

did. He gave it. I won and a wonderful friendship was started. Somehow, Bernie Beck always seemed to know how to get things done, whether it was business or politics.

In the 13 years I knew Bernie, never once did he come to me to ask for something selfish. It was always something for Ft. Hood, for soldiers and their families, and for his beloved Killeen.

When I was still trying to learn where the bathrooms were in Congress, Bernie Beck and his fellow patron of Ft. Hood, Tommy Joe Mills, introduced me to the powers to be in Congress and the nooks and crannies of the Pentagon. You see, unknown to many, those two would come to D.C. every year and wine and dine key staffers, Members of Congress and Army officials at their own expense . . . well, usually at Bernie's expense. Tommy Joe's gregariousness and Bernie's quiet determination—what a combination. What Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were to entertainment, Beck and Mills were to Ft. Hood. They were an unforgettable partnership that surely only the Good Lord could have brought together . . . and we are all the better for it.

Whether it was General B.B. Bell in Europe last month or the Chief of the Staff of the Army, Rick Shinseki last week, when I met with Army leaders anywhere, they asked about Bernie Beck. They admired him, because he always cared about the Army family.

Some people get things done by shouting. That was not Bernie Beck. Some people inspire by their eloquent orations. That was not Bernie. But, when Bernie Beck spoke, often quietly, people listened and things got done. That was the measure of respect he earned from all of us blessed to know him.

I'll never forget the last time I saw Bernie Beck. It was in Killeen at our community event honoring Ft. Hood soldiers about to be deployed to Iraq. How appropriate for this World War II combat veteran who spent 4 years in Europe fighting Hitler's forces . . . 58 years later sitting quietly in the crowd, never ever forgetting those who serve our nation.

Bernie Beck understood that one day he would be saved by grace, not by good works, but he also knew that helping others was a way to carry out the great commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

Now, that day has come and Bernie Beck is blessed to be in that special place that God surely saves for those of faith who walked humbly, while making life's path better for those who follow.

May God bless his spirit, just as He blessed us by bringing Bernie Beck into this world and into our lives.

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TRIBUTE TO LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, On April 26, 2003, more than 1,200 students from across the United States visited Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitutional program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution

and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Lakeside High School, a DeKalb County school in my district, represented the state of Georgia in this national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Independent studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken." Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. Researchers at the Council for Basic Education noted:

[T]eachers feel excited and renewed. . . . Students are enthusiastic about what they have been able to accomplish, especially in terms of their ability to carry out a reasoned argument. They have become energized about their place as citizens of the United States.

The class from Lakeside High School recently participated in the national competition in Washington, DC. It was inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation. It is important for future generations to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I commend these young "constitutional experts" for reaching the We the People national finals: Teacher—Richard Barbe; Students—Jordan Bailey-Hoover, William Bretherton, Stuart Cardwell, Morgan Clemons, Matt Connors, Ann Elise Cutrer, Ross Elliott, Susan Fang, Katherine Fountain, Zack Goodman, Heather Greenfield,

Shabnam Jeddi, Erika Larson, Jonathan Lesesene, Jerel Lewis, Matt Lipkin, Cara Lynch, Courtni Mills, Munira Mohamed, Vishal Patel, Clarence Quarterman, Ryan Rice, Caitlin Roberson, Kyle Smithers, Callan Steinmann, Karen Usselman, Karl Weidenmann, Jackie Williams, and Ethan Wu.

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THE TELECOM INDUSTRY

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the news for the Telecom industry is still not good. While there are certainly signs of recovery, there is also significant weakness in the industry.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, April 28, that capital spending by the six major telecom operators was down an average of 19 percent in the first quarter, compared to the same quarter last year. This is 19 percent lower than already low capital spending.

One reason for the lack of spending is regulatory uncertainty. The Federal Communications Commission ruled in February that some of its regulations on broadband should be eliminated. The only problem is that the FCC still has not issued its rules, so companies cannot make their capital spending plans.

Cuts in capital spending mean fewer jobs for those workers who make telecommunications equipment, and those who install it. It means less broadband availability for underserved areas. It means less competition in broadband services. The FCC needs to work to reverse these trends, and should start by issuing the order it agreed on more than 3 months ago.

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TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on his third anniversary in office. Under his leadership, Taiwan is now a prosperous democracy respecting human rights and civil liberties. In addition, Taiwan and the United States enjoy a strong trade relationship. We are Taiwan's number one trading partner and Taiwan is our eighth.

With the recent outbreak of SARS, we see the absolute necessity of all countries sharing medical information. Viruses and germs know no boundaries. International cooperation and collaboration are vital in preventing the further spread of SARS. I therefore hope that Taiwan will soon gain observer status in the World Health Assembly this May. Taiwan's 23 million people deserve full access to all available information about diseases and cures.

I appreciate Taiwan's efforts in seeking a dialogue with China and maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. I hope that China will demonstrate its good will by engaging in peaceful talks with the people of Taiwan about the island's future political status.