

of Edgerfield County. Her professionalism and historical perspective of our county government will be missed tremendously now that she has decided to retire.

Though her work schedule has remained heavy throughout the years, Mr. Rich has always made time for community and family. She has been active in the Senior Citizens' Advisory Council, Piedmont Technical College, the Edgefield County Red Cross, the Edgefield County Transportation Committee, and the Governor's Beautification Task Force. She is also a fixture at Red Oak Grove Baptist Church, where she participates in the WMU and the Edgefield Baptist Association. Away from public life and civic pursuits, Martha Rich occupies herself with family. She has a son, Jackie, and three daughters: Patsy Smith, Greenie Crowder, and Georgia Morris. She has one brother, Kenneth Morgan. Six grandchildren also keep her quite busy and bring her a great deal of joy. Ms. Rich looks to family as a first priority in her retirement.

We wish Miz Martha the best in retirement, and we thank her for the work she has done on the behalf of Edgefield County.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF PETER
PHELAN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 12, 1996, the Milford Fire Department will hold a testimonial dinner to honor Chief Peter Phelan who is retiring. It is with great pleasure that I salute Chief Phelan and his distinguished career of service to the Milford Fire Department.

Chief Phelan's career as a firefighter began in 1944 when he joined the Milford Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter with the former Myrtle Beach Volunteer Engine Company No. 3. He was following a long family history of firefighting for the town of Milford as both his father and grandfather had served in the same company. Chief Phelan was permitted to join even though he was only 17 years old and still in high school at the time. World War II had created a manpower shortage within the fire department so the chief's young age was overlooked.

In November of 1948 Chief Phelan was appointed to the Career Department. He left briefly from 1951 to 1953 to serve with distinction in the Korean conflict. The chief's early career included work with the late Fire Chief Richard Coley to reorganize the old civil defense programs into the Milford Civil Preparedness Agency. Chief Phelan was responsible for preparing plans to put the city of Milford in line for Federal grant programs.

In 1966, Chief Phelan was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He was promoted again in 1967 to the newly established rank of captain. The chief became a battalion chief in 1972 and, in 1977, became the assistant chief/fire marshal. When the department was reorganized, he was named assistant chief/operations. On January 1, 1996, he was appointed to the office of fire chief.

Chief Phelan has earned a number of awards during the course of his career. The most outstanding awards are the Ryder Fire-

man of the Year Award and a bronze medal from the Connecticut Humane Society for his part in the rescue of a handicapped person from the second floor of a burning building. These awards illustrate Chief Phelan's dedication to firefighting and the safety of the residents of Milford. He is without doubt one of Milford's most important public servants.

In addition to his involvement with a number of community organizations, Chief Phelan has served as chairman of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association's Annual Educational Seminar for the past 15 years. He is also a member of the New England Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and was a member of the first group of the Fairfield County Arson Task Force. He is a past president of the Connecticut State Fireman's Association, has served as president of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association and has been a member of the board of directors of the New England Fire Marshals Association and the New Haven County Fire Chiefs Emergency Plan.

I am so pleased to join Chief Phelan's colleagues at the Milford Fire Department, his wife Catherine, and his children and grandchildren in congratulating him on his retirement. His departure is a great loss to the town of Milford and the Fire Department. I thank Chief Phelan for a lifetime of extraordinary service to the public and wish him enjoyment in his retirement.

THE WINNING TRADITION OF HUN-
TINGTON HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, for years we have heard that national sports figures have been role models to young Americans all around the country. There has been a great debate centering around academics versus athletics and what takes precedent in the lives of young adults. I rise today to honor a group of individuals from my district that I am proud to say have excelled on both the athletic field and in the classroom.

The Huntington High School Pony Express boys and girls tennis teams have won a total of three State championships in a span of 2 years. The school won dual titles in 1995 and the girls team won again in 1996. Although they may not be as well known as Andre Agassi or Steffi Graf, they are great example of what one can achieve through hard work and dedication.

Under the guidance of coach Roberta Bunch, the teams combined have attained a record of 68 wins and 2 losses in 2-year span. They are the true definition of what one would call exceptional athletes.

But their performance does not stop between the baselines. In the classroom, this group of players is among the best in the school. All of the players are college bound to schools such as Marshall University, West Virginia University, Duke University, Wake Forest University, and Indiana University. The grade point averages among these players consistently rank in the top 10 percent of their respective classes. They are the true definition of what one would call exceptional students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that their names be entered into the RECORD at this time: Jeff Morrison, Kyle Foster, Adam Woodruff, Jay Hatten, Jimmy Leach, Ellie Earles, Taryn Foster, Ashleigh Harrison, Lindsay Wilson, Tiffany Kassab, Erin Allen, Lauren Oxley, Jenna Hegg, Kate Denman, Ramsey Cook, Katie Twohig, Lynsey Jenkins, and Sabrina Copley.

I am proud to recognize these individuals who have striven for and attained the highest peak possible in the Mountain State. I congratulate and salute them.

OFFICER SORRY FOR ATTACK ON
NAVY CHIEF

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, the following is an article published by the Indianapolis Star on May 29.

Our Center Township assessor, Jim Maley, says, "Sticks and stones may have broken his bones, but names and words broke his heart. We good guys are proud of Big Mike Boorda."

An honest mistake which hurts no one else does not deserve dishonor, much less death.

At the airport, sometimes they turn the metal detector up too high and it even picks up the ring on your finger. If anything, Adm. Jeremy Boorda's sense of honor was too high. And whatever that is, it is certainly not dishonor.

[From the Indianapolis Star, May 29, 1996]

OFFICER SORRY FOR ATTACK ON NAVY CHIEF

(By Robert Burns)

WASHINGTON.—A Navy officer whose unsigned letter attacking Adm. Jeremy M. "Mike" Boorda was published in the Navy Times three days before Boorda's suicide has come forward and apologized.

"I am sorry for Admiral Boorda's family and for the sailors he loved," Cmdr. John E. Carey wrote in a letter to the editor of the Navy Times.

The newspaper, too, said it regretted publishing the earlier letter, which it called a "cheap shot." It promised to stop publishing letters containing personal attacks.

In a related development, the Navy distributed to all sailors a message from Boorda's widow, Bettie Moran Boorda, expressing thanks for their support.

In publishing Carey's attack against the chief of naval operations Navy Times did not mention that Carey had been relieved of command of the guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur. He was punished for verbally abusing his crew.

In a suicide note left at his residence at the Washington Navy Yard, Boorda expressed distress over what he apparently felt would become a media scandal over questions about the propriety of two combat pins he had worn on his chest.

In the unsigned May 13 letter, Carey said Boorda had lost respect of his fellow officers and asked him to resign. He wrote that admirals often referred to the 5-foot-4-inch Navy chief as "Little Mikey Boorda" out of disrespect.

New York's Newsday, reported that Carey told one of its reporters he planned to leave the Navy soon.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CLOSE UP FOUNDATION**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a very special event that is taking place, the 25th Anniversary of the Close Up Foundation.

As many of you know, the Close Up Foundation is the largest civic education organization in the country. It has not always been that way, when Close Up started 25 years ago their first program included 25 participants from 14 States. Today, Close Up brings approximately 25,000 participants annually to Washington, DC, on their various programs. They have participants from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Island territories.

These achievements are of themselves enough to make an organization and those who have supported it very proud; however, it does not stop there. Close Up has remained true to its mission over these 25 years. Their focus has been on efforts to be all inclusive and reach students who are underserved, either because of their economic, cultural, or geographic isolation. I am personally familiar with the difference Close Up has made to those who are geographically isolated.

Since 1979, more than 9,200 Alaska students and educators have participated in Close Up's programs. In 1987, Close Up began an effort to focus on including Alaska Native students in the Washington, D.C. High School Program. Since that time, approximately 685 Alaska Native students have taken part in the Close Up program. These students, from every corner of Alaska including our most remote villages, come to Washington and mix with their peers both from within Alaska and throughout the United States. While they are here, they are able to contribute to as well as learn from the diverse population of Close Up's student participants. By including Alaska Native students, young people, who rarely, if ever, have been outside of their villages, get the opportunity to expand their civic literacy as well as learn about the rest of the country and its citizens. We, in Alaska, are very proud of the input all of our Alaskan students bring to their peers from the rest of the country.

The contribution made by Alaska's students and educators takes many shapes, including returning to Alaska to become involved in and to organize Close Up local programs. These local programs provide civic education opportunities for all members of the community not just those students who were lucky enough to get to Washington, DC, to benefit from the Close Up experience. In this way, the Close Up message of informed, responsible citizenship is multiplied many times over to the great benefit of my State and the country.

In this time of distrust and cynicism, Close Up's program works to break down suspicion and to show high school students that government is relevant to their lives and important to them as citizens. With the recent disturbing results of a study of peoples' public opinion of Congress and the Government, we, as elected officials, should make it our goal to raise student interest in government because the future of this Nation depends on their civic involvement.

As we all know, Close Up's message of civic involvement is directed toward all students, not just the academic elite or the affluent. The federally funded Ellender Fellowship Program, along with Close Up generated fellowship funds, has made the Close Up civic learning opportunity a reality for students who would not otherwise be able to afford a trip to Washington, DC. In Alaska, students from families with limited means face an additional hurdle of very high travel costs. The Ellender fellowships help to level the playing field and provide civic educational opportunities to many students who might otherwise be overlooked or left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a longtime supporter of the Close Up Foundation, and I am delighted to be able to send my heartiest congratulations to them on the celebration of their 25th anniversary. The congratulations are for a job well done, and one I hope will continue for another 25 years.

AN EASY WAY TO REDUCE MAIL
FRAUD**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Mail Fraud Prevention Act, which will serve to increase the security of mail delivery for every individual who relies on the services of the U.S. Postal Service [USPS].

Current policies at the USPS allow an individual or household to change their address, and therefore forward their mail, to a new location simply by filling out a form and submitting it to the USPS. The forms can even be mailed to the postal service. This policy certainly makes service delivery more fluid for the estimated 42 million individuals or households who move and file mail forwarding orders each year. That convenience, however, has a price. That price may well be the security of personal and financial information delivered by the USPS to individuals and families across the Nation.

Because the USPS does not verify that the person submitting the forwarding order actually resides at the original address before processing the order and rerouting mail, criminals can fraudulently forward another individual or household's mail to a new address. The only information needed to submit a fraudulent forwarding order is the old address and a signature, which can be forged since the USPS does not check the identity of the individual at the time it accepts the completed form.

This policy gives criminals easy access to vital personal and financial information of every USPS customer, virtually every household in the Nation. Once bank account, credit card, or Social Security numbers fall into the hands of the thieves, it does not take long for them to drain finances and destroy credit histories that took a lifetime of fiscal planning and saving to build. The USPS estimates that 1,000 people annually are victimized by this form of postal fraud.

To the credit of the USPS, they do eventually attempt to verify mail forwarding orders; however, this action comes only after the mail

has been rerouted. The USPS mails letters to both addresses, new and old, telling residents that a forwarding order has been processed in their name. The flaw in this system, however, is that in the days or weeks it takes to send these verification notices, mail flows to the new address, sending sensitive and valuable information into the hands of the fraudulent filers.

The USPS has a responsibility to provide the highest level of security to its customers, and current policy regarding changes in address clearly ignores that responsibility. That is why I am introducing this legislation on the issue. This measure would require the USPS to check the identification of individuals submitting change of address forms at the time the form is submitted, before mail is rerouted. Only forms that are submitted by residents of the original address will be processed.

There is an exception for homebound individuals and others who would have a difficult time getting to a USPS branch to submit the form, although the bill requires the USPS to develop policies to increase the security of these individuals' mail delivery as well. By verifying an individual's identity before mail is actually forwarded, criminals have less opportunity to access personal or financial information. With so many personal and financial documents being sent through the mail in today's society, we must ensure that these documents are as safe as we can make them. This legislation would take a large bite out of postal fraud crime and go a long way in increasing the security of mailed documents and information.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEDYARD HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Ledyard High School girls softball team which has won four consecutive State championships, most recently on June 8, when it defeated Amity by a score of 4 to 3 in the finals.

Coached by Ellen Mahoney, a member of the school's faculty, Ledyard's program has compiled a remarkable record since it was started at the club level in the 1970's. The school has posted five State championships in the 1990's and had undefeated seasons in 1991 and 1993. This year saw yet another undefeated season, with an amazing record of 26 to 0, and a first place finish in the Hartford Courant's poll of girls' softball teams in Connecticut. Ledyard's record in the 1990's is a remarkable 165 victories and 10 losses. During the regular season this spring, the team compiled 16 shutouts in 20 games and allowed only 17 runs in the year's entire 26 game campaign.

Coach Mahoney says a dedicated coaching staff, fan support, and commitment from the kids contribute to the success of the Ledyard program.

The wonderful record of the girls softball team is one of the many elements on the academic and athletic fronts that makes Ledyard High School the excellent institution that it is.