

Only Del. Lacey Putney (I-Bedford), who has served since 1962, has spent longer than Callahan in the House of Delegates. Callahan's tenure has not always been smooth. Legislators have had to go into special sessions several times in recent years because of budget disagreements. And in 1998, he apologized after making remarks that some female legislators found offensive. "They jumped on me and I haven't done it since," he said. "It wasn't meant to be demeaning to women."

Democrats already were actively targeting Callahan's seat, with candidates Margi Vanderhye and Rip Sullivan contending for the nomination in the June primary. Callahan has about \$85,000 in unspent campaign moneys and will use them to pay office expenses for the remainder of his term. Left-over funds will be given to other political campaigns or donated to charity, he said. The 34th District always has been a swing district and has been represented for many years by a Democratic state senator, Callahan said. The district's voters sided with U.S. Senate candidate James Webb (D) during his victorious campaign in November 2006, but also re-elected longtime U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th), he said. A Republican candidate seeking the district's seat must take a moderate approach on issues, Callahan said.

"Moderation is the essence of conservatism," he said. "I think there's two sides to every issue. You don't do immigrant or gay bashing to get headlines. You have to look at the whole picture." Callahan will spend the rest of his term overseeing 400th-anniversary celebrations of the Jamestown Colony's founding. He will be among dignitaries who will greet Queen Elizabeth II on May 3 when she visits Richmond and addresses a joint General Assembly session.

Callahan was born in Washington, D.C., and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve from 1959 to 1963, retiring as a lieutenant. Callahan has been a staple of Veterans Day celebrations at McLean High School, where he traditionally recites from memory John McCrae's World War I poem, "In Flanders Fields."

Fairfax County Supervisor Joan DuBois (R-Dranesville) credited Callahan with championing Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, trails in Great Falls, sound barriers along Interstate 495 in McLean and the status of Georgetown Pike as a Scenic Byway. "He was a gentleman of the 'old school' who knew that partisanship had no place in efforts to improve his community," DuBois said in a statement released Monday. "He will be greatly missed by many of us who knew him as a go-to leader in the General Assembly for longer than I have lived in Northern Virginia."

Vienna Town Council member Michael Polychrones said Callahan's departure will mark the end of an era in state politics and a loss for Northern Virginia. "It will be a big blow to the area," Polychrones said. "Vince has definitely done a yeoman's job over the years."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH 'SMART METERS' ACT"

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Energy

Conservation through "Smart Meters" Act. No one can deny the fact that we are in the midst of an energy crisis where supply has outstripped demand. There are many avenues we can pursue to resolve this situation, one of which I have introduced today.

I believe the future of our Nation's electricity grid needs to be smarter and more efficient. While it is a vast issue that needs to be tackled in a multi-level and multi-year plan, we can take a step now to put consumers in control of their personal electricity usage. We can do this by incentivizing, through the tax code, the deployment of energy management devices—known as "Smart Meters." A "Smart Meter" is an automated electronic electricity metering device that will replace the existing meters on homes and businesses.

The first electricity meter was invented in the 1930s at the dawn of electrification in the United States. The meter is based on small wheels turning inside the unit to count kilowatt hours used at a flat price. If you look at your meter today, you will see fundamentally the same device using technology that is more than 70 years old. These meters were invented prior to the development of computers and have no intelligence, memory, or ability to communicate. Certainly if we can place a call on a cell phone that is as thin as a pack of gum, then we can invest in advanced metering technology for home energy use.

Because of the advanced age of our metering technology, neither the consumer nor the utility has the kind of real-time information they need to make necessary decisions to best use the available electricity. "Smart Meters" change this by harnessing the power of computers and digital communications to create intelligent and connected energy systems. The revolution in technology behind today's "Smart Meters" is equivalent to the change from typewriters to a personal computer connected to the Internet. These systems empower consumers to use electricity wisely and help utilities forecast and manage energy loads more efficiently and accurately—quickly reducing electricity outages.

The use of new technology will allow customers who reduce consumption when prices are high to save more on their bills. In fact, according to GAO and FERC studies, the widespread adoption of smart metering technologies would save American consumers billions of dollars in avoided electricity costs. While consumers get a better deal on their power, society as a whole will benefit. Consumption will be reduced during peak hours which will reduce greenhouse gases because power companies will no longer have to rely on inefficient and dirty peaking generators to meet the high demand.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to deploy 21st century technology to conserve energy and put consumers in control of their electricity bills.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 254

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 254, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act

of 2007. This legislation makes a profound statement that this country will not tolerate bigotry and ignorance that results in violence against its citizens.

My first vote as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives was for equal rights on housing and employment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered (GLBT) community. As a Member of Congress, including this important vote today, I will have proudly voted for this legislation three times. It is time for this bill to become law so that all Americans can fully participate in and enjoy the rights of a democratic society.

Since 1991 the FBI has received more than 113,000 reports of hate crimes and we know that this crime is underreported. The message of this bill is clear. The country does not tolerate crimes committed against individuals based on their sexual orientation. Crimes of hate are unlike other violent acts of randomness. Targeting people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability is a form of domestic terrorism that sends chilling messages to communities that they are not welcome and that intolerance and ignorance is alive and well.

Some have inaccurately suggested that this bill legislates against thoughts and ideas. That is absolutely untrue. The focus of this bill is to provide local authorities a greater means by which to prosecute violent acts of hate, not thoughts. Not only does this bill not legislate against thoughts and speech, it explicitly includes First Amendment free speech protections for persons accused of acts of hate.

Current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to violent acts committed against citizens based on religion, race, color and national origin if they are targeted while they are participating in federally protected activities, such as voting. H.R. 254 will strengthen federal law by expanding federal jurisdiction and allocate the necessary resources and tools to local law enforcement officials and prosecutors to go after individuals who act on their bigotry and ignorance with violence. The needed prosecution of hate crimes can stretch crucial state and local resources thin. This legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants available to law enforcement agencies that have acquired astounding expenses investigating and prosecuting hate crime cases.

This bill is needed to protect the civil rights of all Americans who have been targeted based on their differences and it utilizes the resources of this government to ensure fairness and justice. I commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, for bringing this legislation to the Floor and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Volker Eisele who is being presented the Earl Thollander Award from the Napa Sierra Club. This award is given annually to acknowledge the work of an individual on behalf of the environment.