

the "Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act".

Earlier this year, we significantly changed spectrum auction policy by freeing the FCC's hands with respect to when auctions should be conducted. Now, with this bill, we are making another significant down payment on our Committee's spectrum reform efforts, by eliminating grave inefficiencies in spectrum management which have thwarted spectrum relocation efforts to date.

The commercial wireless industry must have additional spectrum to provide innovative new services and other critical benefits to the American public and to foster economic growth. However, spectrum ideal for next generation wireless services currently is encumbered by the federal government.

We all recognize the need to relocate federal government incumbents to comparable spectrum in order to make way for the commercial wireless industry, but the road to relocating federal government incumbents to comparable spectrum (or alternative facilities) is unpaved and filled with potholes. The "Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act" would pave that road, establishing procedures to ensure a timely, certain, and privately—yet fully—funded relocation of federal incumbents to comparable spectrum (or alternative facilities). Hence, this bill represents a "win-win" for both the government and the commercial wireless industry, not to mention our nation's wireless users.

Under the bill's provisions, when executive branch agencies are required to relocate spectrum operations to a different spectrum band (or to switch to non-spectrum dependent facilities to transmit telecommunications), the agencies will have access to a trust fund from which their relocation costs will be paid. Relocation will be required when spectrum currently occupied by governmental entities is reallocated for commercial use.

If an agency is required to relocate its spectrum operations, the agency must be able to achieve comparable telecommunications capability in the new band (or with the non-spectrum dependent facilities).

Six months before the FCC conducts an auction of spectrum that has been reallocated for commercial use, NTIA (working in conjunction with the affected agency and OME) submits to the FCC a preliminary cost estimate and timeline for relocation.

For an auction of reallocated spectrum to be valid, the net proceeds of the auction must be at least 110 percent of the preliminary costs estimated by NTIA.

The auction proceeds, rather than being placed in the General Fund at Treasury, are deposited in a Spectrum Relocation Fund, from which relocation costs will be paid.

The relocation fund is administered by OMB in consultation with NTIA. OMB determines whether an agency's costs are legitimate and whether the agency's timeline for relocation is appropriate.

The Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees must be notified 30 days before money is transferred from the relocation fund to an agency. Also, the NTIA will be required to file periodic reports to apprise Congress of the progress being made to relocate in a timely and cost-effective manner.

I look forward to working with Mr. TAUZIN, other Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, other interested committees, and the Bush Administration to advance this legislation in a bipartisan fashion.

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NURSE LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT  
OF 2002

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act of 2002.

Across the United States, and specifically in my District in Colorado, health care facilities are experiencing a loss of full-time registered nurses. As aging nurses retire, there are not enough persons willing to enter the field to replace them. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing estimates that within the next 10 years, the average age of registered nurses is forecasted to be 45.4 years old, with more than 40 percent of the registered nurse work force expected to be older than 50. Currently, there are more than 126,000 hospital nursing positions that need to be filled. I am deeply concerned about this issue and the care of our elderly, especially in a time when the nation's baby boomers are aging and require increasing health care services.

The Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act establishes a student loan program for nurses and in doing so, it encourages young people to enter and continue in the nursing profession. Since enrollment in entry-level nursing schools continues to decline, this legislation provides an incentive to study, work, and more importantly, stay in the nursing profession. Not only will this enhance patient care, but also it will create a new generation of nurses.

For nurses that stay in a medical facility or approved health care setting for at least three years, their loans can be forgiven up to \$5,000. Additionally, those that work as nurses for five years, are eligible for loan forgiveness up to \$12,000. This is a temporary, five-year program, established during this time of crisis a time when our aging family members, friends and loved ones may not have the care they deserve or require.

I urge my colleagues to support the Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act and aid our nation's health care professionals.

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TRIBUTE TO DANIEL A. BENAC OF  
MONTMORENCY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who is a longtime activist in labor, politics, and community service in northern Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel A. Benac of Montmorency County, Michigan.

Dan Benac was born in Alpena, Michigan on June 8, 1922, as one of twelve children of George and Rose Benac. Nearly sixty years

ago he married Geraldine on February 9, 1943 and the couple raised three children: Charlotte, Carolyn, and David. Dan and Geraldine have eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Dan Benac served in the U.S. Army's 103rd Infantry Division from 1942 until receiving an honorable medical discharge as a private in 1943. After serving his country, he then began his career as a skilled tradesman at Besser Manufacturing in Alpena.

Dan then worked at a small manufacturing plant in Walled Lake, Michigan before taking a position with Pontiac Motors in 1948. He tried his hand as an entrepreneur in 1955, when he started and operated two gas stations. During the time he ran these businesses he began an apprenticeship as an electrician and earned the status of a journeyman electrician in 1962.

In 1969, Dan Benac took his skills to Warren, Michigan, where he worked at General Motor's Chevrolet plant. He began his union career in 1948 when he joined the United Auto Workers. While at the Chevrolet plant, Dan accepted the position as a UAW committeeman.

In 1974 Dan Benac took a medical retirement from GM, but as with so many union brothers and sisters, Dan continued his work with the union. In addition to his membership in the UAW, he also joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1956.

In 1983 Dan was named chairman of the UAW Retirees for the Alpena International Council. Dan organizes presentations on a monthly basis for his fellow retirees that range from elected officials to speeches about prescription drugs and Medicare.

Dan was later named chairman of the UAW Region 1-D retirees, serving members from sixty two counties. He continues to serve as chairman of the UAW Region 1-D retirees to this day. He is also a board member of the UAW statewide coordinating committee for the Democratic Party.

In addition to his union activities Dan Benac was instrumental in forming the Montmorency County Democratic Party. He served for many years as chairman of the Montmorency County Democratic Party before resigning from that post recently. While Dan is no longer chairman, he remains active in the Montmorency County Democratic Party.

Dan Benac is a board member of the National Council for Senior Citizens. He is also a member of other organizations including the Shrine Club, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and Masons. He is also chairman of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for Montmorency County.

Mr. Speaker, Dan Benac's activities are amazing for a person of any age but as an eighty year old, his many activities are exceptionally admirable. Dan and Geraldine Benac have been great assets to their family, their fellow workers, and their community and good friends of mine.

Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2002 the Montmorency County Democratic Party will hold a tribute dinner for Dan Benac at the Atlanta, Michigan Senior Center. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting Dan Benac, a great man who has spent his life in service to others.