

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF JARRETT
STATIONARY

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE HOWARD COBLE,
FEBRUARY 27, 2002

Mr. Speaker, On Friday, March 1, 2002, one of the most respected family-owned businesses in High Point, North Carolina, will celebrate its 100th birthday. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate Jarrett Stationary on its first century of existence.

"We don't know the exact date when Gene Jarrett started the business, but it was in February 1902." David Wall, the store's president told the High Point Enterprise. Wall, a third-generation owner and a High Point City Councilman, told the newspaper, "I figured holding the celebration on March 1 would help us cover the date properly. Ever since we got to 95 years, it seems like it's taken forever to get to 100 years, so I'm both proud and relieved that this time has finally come."

Because small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, Mr. Wall, all of us are proud that Jarrett Stationary has succeeded for 100 years. Jarrett Stationary is the 16th oldest business entity in High Point according to the local Chamber of Commerce. Jarrett Stationary has had a rich and colorful history during its century in business.

There have only been three presidents during its 100-year existence. Gene Jarrett ran the company for approximately 45 years. Thurman Wall, Jarrett's son-in-law, served as president before his son, David assumed the role in 1981. The company also served as a bookstore during its first 40 years before concentrating on office supplies after World War II.

It has been at its downtown North Wrenn Street location since 1929. Despite the glut of national office supply chains, and that many other small businesses have abandoned the downtown retail core, Jarrett Stationary has stayed and thrived. The future looks equally bright for Jarrett Stationary.

In fact, the very name of the company has come up for discussion in the past. Though a Wall family member has run the business longer than a Jarrett, David Wall said there was never any real consideration to abandon the company name. "Both my father and I thought about all those years that the good name of Jarrett Stationary has been built up in this city." Wall told the High Point Enterprise. "In retail especially, if you have that, that's like money in the bank, so why change?"

We concur that Jarrett Stationary should not change. It should continue to serve the people of High Point the same way it has for 100 years. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Jarrett Stationary on its centennial celebration, and we offer our best wishes for the future.

THE SENIORS PROTECTION ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, the Retired Enlisted Association's Senior Citizens League (TREA) is a non-profit organization that professes to help seniors by promoting legislative reforms that will advance the interests of elderly individuals. However, contrary to its claims, TREA has repeatedly targeted seniors with mailings about the "Notch" issue that are deceptive, false, and designed to extort money

from elderly persons, many of whom live on limited incomes.

The term "Notch" refers to the difference in Social Security benefits paid to individuals born before 1917 versus those born between 1917 and 1921. This difference arose because a law was passed in 1972 that provided automatic cost-of-living adjustments for all Social Security recipients, so that benefits would keep pace with inflation. However, the formula used was flawed, causing benefit levels to rise faster than the rate of inflation. In 1977, Congress corrected this formula, necessitating a reduction to the correct level of Social Security benefits.

Unfortunately, groups like TREA are telling seniors they are working to correct a Notch "problem" that doesn't exist, in an attempt to scam seniors out of their hard-earned money. The Social Security Administration, State Attorney General offices, and Members of Congress have received numerous complaints and questions from seniors who have been confused and misled by TREA's Notch campaign.

In response to these complaints, the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee held a hearing on July 26, 2001 to investigate TREA's activities. This hearing uncovered numerous deceptive tactics used by this organization.

For example, TREA purports to have the authority to handle distribution of Social Security benefits by mailing seniors an official looking "Notch Registry" identification card and a "National Notch Victim Register" form that asks seniors to specify whether they prefer their \$5,000 Notch payment sent to them in one lump sum or in installments. Seniors' preferences are requested in spite of the fact that Notch payments have not been authorized by Congress, and even if they were, distribution of such payments would be handled exclusively by the Social Security Administration. TREA also disseminates solicitations containing replicas of Social Security checks written in the amount of \$5,000.

Perhaps the most disturbing of all, TREA's fundraising efforts have included mailing solicitations that ask seniors to redraft their wills to make TREA a beneficiary. Specific instructions for such will preparation are even provided.

During the Subcommittee hearing, it was discovered that TREA Senior Citizens League used its mailings to collect over \$46 million from seniors from 1997 to 2000, with \$12 million of that in the year 2000 alone.

It is clear that Congress can no longer turn a blind eye to TREA's fundraising schemes, which seek to exploit America's seniors in the name of legislative reform. Despite repeated warnings by House members to end the barrage of misleading solicitations, TREA has refused to comply with such requests.

TREA's actions leave me with little choice but to introduce a bill that would revoke the Congressional charter granted to TREA in 1992. While Congress rarely revisits a former charter decision, this group's persistent pattern of fleecing seniors clearly warrants such a step. Federal charters are prestigious distinctions awarded to organizations with a patriotic, charitable, or educational purpose. Although intended as an honorific title, a Federal charter implies government support for such organizations. Misleading America's seniors is clearly not patriotic, charitable, or educational, and allowing TREA to maintain its Federal charter would send a signal to the American public

that Congress condones such behavior. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BOB
POTTER

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the distinguished accomplishments of Mr. Bob Potter of Hayden Lake, Idaho. Bob has been the President of Jobs Plus in Coeur d'Alene since the organization's inception 15 years ago. Known affectionately as "Mr. Jobs Plus", Bob's mission is to create investment and bring new jobs and companies to the Coeur d'Alene area. I'm pleased to report his mission is a success. Bob Potter is a great salesman for Northern Idaho, and he recruits companies with good benefits programs for their employees in addition to providing a decent wage. As a rule, when Bob successfully recruits a new company, the average annual wage in Kootenai County increases. The benefit of Jobs Plus and Bob Potter is seen in the numbers: 74 companies recruited; 3,780 jobs created; \$85 million in new payroll. It is the tireless dedication of people like Mr. Potter that keep our local economies growing and diversifying. Bob Potter's hard work and sense of community should serve as an inspiration to us all, and I thank him for all he has done for Idaho and the nation.

BOB POTTER: MR. JOBS PLUS
RETIREMENT DOESN'T SUIT SALESMAN
(By Bill Buley)

At the end of each year, Jobs Plus President Bob Potter visits companies he's recruited to the area since the organization was formed 15 years ago.

The numbers tell the story.

In 2001: 74 companies; 3,780 jobs, \$85 million in payroll; \$340 million in capital investment; 2.4 million square feet leased or owned; average wage, \$26,300-plus.

"Those are the reasons Jobs Plus is damn important," he says.

But numbers don't tell the tale of Bob Potter.

He comes across initially, quite frankly, as a grumpy old man.

He's anything but.

Before the interview even begins, he grabs a putter resting against a wall just outside his office at the Resort Plaza, picks up a golf ball, and walks about 10 feet from the practice hole.

"Watch," he says.

A moment later, in a smooth motion, he strokes the ball.

It seems to be going left. It's going to miss.

Then, it begins to break, curving back.

It drops in the target.

He knew.

"I've won a lot of bets on that," he says with a grin.

Potter glows when he speaks of his wife Patricia, whom he married 49 years ago on Valentine's Day.

He smiles as he boasts of their daughter Pam, a teacher in Olympia, Wash., and their son Bo, a Notre Dame graduate who today sells medical insurance in Los Angeles.

Potter, by the way, is a huge fan of the Fighting Irish. He anguishes over the football team's misfortunes and hopes for another national championship soon.