

never would have been fought. We are now a key ally of the United States in Central Asia and a force for stability and security in the region.

Having set our sights on radical change, we had to rely primarily on our own resources, building new civic institutions from scratch, freeing industry from the shackles of state ownership and fashioning political reform in a way that reflected Kazakhstan's wide religious and ethnic diversity.

Today, 90 percent of the Kazakh economy is in private hands. Growth has averaged 10 percent over the last four years and is projected to continue at comparable levels. Our financial institutions approach Western standards of efficiency. Poverty is steadily being tackled, unemployment is falling, and sound macroeconomic policy has ensured low levels of inflation. Meanwhile, oil exports are rising by 15 percent each year. With the world's energy needs set to double during the present century, there is international recognition that Kazakhstan is emerging as an important and responsible player in international energy markets.

In the longer term, however, we know that oil wealth by itself will not ensure prosperity or guarantee inter-ethnic harmony. Only a broadly based, flexible economy will enable us to address the challenges of rural poverty, provide modern standards of health care, employment and pensions, and tackle the illegal shipment of people, drugs, weapons and extremist ideas from neighboring countries.

Economic reform will, we hope, be further stimulated by Kazakhstan's forthcoming entry into the World Trade Organization. My country's growing participation in international institutions provides an important learning opportunity. But we are not expecting a free lunch. As President Bush wrote in his recent letter to me, the United States is "grateful for Kazakhstan's continued assistance in the war on terror." We have given robust support, allowing our air space to be used and granting emergency landing rights during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Currently, our troops assist in the peaceful reconstruction of Iraq.

After centuries during which the big decisions came from Moscow via a complex bureaucratic chain, freedom and personal responsibility are new concepts to us. But our record should leave no doubt about our intentions.

Democratic reform and measures to enhance human rights must not, however, be introduced in a way that undermines stability. We cannot afford to disturb the atmosphere of religious and inter-ethnic tolerance that every visitor to our country, including his holiness, the pope, and the chief rabbi of Israel, notices immediately.

To those who say the pace of political change is too slow, I offer this personal assurance: We have not given up on reform. This is amply demonstrated by the decision made just a few weeks ago to impose a moratorium on the death penalty and by new legislative proposals to ensure free and fair elections this fall. Indeed, we hope that our twin record of external engagement and internal reform may persuade many countries to support our chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2009.

When friends tell me that we are still not moving quickly enough, I am tempted to reply: "Bearing in mind how far and how quickly we have traveled, how much faster would you like us to go? In steering the infant Kazakh democracy, the accelerator has been used far more than the brake. Please remember also just how long your own societies took to complete the processes on which we are now embarked."

CONGRATULATING DR. DEBORAH GERMAN UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE AMWA CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE: LOCAL LEGENDS AWARD

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor one of the nation's leading physicians, Dr. Deborah German, who was recently named by the American Medical Women's Association as a winner of the "Changing the Face of Medicine: Local Legends" award. Dr. German is a highly skilled physician, a noted medical educator, an experienced healthcare administrator, and a supportive colleague who has actively encouraged others to succeed in medicine.

Dr. German is presently the CEO of the nonprofit Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN, as well as senior vice president and chief academic officer for Saint Thomas Health Services, but her rich career has encompassed clinical practice, research, and academia. After graduating from Boston University and Harvard Medical School, Dr. German completed a fellowship in rheumatic and genetic disease at Duke University Medical Center following her residency. While there, she was a research associate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and published and presented work on adenosine metabolism at international meetings. She became director of Duke Gout Clinics and the associate dean of medical education at Duke University Medical School.

An appointment as associate dean of students brought Dr. German in 1998 to Vanderbilt University Medical School, where she was later named senior associate dean of medical education. While at Vanderbilt, she was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Human Rights and Affirmative Action.

In addition to numerous awards, publications and professional leadership positions, Dr. German was granted the 2002 AAMC Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award and held the Louisiana State University School of Medicine "Distinguished Woman in Medicine" Visiting Professorship in 2000. Dr. German is a founder and past president of both Tennessee Women in Medicine and the Society of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine. She was awarded the 2000 Athena Award, given locally to women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of women in our community, and she was inducted into the YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement.

The AMWA's award is only the latest in a long series of awards and achievements for Dr. German, and the people of the 5th District of Tennessee are fortunate to benefit from her talents and from her dedication to excellence in medicine. On behalf of the 5th District, I congratulate Dr. German.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOLLIE RASO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sollie Raso, an impressive man whose record of public service and commitment to education in the community of Pueblo, Colorado spans seven decades. Those whose lives Mr. Raso has touched during his distinguished career as an educator know him to be firm, fair, and friendly. He has led by example, never demanding respect, but rather commanding it through his actions. Simply stated, Sollie Raso exemplifies the most sacred of American values: service to the community and dedication to family.

Sollie is the son of Italian immigrants from Calabria, who instilled in him the value of hard work and the love of family. He served his country proudly during the Second World War as a nose-gunner in a B-17, logging many missions over Europe. Upon returning home, he married his high school sweetheart Betty Lou, with whom he raised four children, and moved to Pueblo to begin his teaching and coaching career at Central High School.

In 1956, Sollie was named principal of Central High, even though there were many who did not believe a football coach could succeed as an administrator. Sollie's straightforward administrative style quickly won over his detractors and, after eleven years as a principal, he moved on to become the Pueblo School District Activities Director. After retiring from the school system in 1982, he returned to public service in 1984 for the first of two terms as a Pueblo County Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service of Sollie Raso to the attention of this body of Congress, and commend him for the manner in which he has served the community of Pueblo, Colorado. His importance to Pueblo cannot be overstated, and he has helped to shape many leaders of the community. Sollie continues to serve his community as a member of the selections committee of the Greater Pueblo Sports Association, nearly sixty years after he first became an educator. I sincerely thank him for his service.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR OF DAPHNE, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Specialist Christopher Taylor, a native of Kentwood, Louisiana, and longtime resident of Daphne, Alabama, was assigned to the 1165th Alabama National Guard Military Police Company based in Fairhope. Last year, Christopher's unit was activated and deployed to Iraq following the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was there that on February 16, 2004

he was killed when he was hit by shrapnel from an explosive placed along a road on which he and other members of his unit were traveling.

Christopher set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. As a result of his hard work, Christopher was advanced to the rank of Specialist, and he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine both Daphne and his native Kentwood are truly mourning the loss of this fine young man. I feel certain his many friends in Baldwin County, his coworkers at Golden Stevedoring in Mobile, and his family and friends in Louisiana, while mourning his loss, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments during his brief 25 years, and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Specialist Christopher Taylor and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infancy of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his parents, Michael and Priscilla Taylor; his brothers David and Nathan; his maternal grandparents, Gerald and Betty Starling; and his paternal grandfather, Ernest Taylor. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, young Christopher Taylor was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that I was unavoidably detained in my district on the dates of March 2, 3, and 4, I was unable to vote on legislation before the House. I wish to submit for the RECORD how I would have voted on those bills.

On rollcall Vote No. 32, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 33, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 34, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 35, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 36, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 37, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 38, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 39, I would have voted "aye;" on rollcall vote No. 40, I would have voted "aye;" and, on rollcall vote No. 41, I would have voted "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB STORCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise and today pay tribute to Bob Storch and thank him for his leadership and contributions to Colorado as supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG). Only the level of integrity and honesty that he has brought to the position matches his thirty-eight years of service and dedication to the Forest Service. As Bob celebrates his recent retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work Bob has done in preserving our National Forests.

Bob began working with the Forest Service as a seasonal laborer, and from 1991 until his retirement, oversaw one of the most complex and largest National Forests in the country. His forest system's 1,800 miles of rivers and streams are a primary source of water for western Colorado, as well as four other states, and provide products and income for the residents of forty-two communities. For his exceptional management of the forests, the GMUG Forests have received national awards for Excellence in Range Management and Outstanding National Forest fisheries, as well as numerous other awards for progressive land management.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Bob Storch has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado and to our National Forest System. His selfless dedication to preserving a priceless part of America's landscape is worthy of acknowledgment before this body of Congress and this nation today. Thanks Bob for all your hard work, and I wish you and your wife Nyla all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL COURT OF APPEALS IN USTA V. FCC

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the March 2, 2004, decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in the case of USTA v. FCC. This decision represents the third consecutive time that many of the FCC's rules for the unbundling of network elements have been judicially reversed. This includes an opinion by the Supreme Court in 1999 in the case of AT&T v. Iowa Utilities Bd. The FCC's attempts to enact unbundling rules continue to be struck down because they fail to apply the Telecommunications Act of 1996's limiting standard.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 required the FCC to establish unbundling rules pursuant to standards that the Congress legislated. The FCC after 8 years has still to carry out its statutory responsibilities.

It is my hope that the FCC will revise its rules forthwith, and with due attention to the limiting standard required by law.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL \$1 COIN ACT OF 2004

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2004." When it is approved, it will create enormous opportunities to educate both children and adults about the history of this country. This legislation is the type we rarely have the opportunity to pass in Congress, and although it is not the goal of the program, it will likely earn the government as much as five billion dollars.

In many ways, this legislation is modeled after the wildly successful "50-State Quarter Program" which I authored and Congress passed and which at the end of last year reached its halfway point. We all know the story: five quarters a year bear images connected with one of the states, so that over a decade each state will have been honored. We all know how popular the program was: before the state quarter program started, the U.S. Mint was making about 400 million quarters a year, but by the next year it was making about 1.2 billion quarters. The Mint estimates that one person in each household is collecting the quarters and they are collecting a full set. According to the most recent numbers from the Mint, about \$4 billion worth of savings has been created for the federal government with an expected \$2 billion more through the life of the program.

The program I am introducing today adopts the same model, but uses the one-dollar gold coin introduced in 2000. For a number of reasons, that coin never achieved its promise of being a useful niche product for use in vending machines, transit systems and low-dollar-value transactions. This bill seeks to address each of the ills that befell the one-dollar coin.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation addresses all of the problems to the circulation of the dollar coin that were identified in an exhaustive General Accounting Office study of a year or so ago. Merchants said the coin wasn't available in useful quantities, and collectors and consumers often had a hard time finding the coin—if they could find it at all. Others said they would use it in commerce, but never got it as change.

The cost of counting and handling currency is much higher than the cost of counting and handling change, Mr. Speaker, and for those sectors of the economy that rely on low-dollar-value transactions, or high-volume transactions such as vending machines or transit systems, having a widely available, easily dispensed and accepted one-dollar coin will save money for businesses, which will help keep costs down for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation directs the Mint and the Federal Reserve to work with all aspects of the economy to eliminate the barriers to circulation that seem to have harmed the current one-dollar coin, ranging from making sure that the coin is accepted by vending machines—and that the machines are "stickered" to say so—to making sure it is conveniently packaged for retailers and is available in rolled form when it re-circulates through the system, which is not now the case.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, this program would be accepted by the public. In a