

\$734.4 million aggregate in these accounts in 2004. The sales charge on that amount was about \$44 million, or about six percent. What is the basis for outlawing a product that over half a million individuals, including half the flag officers on active duty at the time, had freely chosen? Do we really believe that individuals charged with the deployment of billions of dollars of military equipment, are not sophisticated enough to make their own financial decisions?

When the Congress last looked at this product in 1970, we recognized periodic payment mutual funds are a valuable means to help encourage savings by people who do not have large amounts of discretionary income. I have seen no evidence in the record indicating that the judgment then was incorrect. In fact, testimony received by the Financial Services Committee indicates that these periodic payment mutual funds are working for those military members choosing to utilize them.

Before voting on S. 418, Congress should consider whether it is in the best interests of our armed services to substitute our judgment for theirs by banning a financial product that the armed services deem well-suited for their financial security.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Enhanced Options for Rural Health Care Act. This legislation allows critical access hospitals to use beds designated for critical access use, but assisted living services financed by private payments.

This bill will help improve the financial status of small rural hospitals and extend the health care options available to people living in rural areas without increasing federal expenditures. Currently, fear that rural hospitals will lose critical access status if beds designated for critical access are used for another purpose is causing rural hospitals to allow beds not needed for a critical access purpose to remain unused. This deprives rural hospitals of a much-needed revenue stream and deprives residents of rural areas of access to needed health care services.

My colleagues may be interested to know that the idea for this bill comes from Marcella Henke, an administrator of Jackson County Hospital, a critical access hospital in my congressional district. Ms. Henke conceived of this idea as a way to meet the increasing demand for assisted living services in rural areas and provide hospitals with a profitable way to use beds not being used for critical access purposes. I urge my colleagues to embrace this practical way of strengthening rural health care without increasing federal expenditures by cosponsoring the Enhanced Options for Rural Health Care Act.

HONORING SEAN T. CONNAUGHTON

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia and myself to recognize The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton, former Prince William Board of County Supervisors chairman. Sean was recently confirmed as Maritime Administrator in the Department of Transportation and his education and experience will serve him well at the federal level.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize the dedication that Mr. Connaughton showed the people of northern Virginia as Prince William chairman. At a time when northern Virginia was experiencing heavy population growth, Mr. Connaughton took his responsibilities as an elected official very seriously. Prince William's financial resources were well managed and Mr. Connaughton made significant improvements in terms of education, economic development, public safety, and transportation. On behalf of Virginia's 10th and 11th districts we want to thank Chairman Connaughton on his exemplary service.

Mr. Connaughton is a U.S. Naval War College graduate and alumni of the Merchant Marine Academy. While serving as Prince William chairman he also worked as an attorney dealing with maritime laws and is a part of the Maritime Law Association. A U.S. Naval Reserve commander and former active-duty member of the U.S. Coast Guard, his accomplishments speak for themselves. We have every reason to believe that Mr. Connaughton will be an asset to the Department of Transportation and want to congratulate him upon his confirmation.

IN RECOGNITION OF  
JAMES BARR III

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House TDS Telecommunication Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) James Barr III.

For seventeen years, James Barr has been an exemplary leader of a growing Wisconsin business and has served the telecommunications industry with both integrity and distinction. He has played an integral role in the development of TDS Telecom, quintupling annual revenue to more than \$900 million and successfully elevating the company to the sixth largest independent telephone company in the country.

Not only did Barr build a customer-focused organization that has won many awards for customer care, he touched the lives of numerous employees which helped him create a vibrant organization with 3200 employees serving 1.2 million customers in 29 states.

But beyond his hard work and dedication on the job Barr is above all else an upstanding person. Barr has been an excellent leader of several telecommunications boards and service organizations including the United Way of Dane County as well as a caring and supportive husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barr should be commended for his outstanding contributions to the telecommunications industry as well as the great state of Wisconsin. I congratulate him on his years of service and exemplary citizenship and wish him the best in his retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 4844, FEDERAL ELECTION  
INTEGRITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this bill in its present form.

Having taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, I have a solemn responsibility to vote against even the most politically popular proposals when there are serious doubts about the constitutionality of the legislation. And this bill, transparently brought forward to help the Republican majority whip up public emotions on the eve of a tough election, poses serious constitutional problems—in short, I think it violates the 24th Amendment.

That amendment, added to the Constitution in 1964, says that the rights of Americans to vote in federal elections “shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax” and that Congress “shall have the power to enforce” that part of the Constitution.

But instead of enforcing that constitutional bar on making voting a taxable event, this bill would require states to choose between making some people pay to vote and paying to provide them with the identification that the bill says will be required if they want to exercise that right.

The bill's supporters say the bill is constitutional because it says that states cannot make everyone pay for identification—they have to provide it free to people who cannot afford the “reasonable cost” of providing it.

But the 24th Amendment is not ambiguous on whether it is permissible to make some people pay to vote, so long as they can afford it. Instead, it makes clear that no Americans—regardless of their income—can be forced to pay “any . . . tax” in order to vote.

And while some may argue that paying for a government-issued ID is not a tax, but just some kind of “user fee,” I am not persuaded—and I would remind them of the words of Richard Darman, OMB Director under President Reagan, who said that “if it looks like a duck and walks like a duck and quacks like duck, it is a duck, [and] euphemisms like user fees will not fool the public.”

That's one of the reasons the National Association of Counties (NACO) opposes the bill—because, as they say in their letter to the Speaker and Minority Leader, “we fear that any fee imposed on other voters [besides those claiming to be too poor to afford an ID] could be characterized as a poll tax and be subject to challenge in court.”

Further, aside from the constitutional questions, both NACO and the National Conference of State Legislatures oppose the bill because it would impose a burdensome unfunded mandate on every state and every local government. And, as the Conference points out, the bill “is duplicative” and “adds bureaucratic burdens that are completely unnecessary. The REAL ID Act, flawed though it is, already requires a new state identification system based on legal presence . . . This second identification system would be used only for voting [but the Help America Vote Act] . . . and state and local election procedures

already address identification needs [while] . . . This legislation contains only a vague promise to reimburse states for the cost of providing voter ID's to indigent individuals. There is no specific appropriation for this . . . and little likelihood for one."

If the Republican leadership had been willing to allow the House to consider amendments, changes could have been made to remove any doubts about its constitutionality and to avoid burdening the state and local governments with unnecessary burdens. However, instead the leadership insisted on bringing the bill to the floor under a procedure that prevented that—one of the reasons that many have questioned whether the real purpose of the bill is less to respond to potential election fraud and more to make it harder for some citizens to vote.

I am not opposed to a carefully constructed and constitutional bill that would enhance workplace identity, which is why I support H.R. 98. Nor am I opposed to legislating in order to ensure that non-citizens and others ineligible to vote are prevented from voting fraudulently. And I am hopeful that once the heat of this election season passes, the House will return to a more deliberative and bipartisan way of doing business on this issue and others.

But, in the meantime, I think this bill does not merit enactment as it stands because its defects outweigh whatever value it may have as a supplement to the existing state and federal laws against election fraud.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAY HAAS  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT FROM THE MOBILE  
AIRPORT AUTHORITY AFTER 24  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Bay Haas upon the recent announcement of his plans to retire. For the past 33 years, Mr. Haas has served the Mobile community in a distinguished manner.

Following 9 years at IBM, Mr. Haas began his career in public service in 1972 when he was elected to serve on the Mobile County Commission, one of the youngest men at the time to serve in such an important post. He has since devoted his life to the well-being and development of south Alabama. In addition to his two terms on the Mobile County Commission, Bay Haas has served as executive director of the Mobile Airport Authority since 1983.

Following 24 years at the Mobile Airport Authority, Mr. Haas announced his plans to retire in June of next year. For nearly a quarter of a century at the Mobile Airport Authority, Bay has been committed to aiding Mobile's industrial growth. His efforts have been critical in recruiting what is now ST Mobile Aerospace Engineering for Brookley, Mobile's largest industrial employer, and more recently, EADS North America. Bay's distinguished work has helped gain Mobile greater recognition in the international aerospace field.

Not only has Bay served the Mobile community with his role at the Mobile Airport Author-

ity, but he has various other leadership positions throughout the city. He currently serves as a member of the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Cruise Ship Task Force, the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Task Force, the Mobile Area Education Foundation, and as chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Bay Haas for his tireless service to Mobile. I know Bay's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for all his efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM  
S. "BILL" MCARTHUR

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel William S. "Bill" McArthur for his valiant service as an Astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Colonel McArthur's dedication, determination and devotion are an inspiration to America and particularly to the citizens of his home county of Robeson and all of southeastern North Carolina.

A native of the community of Wakulla, and a graduate of nearby Red Springs High School, Colonel McArthur has heroically served his country for 33 years. After graduating from West Point in 1973, Colonel McArthur was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was assigned a tour with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Following his tour, he entered the U.S. Army Aviation School from which he graduated at the top of his flight class and was designated an Army aviator. He then served as an aeroscout team leader and brigade aviation section leader with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and later as a company commander, platoon leader, and operations officer with the 24th Combat Aviation Battalion. After receiving a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983, he was assigned to the Department of Mechanics at West Point as an assistant professor. Four years later, Colonel McArthur graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and was designated an experimental test pilot. As a dedicated Master Army Aviator, he completed over 4,500 flight hours in 39 different air and spacecraft.

In 1987, McArthur began his career with NASA as a Space Shuttle vehicle integration test engineer at the Johnson Space Center. Determined to be an astronaut, Colonel McArthur applied 7 times before he was selected by NASA in January 1990 and was officially designated an astronaut in July 1991. Since then, McArthur has worked in various positions within the Astronaut Office and has served as the Chief of the Astronaut Office Flight Support Branch. He has flown on four space flights including the *Columbia* in 1993; the *Atlantis* in 1995; the *Discovery* in 2000; and *Expedition 12* in 2006 of which he was

the Commander and International Space Station Science Officer. During his devoted service, Colonel McArthur has logged 224 days, 22 hours, 28 minutes and 10 seconds in space, including 24 hours and 21 minutes of EVA time in space walks, and he has completed 556 orbits of the Earth.

Mr. Speaker, in 1962 President John F. Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people." Colonel Bill McArthur reminds us that there is still much to be gained—for the benefit of all mankind—as we continue to explore space. On behalf of all the citizens of southeastern North Carolina and the United States, we thank him for all he has done to make this a better place. May God bless him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLY TAYLOR

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as an original Co-Chair of the Honorary Congressional Host Committee for the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, with Representative JOHN CONYERS, I rise today to recognize one of America's great jazz musicians and celebrated music innovators, Dr. Billy Taylor. As we look forward to and celebrate the second annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival in the District of Columbia, we recognize the talented individuals who contributed to the unique sounds that form modern jazz. As a world-renowned jazz artist who uses his talent not only to entertain, but also to educate and inspire, Dr. Billy Taylor will be honored this year with the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. He joins last year's inaugural honoree, David Brubeck, as a recipient of this award.

I am proud that Dr. Taylor grew up in the District of Columbia in a family that valued artistic expression through music. His talent was undeniable. Dr. Taylor experimented with the sounds of the saxophone, drums, guitar and piano, receiving lessons from Henry Grant, who taught classical piano to the legendary Duke Ellington 20 years earlier. By the age of 13, Dr. Taylor had made his first professional appearance at the Republic Gardens on U Street.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in music from Virginia State University, Dr. Taylor took time off to continue to study, practice and perfect his musical skills. In 1944, he set out for New York City and became instantly emerged in the music scene. Soon after his arrival, Dr. Taylor was invited to play piano in saxophonist Ben Webster's quartet. He also performed on 52nd Street with the legendary Dizzy Gillespie. In 1946, Dr. Taylor embarked on an 8-month tour of Europe with Don Redman's Orchestra, the first American band to visit the continent after World War II. Upon his return, Billy Taylor became the house pianist at Birdland, the historic jazz venue where he was surrounded by pioneering jazz musicians and played with greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Miles Davis.

As an eminent jazz musician, Billy Taylor began to educate the public on the world of