to recovery. Our bill specifically provides that it will not alter the substantive law governing any claims as to which jurisdiction is conferred. Our legislation merely closes the loophole, allowing federal courts to hear big lawsuits involving truly interstate issues, while ensuring that purely local controversies remain in state courts. This is exactly what the framers of the Constitution had in mind when they established federal diversity jurisdiction.

I urge each of my colleagues to support this very important bipartisan legislation.

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HONORING HUGH LEE GRUNDY  
FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Hugh Lee Grundy, a man who has devoted a lifetime of hard work and dedication to America's Armed Forces in Southeast Asia. Mr. Grundy is the retired President of Air America, an organization that served a special and undercover purpose for our nation's Central Intelligence Agency and allied countries in Asia and throughout the world. Hugh Grundy of Crab Orchard, Kentucky spent 50 to 60 years in the active world of aviation, and I am truly proud to stand here today and honor him here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Grundy was born at Valley Hill, Kentucky on the Grundy family farm, which he now owns and operates. Mr. Grundy raised and showed saddle horses at state and county fairs while growing up. Throughout his schooling, he worked at a local Ford dealership, rising to the position of assistant General Manager. He learned to fly light planes in Central

Kentucky in his teenage years. Mr. Grundy attended Aeronautical School in California and eventually became a teacher there. He then worked for Pan American Airlines.

Mr. Grundy faithfully served his country in various capacities for more than 30 years. During World War II, Mr. Grundy served his country as an Engineering Officer and Air Crew Member. He reached the rank of Major in the United States Army in 1946. At the close of World War II, Mr. Grundy exchanged active duty for the reserves and returned to Pan American. Later he was transferred to Shanghai, China to work for the China National Aviation Corporation.

Mr. Grundy served concurrently as President of Air America, Air Asia, and Civil Air Transport from 1954 to 1976. As President of Air America, Mr. Grundy commanded over 10,000 men and women serving in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. Mr. Grundy came out of retirement twice in order to return to preside over Southern Air Transport, a company based in Miami, Florida.

In June of 2001, the CIA presented Mr. Grundy with two citations, one in his capacity as President of Civil Air Transport and Air America, and one to him personally. This was the second time Mr. Grundy was given recognition by the CIA, the first being a medal for Honorable Service upon the occasion of his retirement from Air America.

Today I rise, Mr. Speaker, to salute Mr. Grundy for his commitment to aviation, his service to our country, and his patriotic leadership throughout the years.

**INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY MARKETING MONITORING ACT—H.R. 2331**

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, for the past year, the energy markets in California have been in a state of turmoil that has produced periodic blackouts, soaring prices for electricity and natural gas and a deep uncertainty about energy supplies for the future. In addition to those serious concerns, there have been a wide range of charges that energy suppliers are engaging in illegal collusion to fix market prices and gouge consumers.

Earlier this year, on January 22nd, I asked the General Accounting Office, our non-partisan and highly professional source for detailed information on many subjects, to investigate what was happening in California and to provide an overview of information on prices and impacts on consumers, producers and electricity providers. I also requested information on the causes of price increases and problems with the reliability of energy supplies. Finally, I requested evaluation of actions taken by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the state of California, and other parties involved.

Although GAO has been able to provide preliminary information regarding California's supply, demand, and market problems, there has been a significant problem in obtaining the detailed market information necessary for comprehensive analyses or evaluation. GAO interviews with these market participants have

yielded only general information and it is unclear at this time whether FERC has in its possession comprehensive market data.

In short, Mr. Speaker, at a time when Congress is wrestling with the complex and highly technical issues involved in both the California market and national energy supply, our own expert agency has limited access to the information it needs to provide analysis of what is happening and recommendations on what should be done to change federal laws and regulations.

In creating the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1977 under the Department of Energy Organization Act, Congress did not explicitly address the Comptroller General's (GAO's) authority to request and subpoena information from any body subject to FERC jurisdiction. Today, I am introducing legislation to correct this problem by making clear that the GAO and the Comptroller General have the authority to request and subpoena information from energy companies or other participants subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This legislation clarifies the functions of the Comptroller General to include:

Monitoring and evaluating the functions and activities of FERC.

Access to market information from those subject to FERC jurisdiction including energy prices, costs, demand, supply, industry and market structure, auction processes, and environmental impacts.

Authority to issue subpoenas, and compliance with any issued subpoena, to those subject to FERC jurisdiction to carry out the responsibilities of this Act including any audit, investigation, examination, analysis, review or evaluation.

It is essential that Congress and the American people have access to detailed and unbiased information on what is happening in our energy markets. The General Accounting Office is the right source for such information and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to make certain that GAO has the tools it needs to perform its job in monitoring our energy markets.

The text of H.R. 2331 is below:

H.R. 2331

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Energy Marketing Monitoring Act".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) When Congress created the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 1977 under the Department of Energy Organization Act, it did not explicitly address the Comptroller General's authority to request and subpoena information from facilities or businesses engaged in energy matters related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's activities. Clarification of the scope of the Comptroller General's access to such information would facilitate the Comptroller General's monitoring of the Nation's energy programs.

(2) For markets to function properly to provide consumers with goods at a competitive price, and to protect consumers from unjust prices or price manipulation, the markets must be transparent in their transactions. Although the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is responsible for market monitoring, it is unclear whether the Fed-

eral Energy Regulatory Commission has in its possession or has requested from market participants comprehensive market data.

(3) To ensure transparency of energy markets, and to help protect both consumers and suppliers, the General Accounting Office, as the investigative arm of Congress, must have full authority to examine all markets and market participants' activities.

**SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**

(a) AMENDMENT.—Title IV of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7171–7177) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**"FUNCTIONS OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL**

**"SEC. 408. (a) SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES.**—The Comptroller General shall monitor and evaluate the functions and activities of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**"(b) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**—Any person owning or operating facilities or business premises subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall provide the Comptroller General with access, including the right to make copies, of any books, documents, papers, statistics, data, records, and information where such material relates to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, including materials related to energy prices, costs, demand, supply, industry and market structure, auction processes, and environmental impacts.

**"(c) SUBPOENAS.**—To assist in carrying out the Comptroller General's responsibilities under this section, including any audit, investigation, examination, analysis, review, or evaluation, the Comptroller General may issue subpoenas to any person described in subsection (b) requiring the production of any books, documents, papers, statistics, data, records, and information.

**"(d) SECURING COMPLIANCE WITH SUBPOENA.**—Upon petition by the Comptroller General or the Attorney General (upon request of the Comptroller General), any United States district court within the jurisdiction of which an inquiry under this section is carried out may, in the case of refusal to obey a subpoena of the Comptroller General issued under this section, issue an order requiring compliance therewith, and any failure to obey the order of the court may be treated by the court as a contempt thereof."

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of title IV of the Department of Energy Organization Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 407 the following new item:

**"Sec. 408. Functions of Comptroller General."**

**INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNING SIKH HOMES AND TEMPLE IN KASHMIR**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in March 2000 when President Clinton was visiting India, 35 Sikhs were murdered in cold blood in the village of Chithi Singhpora in Kashmir. Although the Indian government continues to blame alleged "Pakistani militants," two independent investigations, by the Movement Against State Repression and Punjab Human Rights Organization and the International Human Rights Organization based at Ludhiana, have proven that the Indian government was responsible for this atrocity.

Now it is clear that this was part of a pattern designed to pit Sikhs and Kashmiri Muslims against each other with the ultimate aim of destroying both the Sikh and Kashmiri freedom movements. The Kashmir Media Service reported on May 28 that five Indian soldiers were caught in Srinagar trying to set fire to a Sikh temple and some Sikh homes. Sikh and Muslim villagers overpowered the troops as they were about to sprinkle gunpowder on Sikh houses and the temple. The Border Security Forces rescued several other troops. The villagers even seized a military vehicle, which the army later had to come and reclaim.

At a subsequent protest rally, local leaders said that this incident was part of an Indian government plan to create communal riots. As such, it fits perfectly with the Chithi Singhpora massacre.

Mr. Speaker, India has been trying to commit atrocities in order to promote violence by minorities against each other. Now that the massive numbers of minorities, that the Indian government has murdered, have been exposed, the government is trying to get these same minority groups to kill each other. The plan to create more bloodshed is backfiring on the Indian government. Fortunately, the groups have joined together to oppose the government's plan.

Such a plan is an unacceptable abuse of power. As the leader for democracy in the world, we should take a stand against this government's actions, which target minority groups for violence and abuse.

Given these kinds of actions it makes it very difficult to advocate that this Administration should lift the sanctions against India. To ensure the survival and success of freedom in South Asia, our government should go on record strongly supporting self-determination for all the peoples and nations of South Asia in the form of a free and fair, internationally-monitored plebiscite. This is the best way to support democracy in all of South Asia and to create strong allies for America in that troubled region.

LOSS OF A TRUE HEROINE, MRS.  
SUSAN WADHAMS

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2001*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, Colorado lost one of its true heroines, Mrs. Susan Wadhams, of Littleton. Many of us on Capitol Hill also mourn the loss of Susan. She was my Chief of Staff and played an integral part in making many of our most celebrated legislative victories possible.

For most, Susan will be remembered for her boundless passion for America. She was an authentic patriot through and through. She enjoyed her work in the Congress and counted the opportunity a rare privilege. She utilized her station to advance the cause of freedom, liberty and human life every day she was here.

How tragic and ironic it is that her life with us has ended too soon. But Susan firmly persuaded all those around her to eventually share in her unwavering faith in God, and to take comfort in the promise of Heaven. From that standpoint, Mr. Speaker, we know that

Susan's life has not ended. It is only different. She has surely joined the Community of Saints, and this I say with confidence, predicated upon what I learned about Susan as our friendship deepened.

First and foremost, Susan was a pious Christian whose devotion to the Lord was established in the ancient traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. She was a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. She lived her life within this context. Her professional accomplishments were all achieved through a consistent ethic wherein the magnanimous goal of improving the American environment for family, faith, and children became the exclusive measure of merit.

For me personally, I am deeply inspired by Susan's valor. She left Washington two years ago, returning to Colorado in order to spend more time with her husband, her family, and the community she loved. Leaving the arena of public leadership, however, was not an option for Susan.

You see, Mr. Speaker, Susan understood America from the perspective of our Nation's Founders. She went to her grave convinced that God has richly blessed the United States of America and that His design for our country was of glorious expectation and hope. She believes that each American shares a burden of honor and loyalty to the Almighty and that the essence of American citizenship entails a spiritual duty to lead through love. Susan's love for her family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances was omnipresent though sometimes subtle or complex; yet when fully appreciated was embraced and profound, certainly invigorating, but more often, infectious. That was especially the case in our office.

Susan was a splendid woman—elegant in every way. Trivial pursuits were of no interest to her. She would not be distracted. She was focused and disciplined. She lived life the way she engaged politics—no nonsense, nothing to excess, just win. Mr. Speaker, there are dozens of elected officials whose election victories were engineered by Susan Wadhams. I'm only one among them all.

Of course, that means there have been nearly as many whose public goals were thwarted by Susan's political prowess. It's simple, Mr. Speaker, if Susan Wadhams was on your side, your chances of winning were quite good. If she was against you, you best think of another line of work. Her opponents respected her, too.

Susan's passion for America was her advantage, and her faith was her power. This was a woman who knew herself and knew the times she was in; whose confidence exuded leadership and whose leadership caused action.

Susan's battle with cancer was no less heroic. If she was ever in fear, it was well concealed. She was a model of courage, even before her affliction. Though too short, her life was complete and her legacy is unmistakable. I thank God for my acquaintance with Susan. Our friendship is one I genuinely regard as a gift of Providence. I miss Susan Wadhams, and I will never forget her.

Mr. Speaker, others have shared with me their sentiments on the passing of Susan. I am deeply grateful for the outpouring of condolence by so many, and I pledge to pass along these comments to her survivors. Their appreciation, I assure the House, will be great, too.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I hereby submit for the RECORD the comments I've so far re-

ceived, along with two press accounts of Susan's life.

For Susan, being tough as nails was second nature when dealing with politics, earning her a reputation I truly admired. However, what impressed me most about Susan was her willingness to aid women in entering the political arena. Not only was she a mentor for me, but for many other women who have crossed the Schaffer office threshold.

Susan loved life, the west, her family and friends. She once told me she loved daisies. Since then, I have not looked at a daisy, nor will I ever without remembering her. I have lost a friend.—Brandi Graham

Susan Wadhams hired me for my first job on Capitol Hill. In my interview she said, 'Not many young women have the courage to move 2,000 miles away from their friends and family to pursue their ambitions. I think it's great that you are working to follow your dreams and I would like to be a part of helping young women like you in politics.' She opened a door for me and I will never forget that. I would not be where I am today without her. Susan left an indelible mark on all who knew her, she will be greatly missed.—Melissa Carlson, former staff member for Congressman Bob Schaffer and current Deputy Press Secretary for Governor George E. Pataki, (R-NY).

The best memory Susan ever shared with me was from her childhood in Colorado. She had a pet lamb which stayed in a pen just outside her bedroom window. When Susan went to bed at night, she would open the window and pull the lamb inside. When the lamb became too big to pull through the window, it would cry outside, unable to understand that it could no longer come in. I love this story. I'm going to miss Susan.—Kriste Kafer, the Heritage Foundation.

I'd like to add that Susan was very, very happy to be back here in Colorado with her family during this last year. We'll miss her dearly.—Kent Holsinger

I think these sums up Susan pretty well:  
Strong: Susan was perhaps one of the strongest individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

Undeterred: She accomplished much through sheer will and force of personality.

Smart: She possessed a lightning quick wit and a firm grasp of the issues.

Activist: Her activist nature was contagious.

Nationalist: A true patriot if there ever was one.—Rob Nanfelt

When Susan first interviewed me for a Legislative position with Bob, something just clicked. We spent most of it talking about our lives and how much we missed Colorado. She had accomplished so much in her life. As a young staffer striving to make it in the competitive Capitol Hill environment, I was impressed by her. I wanted to learn from her success. Once I started working with Bob, I saw her as a mentor. We talked freely about God, family and the importance of focusing on the right priorities in life. She discussed her previous bout with cancer and how important it was to have access to quality health care. I am sorry she didn't make it through this time. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family. We will miss her.—Stacy Brooks

Right up to the very end, May 15 to be exact, Susan was still thinking of others—

her son's birthday was coming up and she needed a flag flown over the Capitol, and she needed it by June 17 to present to him for his birthday. To me it really showed the love she had for her family, as well as other people.—Gwen Schwartz

I think that she was a deep down good woman who love politics and loved to be involved. She will definitely be missed in CO and here in DC.—Eric Price

Susan was a terrific Chief in that she possessed the management skills necessary for the position but legislatively, she was as green as the rest of us. Bob's first staff, his freshman staff, had two people with prior legislative experience and the rest of his were fresh from Colorado. We knew tons about the way Colorado's government worked, but were unfamiliar with the whole process of introducing legislation, Whip meetings, who to call if we needed a picture hung—all the little things that make an office hum. The flow of information was always two ways and we never felt as if Susan was above us, rather she was with us, learning together.

Under her guidance, our service to Coloradans was crafted to be responsive and diligent. Always steady in her convictions, Susan approached the challenges of managing the boss, and his staff, with a common sense approach. Never acting on her own self interests, she skillfully advocated the staff and their needs but maintained here authority with a "buck stops here" mentality. She was the best Chief a staffer could ask for. Having worked for her, I am a better person.—Marcus Dunn

I admired her very much—she was a great mentor to me!—Marge Klein

[From the Rocky Mountain News, June 26, 2001]

GOP ACTIVIST SUSAN WADHAMS DIES AT AGE 55

CAMPAIGNER KNOWN FOR ASTUTE JUDGMENT AND LOVE OF POLITICS

(By Lynn Bartels and Michele Ames)

Susan Wadhams, who campaigned on the ground for Republican candidates while her state patrolman father flew three Colorado governors around the state, was known as a strong-willed woman who stood by her convictions.

Wadhams, the former chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Bob Schaffer and the spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, died of cancer Monday.

She was 55.

"She is going to leave a terrible hole in the political fabric of Colorado," said Walt Kleim, a former campaign manager who hired Wadhams.

Several friends say they knew of only one other person whose interest in politics rivaled hers: her husband, Dick Wadhams, spokesman for Gov. Bill Owens.

"They were perfect for each other," said Roy Palmer, Owens' chief of staff. "We've lost a great woman."

Funeral services are pending.

Susan Marie McBreen was born May 4, 1946, in Birmingham, Ala., to Lucille and Donald McBreen, while her father was a military pilot.

After his stint in the service, Donald McBreen returned to Colorado and Elbert County and joined the Colorado State Patrol.

Donald McBreen flew three governors: John Love, John Vanderhoof and Dick Lamm.

Susan McBreen got her political start helping former U.S. Sen. Bill Armstrong in his first congressional run in 1972.

"She was a very astute judge of people and of issues," Armstrong said.

Susan and Dick Wadhams met in 1980 while working on former Colorado Republican Party chairman Bo Callaway's U.S. Senate race.

Klein begged Susan to leave her bank job and work for him.

"As it turned out it's one of those things you do that makes you look really smart afterward," said Klein, who runs a Denver marketing and advertising firm.

Susan McBreen married Dick Wadhams April 17, 1982, in Denver.

She worked as government affairs director at StorageTek in Broomfield from 1987 to 1996 before going to Washington to manage Rep. Bob Schaffer's five congressional offices.

She came home to Colorado in 1999. The next year, Greg Walcher, director of the Department of Natural Resources, hired her as communications director.

She is survived by her husband; her father; her brother; Craig, an officer with the Aurora Fire Department; two children; Khristie Barker, 33, and Gregory Farrell, 31; and two grandsons.

[From the Denver Post, June 26, 2001]

STATE FIGURE SUSAN WADHAMS DIES  
DNR SPOKESWOMAN LOSES CANCER FIGHT

(By Fred Brown and Theo Stein)

Susan Wadhams, chief spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Natural Resources,

died Monday evening after a long struggle with cancer. She was 55.

Wadhams, the wife of Gov. Bill Owens' press secretary Dick Wadhams, had worked for the state since January 1999.

"Susan was a close personal friend," Owens said. "Colorado has lost a very special person."

As the main public information officer for the Department of Natural Resources, Wadhams had to stay current on some of the state's stickiest land management debates.

In the past year, she wrote press releases about the state's support for the Animas-La Plata dam project, a challenge to federal population data on black-tailed prairie dogs and a controversial predator control study.

Susan Wadhams also served as head of the interdepartmental information team, which is responsible for coordinating information on oil and gas exploration, the state land board, forestry and parks.

She also was a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Jefferson County district.

"She was a good person, a hard worker, and she had a pretty good understanding of how wildlife worked in the metro area," said Dale Lashnitz, the chief of public affairs at the Division of Wildlife, an agency within Natural Resources Department. "She had a good understanding of how natural resources worked overall."

Before joining the department, Wadhams had worked for three years in Washington, D.C., as chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Bob Schaffer, R-Colo.

From 1988 to 1997, she was director of government affairs for Storage Technology Corp. of Louisville and had served as the finance director for the Colorado Republican Party for three years before that.

Born May 4, 1946, in Birmingham, Ala., Wadhams moved to Colorado with her family at a young age, as her father was ending his World War II military service.

She married Dick Wadhams on April 17, 1982, in Denver.

In addition to her husband, she is also survived by their two children, Khristie Barker of Omaha and Gregory Farrell of Parker; and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Susan Wadhams was a worthy Christian, a good wife, devoted mother, and a proud grandmother. She was a great American.

In conclusion, I beg the attention of the House, that we may lift Susan up in prayer, and petition the Almighty for the Heavenly repose of her soul. May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 28, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 10

2:30 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nomination of Lori A. Forman, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East, United States Agency for International Development.

SD-419

JULY 11

9:30 a.m.

## Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings on S.803, to enhance the management and promotion of elec-

tronic Government services and processes by establishing a Federal Chief Information Officer within the Office of Management and Budget, and by establishing a broad framework of measures that require using Internet-based information technology to enhance citizen access to Government information and services.

SD-342

JULY 12

10 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Transportation Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002.

SD-116