

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE E.
NORCROSS, SR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the accomplishments and contributions of George E. Norcross, Sr. Mr. Norcross is a man who has lived the American dream through hard work and dedication to the community. Having recently retired as president of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council of South Jersey, I recognize Mr. Norcross as a shining example for us all.

For over half a century Mr. Norcross has served the working men and women of this country. Mr. Norcross began his career with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. His leadership skills and personal rapport with others quickly earned him a position as an organizer with the International Union of Electric, Electrical, Salaried, Machine, and Furniture Workers. His dynamic leadership enabled him to lead successful organizing campaigns not only in New Jersey, but throughout the Nation. One such campaign brought him to Greenville, TN, where he met the future Mrs. Carol Norcross. After successful national campaigns, Mr. Norcross and his wife returned to Camden, NJ, to serve local 106 in Moorstown and raise their family.

After concentrating on organizational activities at the beginning of his career, Mr. Norcross turned his attention to the administration of local labor organizations as well as concentrating on civic participation and service. Since 1955, Mr. Norcross has served as president of the Union Organization for Social Service. His achievements as president of this organization range from food banks and clothing drives to the treatment of alcohol abuse and disaster relief. His commitment to the needs of his community has been unending, and his desire to improve the lives of those who live there inspirational. Under his leadership, the 80,000 members of AFL-CIO Central Labor Union contributed tens of millions of dollars and countless working hours in support of civic programs.

In 1979, Mr. Norcross founded and served as President of the RCA Local No. 106 in Moorestown, NJ, where he established such programs as annual food and clothing drives. In addition, he was an international representative for the International Union of Electrical Workers where he is remembered for creating scholarship programs for the children of union members.

Mr. Norcross is noted for his leadership for the United Way. In 1982, he began as chairman for the United Way campaign. Shortly thereafter, he served as vice president of the United Way of Camden County followed by his office as president of the United Way for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Today, he is chairman of the United Way board. His leadership has inspired many to become involved in the work of United Way and the many services they provide to every community. In addition, Mr. Norcross founded the United Way Labor Support Committee, an entity dedicated to informing union members of the benefits extended to them by United Way.

Mr. Norcross is truly a man dedicated to the continued improvement of his community. His

many accomplishments throughout his career testify to his commitment and tireless service. He will certainly be missed in his retirement, however, his accomplishments will continue to improve peoples' lives for decades. His dedication and service will serve as a continuous example for others. I commend George Norcross, Sr. for all that he has done for his community, and I wish him peace and happiness in the years to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
NAMING THE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION'S WESTERN
PROGRAM SERVICE CENTER IN
RICHMOND, CA, THE FRANCIS J.
HAGEL BUILDING

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the pivotal contributions yielded by Francis J. Hagel to the residents of the city of Richmond, I am introducing this resolution designating the Social Security Administration's Western Program Service Center to be named the Francis J. Hagel Building.

A resident of Richmond himself, Francis J. Hagel served his community as an Assistant Regional Commissioner for Processing Center Operations of the Social Security Administration's Western Program Service Center. Mr. Hagel oversaw the processing of benefit payment records for over 4.5 million people throughout the Nation, enhancing the quality of life of the denizens who were eligible for Social Security benefits.

As a citizen of Richmond, he was steadfast in his devotion to his city, providing crucial aid, in the form of community service, to fellow residents. As a result of his selfless and incalculable service to the city of Richmond and its inhabitants, Francis J. Hagel became an integral part of the foundations of the community, beloved by those who knew him.

This resolution is supported by the mayor and city council of Richmond.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you would agree, in light of these numerous invaluable contributions to his city and his neighbors, Francis J. Hagel is most deserving of the honor this resolution proposes to accord him in changing the name of the Social Security Administration's Western Program Service Center to the Francis J. Hagel Building.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I regret my unavoidable absence for rollcall votes No. 546 through No. 554. I was tending to a family emergency and was granted a leave of absence.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall vote No. 546, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 547, "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 548, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 549, "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 550, "nay"; on rollcall vote

No. 551, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 552, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 553, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 554, "aye."

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my strong opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado.

I think we all know that the gentleman supports the elimination of the Interstate Commerce Commission. That has been well documented over the years. But this amendment goes beyond previous years' attempts to sunset the ICC. This amendment would take a deliberate, organized process of transition from the ICC to DOT and throw it completely off course.

Nobody here has any illusions about the future of the ICC. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Railroads, on which I am the ranking Democratic member, is currently in the process of drafting legislation to sunset the ICC. We are in the process of determining which functions of the agency should be retained and absorbed by the Department of Transportation or a Commerce Board. Slashing the ICC's appropriation in this bill is tantamount to pulling the rug out from under our feet as we try to move forward—not to mention the disruption it would have on the close down of the ICC itself.

The truth is that Mr. HEFLEY's amendment would not fund sufficient staff to perform ICC functions which are certain to be transferred. In fact, the amendment would hamstring the Federal Government's ability to carry out regulatory functions that even the regulated industries have said are necessary.

This amendment would fund only 53 positions at DOT for all remaining ICC rail functions. These 53 people would process all proposed rail consolidations and mergers, line abandonment and construction proposals, and line sale requests. They would also review shipper rate complaints, all rail car supply and interchange disputes, and shipper complaints seeking competitive access to more than one rail carrier.

These individuals would also process the 300 motor carrier undercharge cases currently pending before the Commission. I know that my colleagues are familiar with the undercharge crisis and recognize that millions of dollars of disputes are currently pending in courts around the country. Many of them will eventually be referred to the Commission or its successor.

I think my point is quite clear: 53 people cannot effectively perform all these tasks. And none of these areas is slated for deregulation.

This amendment would wreak havoc on the ICC and the transition to its successor. And let's be honest here—the affected industries and the American people will pay the price if this misguided amendment passes. It is one thing to support regulatory reform and efficiency, and entirely another to intentionally underfund and thereby undermine a sound regulatory process.

You want to get rid of the Interstate Commerce Commission?

Fine. But let's do it right. Vote "no" on the Hefley amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time

CRIME IS ON THE RISE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House of Representatives with regard to a tragedy that has become far too common in this day and age. I am referring to the acts of senseless violence committed against our children that tear at the fabric of our society.

On a street in Paterson, NJ, a town in my congressional district, a young woman's dream to become a Wall Street entrepreneur or a scholar was shattered on Friday. She was attacked by unknown assailants who had approached her car and demanded money. When the young woman told her attackers that she had no money one of the men fired shots through the driver's side window. She was struck by the barrage of bullets; her best friend and the community were left in tears, by her side.

Cindy Del Carmen Villalba was 20 years old. She died 5 days short of her 21st birthday. Cindy was the valedictorian of her high school class, the first member of her family to attend college, and an honor student at Rutgers University in New Jersey where she studied business communications and Spanish. Cindy had just returned from a foreign study program where she taught, as well as learned from, schoolchildren in Costa Rica. She was 1 of 12 students chosen from Rutgers University to participate in the 6 week service, study program. In addition to her scholarly activities, she also was active in a dance troupe whose work explored Colombian themes and folklore, and she taught catechism at St. John's Cathedral.

Crime in our country is on the rise and the insecurity it breeds will erode the American peoples faith in the land of opportunity. It is with this passing that we as the Congress, as a Nation, and as a people need to summon the strength to dedicate ourselves to ending crime. Such an action will keep the memory of this young woman alive.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my condolences to the family and friends of Cindy Del Carmen Villalba. It is a shame when a woman with such a bright future is taken from this world in such a senseless manner. She will be missed by everyone whose heart she touched and whose life she brightened.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONVENTION CENTER AND SPORTS ARENA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that advances the process for

realizing two major projects in the District of Columbia: The District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995. This bill combines and refines two bills that were previously introduced, taking each of these projects another step forward.

The sections addressing the convention center project allow for the expenditure of previously collected taxes for preconstruction work so that cost estimates and time lines can be confirmed before the building process begins. Additionally, it allows for the expenditure of funds to operate the present convention center. This language goes greatly unchanged from that in the previously introduced bill, H.R. 1862.

The sections addressing the sports arena refine the language in previously introduced bill, H.R. 1843. These sections allow the District to use an annually collected tax to finance the land acquisition and other background work for the sports arena project. Once these steps are taken, the sports arena can be built.

Both of these projects are being financed by District and private resources, and will bring significant revenue into the District's shrinking coffers. Additionally, both projects will bring additional and much needed jobs to District residents, both while the projects are in development and during the future operations of these facilities.

I am pleased to be joined in cosponsorship and support of this bill by so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I hope we can work together for speedy passage of this bill.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS ON VISION IMPAIRMENT AMONG OLDER AMERICANS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues new findings on a problem that affects millions of middle-aged and older Americans: impaired vision.

Recently, The Lighthouse, Inc.—a vision rehabilitation organization—commissioned a poll on vision loss which was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates. As part of this comprehensive study, over 1,200 Americans 45 or older were interviewed to determine the prevalence and severity of impaired vision. The results of the survey are stunning. Approximately one in six Americans 45 years of age or older report that he or she experiences moderately or severely impaired vision. Many suffer even while wearing corrective glasses or contact lenses. For adults 75 years or older, the number is even more startling: one in four have vision difficulties. When applied to the entire Nation, the survey shows that 13.5 million Americans aged 45 or older suffer some degree of vision impairment.

One of the most disturbing aspects of this problem is the lack of public awareness about treatment options and facilities. Thirty-five percent of Americans surveyed were found to be unaware of local services for people with impaired vision. Also, while 89 percent of those surveyed think health insurance for vision im-

pairment is somewhat or very important, only 75 percent are covered for severe vision impairment.

While many people suffering from vision impairment realize there are a variety of options to help correct vision loss—optical devices, adaptive aids, and rehabilitation—the Lighthouse survey shows that all of these options are under-utilized. Clearly, in combating vision impairment, one of our first targets must be to wipe out widespread ignorance about a problem that afflicts one in six Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the Lighthouse study shows, we must take steps to guarantee that Americans can see with clarity. Such steps will improve the health, productivity and quality of life for millions of Americans. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the efforts of the Lighthouse, Inc. and to urge further action on this important topic.

VISITOR SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND OUTDOOR LEGACY ACT OF 1995

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the recreation experience on our Federal lands. Currently, funding to support recreational use of Federal lands is declining at the same time that recreational use is increasing. The staffing of the Federal land management agencies is inadequate and facilities, many of which are undersized, are deteriorating beyond the point where cost-effective repairs can be undertaken.

Some have urged that we simply appropriate more money for these purposes. However, in this time of deficient reduction, no one is approaching me volunteering programs with surplus funds. We must find ways to spend existing funds more wisely and to generate more funds within the programs themselves. The bill I am introducing today moves a long way in that direction.

Recreational use of Federal lands is one of the best deals in America today. It is such a good deal because 90 percent of the costs of services provided to recreational users are paid by persons who don't use the Federal lands. In recent years, recreational use on Federal lands has been subsidized by nearly \$1 billion annually. However, if we could develop a way for recreational users of Federal lands to pay just \$1 per person for their recreational use, Federal recreation programs would be self-sufficient.

The current Federal recreation fee program, as codified in section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, is in need of a complete overhaul. There are three major problems with the existing law: First, inadequate cost recovery, second, lack of incentives for fee collection, and third, complex and often conflicting policies as a result of past congressional micromanagement of this program.

The legislation I am introducing today reflects a total revision of the existing law. Under my legislation, recreation user will be required to pay 75 percent of the annual costs of services provided to them. However, this legislation is not just a fee offset bill. It provides for