

and the U.S. Navy's Seals to the Saddam Hospital in Al Nasiriyah where the soldier was thought to be held. After the Rangers and Seals secured the area, they emerged from the hospital with 19 year-old PFC Lynch, who had been taken prisoner with other members of her unit, the 507th Maintenance Company on March 23, 2003. LtCol Sturdevant's flight of Marines, Army Rangers, Navy Seals, and one former Prisoner of War returned to a coalition-held airfield where PFC Lynch was finally free of her captors.

I join the Janis Family, Bill, Rose Ann, Robert, and Michael, in honoring and recognizing LtCol Sturdevant and say thank you for all of his efforts in the defense of America's freedom.

THE FCC'S LOCAL COMPETITION
RULING PROMISES CONTINUED
UNCERTAINTY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, rather than bring clarity and direction to the troubled telecom sector, the Federal Communication Commission's recent, local competition ruling promises continued uncertainty and, worse yet, litigation.

At a time when the American economy is in desperate need of a jolt of innovation and investment, some of this country's most technologically strong, capital-rich companies are being kept on the sidelines. We need to reframe these issues in terms of the larger goals of getting more technology in the hands of customers and more capital pumped into the economy where it can create jobs, growth and entrepreneurial activity.

To get our economy growing again, we need policies that encourage investment and job creation, especially in high-technology industries like telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, companies in this sector are poised to spend in excess \$100 billion over the next ten years on orders for fiber, routers and switches to build the network of the future. Orders that will create jobs and incomes all across this nation.

Telecommunications is very important to my own state of North Carolina. More than 30,000 North Carolinians work in telecommunications. Thousands more depend on the industry to maintain their pensions and their retirement savings.

Congress needs to send the message to the FCC majority that we need policies to foster investment, innovation and jobs. Three months have passed and we are still waiting on the FCC to render the right policy decisions.

KEEP OUR PROMISES TO AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND TEACHERS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Keep Our Promises to Amer-

ica's Children and Teachers Act" or "Keep Our PACT" Act. Every parent knows first-hand how important it is to keep the promises we make to our children. I believe the federal government has a similar obligation. However, in too many areas, the rhetoric is not matching the reality.

Mr. Speaker, the No Child Left Behind Act signed just last year requires schools to adopt new accountability measures in exchange for the resources necessary to achieve high national standards. This was a bipartisan commitment. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration's budget and the one adopted by the House of Representatives falls \$9 billion short of the funds promised.

Similarly, 28 years after passing the landmark Individuals with Disabilities Education Act special education law, it astonishes me that the federal government is providing less than half what was promised to children with disabilities under the original legislation. Where we should fund 40 percent of the costs, we are only at 18 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I have introduced today would right these wrongs. It would fully fund No Child Left Behind and IDEA so that every child has the opportunity to meet his or her full potential. Here in Congress, we should never forget the lessons we teach our children: a promise made must be a promise kept.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE
WEEK

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week. Our police officers are a crucial part of our communities, and without their efforts, we would be devoid of law and order. I am proud to honor those willing to sacrifice themselves to truly protect and serve our neighborhoods.

The role of our police officers has been greatly emphasized in the past year and a half since September 11, as they play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all Americans. These men and women have served our community by safeguarding life and property and by protecting us against violence and disorder.

This week, as the Nation commemorates past and present law enforcement officers for their loyal and dedicated service to their communities, we should remember that many police officers have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities or have become disabled in the performance of duty. I join the residents of the 7th District of Virginia in honoring and remembering these brave men and women and say thank you to all of America's police officers.

I stand before you today to honor these brave American heroes.

DEMOCRATS NEED TO LEARN TO
PLAY BY THE RULES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have become saddened and dismayed at the continued obstructionism practiced by Democrats here in Washington and throughout our Nation. In politics, there are winners and losers, majority parties and minority parties. In 2002, Americans spoke loud and clear whose leadership they most trusted and wanted to lead this Nation, as they voted to increase the Republican majority in the U.S. House and give control of the U.S. Senate back to Republicans. The same is true on the state level, where Republicans continue to hold a majority of governorships and state legislatures.

Yet, since being voted out of power, Democrats seem to be experiencing fits of withdrawals, seemingly unable to play by the rules. In the U.S. Senate, we see the President's judicial nominees have waited over 2 years for a confirmation vote, because of an unprecedented Democratic filibuster. Before that, they spent their time holding up vital legislation like welfare reform and bans on human cloning and partial-birth abortion.

And now we learn that in Texas, over 50 Texas State House Democrats stopped working and have actually fled to Oklahoma to avoid a vote they would surely lose. Their reason is that they do not like a Republican proposed redistricting plan. If so, they should stay and fight to make their case in Austin, Texas, the place the voters elected them to serve. Instead, these lawmakers have chosen to cowardly flee a fair fight.

Texas democratically elected a Republican majority to govern the state, and Americans have elected a Republican President and Republican majorities in the U.S. Congress. Democrats are trying to force a minority rule, and it's not right, it's not fair, and it's not the American way.

HONORING NICOLA DICICCO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicola DiCicco posthumously for his many contributions to the communities of California. As co-founder of the DiCicco's Restaurant chain, for the 47 years, he and his family have provided countless citizens with hospitality and the most delectable food.

On January 7, 1933, Nicola was born in the small village of Pacento, Italy, and lived there through World War II until the age of 16. With a brief stay in Caracas, Venezuela, Nicola came to America and settled in Detroit, Michigan. He later visited an uncle from his hometown in Italy who now lived in Fresno. The warm ambiance of the Mediterranean-like climate reminded him and his family of Italy, and they decided to move to Central California. On April 12, 1956, Nicola and his brothers, Albert, Roberto, and Frank, known as the "Four Sons