

full colonel. After earning his engineering license in California, Mr. Tenorio returned to Guam. Even before his arrival, word had spread in Guam that a native son was coming home as a licensed civil engineer. Almost immediately, Mr. Tenorio was urged to take on the directorship of GovGuam's Department of Public Works. After serving as director for 2 years, Mr. Tenorio struck out on his own. The rest, as they say, is history.

In 1971, the firm of Juan C. Tenorio began as a three-man operation in a shared office space. Its first year revenue was only \$30,000. Today, Juan C. Tenorio and Associates employs more than 50 people and grosses several millions annually. Its design projects include major infrastructure improvements in Guam and Saipan, hotels, shopping centers, marinas, golf courses, resort complexes, and Guam's new Southern High School. As noted by Juan C. Tenorio's chief designer, Francisco Z. Diamzon, "When you combine the experience and expertise of the staff, you'll find that there is over 120 years of experience in this company. I am happy and proud to say I am part of that team." As company president and team leader, Juan remains a hands-on practitioner of the engineering profession.

Juan C. Tenorio was the first Chamorro licensed civil engineer to venture into business. His success paves the way for other up-and-coming young professionals. His determination and commitment, his professionalism and personal integrity, have earned him the admiration and respect of the people of Guam and the Northern Marianas. I gladly join them in extending hearty congratulations and best wishes for many more years of success to Juan and his family, his wife Charlene and daughters Christina, Lisa, and Tico, and to the staff and management of Juan C. Tenorio & Associates, Inc. May your next 25 years bring continued growth and prosperity.

STOP THE FIRES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage and that of good Americans across this great country at the wave of suspicious fires that have swept at least 30 churches in the South in recent months. Churches and synagogues are the cornerstones of our communities, providing the moral and spiritual cultivation that our society so desperately needs. I ask all my colleagues in the House to voice their condemnation of these deplorable acts. Vandalizing places of worship is not a partisan issue.

I also call on all the moral leaders of our Nation and those of every religious background to stand against these acts of terror. Every synagogue, mosque and church is vulnerable to the same acts of terrorism committed against our black churches and it is crucial that leaders of every religious denomination speak out against the vandalism of our Nation's houses of worship.

It is a shame that the history of violence and intimidation toward black people in this country is repeating itself. Will we allow hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nation, skinheads, and other white supremacist orga-

nizations to rise again? Will we allow the historic achievements of our courageous freedom fighters who sought to create a nation of fairness and racial harmony to be further defamed?

In our society, arson of a church attended predominately by African-Americans carries a unique and menacing threat to individuals in our Nation who remain physically vulnerable to acts of violence and intimidation because of their race. Such threats are intolerable and individuals responsible for such acts must be aggressively pursued and apprehended.

As churches burn from flames of hate and intolerance, there are those in our society who would dismantle civil rights legislation and affirmative action that have provided assistance to groups in our Nation who have been discriminated against due to their race, sex, or religious beliefs.

We as a Nation must not allow the practice of scapegoating others because they are of a different race or nationality or poor to continue. Our Nation was built on diversity and we must refute any beliefs that condone or support an atmosphere of blame and intolerance against those in our society who are defenseless, particularly our sick, poor, and aged. Just as the churches, synagogues, and mosques shelter our weak and defenseless, we as Americans have an obligation to protect those houses of worship from vicious attacks.

I commend President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno on their quick responses to investigate these criminal acts of terrorism and I hope those who make such treats will be prosecuted and will serve sentences commensurate with the cowardly and despicable nature of their actions.

RECOGNITION OF FOUR OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LEADERS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four individuals from Missouri's Second Congressional District who are being honored by the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce and by the city of St. Charles, MO, for excellence in their businesses and community-oriented projects.

Mr. Bob J. Kirkwood, proprietor of Lewis & Clark's Restaurant and the Trailhead Brewing Co., has been named the 1996 Small Business Person of the Year by the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce. Through his hard work and leadership, Lewis & Clark's has grown into one of the most successful restaurants in the St. Louis area. In 1995 he opened the Trailhead Brewing Co., which is also experiencing phenomenal growth in its first year. Mr. Kirkwood has also been a leading advocate for other restaurateurs and small business owners through his work with the National Restaurant Association.

Mr. Manuel E. Joaquim of Findett Corp. has been recognized as the 1996 Employer of the Year in Manufacturing. Findett Corp. is a custom manufacturer of specialty chemicals for major corporations across North America. Under Mr. Joaquim's leadership, Findett's sales have increased rapidly over the past 5 years. His employees also participate in nu-

merous civic and community projects around the St. Charles area.

Mr. Jim Trenary of Jim Trenary Chevrolet has been recognized as the 1996 Employer of the Year in Retailing. Trenary Chevrolet, which opened in October of 1993 with 12 employees, currently has 43 employees with plans to expand and improve its facilities. Mr. Trenary has been in the automobile business 29 years, and he has served on numerous civic and business organizations in the St. Charles area.

Mr. Ray Pickett of Pickett, Ray, & Silver, Inc. has been named the 1996 Employer of the Year in Service. Mr. Pickett's company specializes in civil engineering, land planning, surveying, and construction management for numerous types of developments. Pickett, Ray, & Silver has experienced rapid growth, while providing highest quality of products and services to its customers.

Mr. Speaker, these gentleman and their companies are to be commended for their dedication to their customers, communities, and their country, I ask that you join me in congratulating them on these fine achievements.

RECOGNIZING SAME SEX MARRIAGE IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE MAJORITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a former congressional staffer who passed along to me a column she had found in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on the subject of the pending same sex marriage bill. I think the article is an eloquent and forceful explanation of a point of view which very much ought to be understood by the Members before they vote on this legislation, and I ask that it be reprinted here.

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 9, 1996]

SAME-SEX MARRIAGES DESERVE RECOGNITION; PARTNERS NEED THE CHANCE TO LIVE IN PEACE

In a nation wracked by child abuse, domestic violence and divorce, it's hard to believe that politicians would spend their energy condemning people for loving each other. But that's exactly the effect of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, which would prevent the U.S. government from recognizing same-sex marriages, even if those marriages are legal in individual states.

The act's congressional sponsors describe it as "protection" for the American family. However, as a married man, I am unable to discern the threat. On the contrary, I have come to believe that legalizing gay unions would actually strengthen the institution of marriage.

I did not always hold this conviction. As a teenager, I was bombarded with the same messages about homosexuals as most Americans. And I absorbed those messages: Gays were strange, perverted, lacking in morals. Besides, in my obsession with my own burgeoning heterosexuality, it seemed unfathomable that any male would not be sexually interested in females.

In the ensuing years, my opinions began to shift as I learned about the origins of sexual orientation. But I didn't change much until about age 25. That's when I met Bob and Scott.

Bob was a co-worker of Kelly, my girlfriend whom I would later marry. One day, Bob asked Kelly if we would like to join them for dinner. Kelly accepted readily, but my discomfort was palpable. On the way there, I asked Kelly what I should do if either of these men tried to hug me.

My uneasiness lasted throughout the evening. And even today, more than a decade later, it still creeps up on me at times. But as I got to know Bob and Scott, and other gay people since then, I reached this conclusion about homosexual relationships: They are not much different from heterosexual ones.

At their essence is the same kind of spark that exists between straight couples. They go through the same excitements and disappointments. And, like their straight counterparts, gay relationships are far more about respect, trust and commitment than they are about sex.

The most significant difference between gay and straight relationships, I discovered, was the atmosphere in which they exist. The love between straight people is celebrated and affirmed; gay love is attacked and condemned.

Legalizing homosexual marriages would diminish these attacks. It would take the wind from the sails of the true sexual bigots, encouraging an evolution in attitude similar to the one we have experienced with interracial and inter-religious unions. Gay people, at least to some extent, would be freed from their embattled status.

But the benefits of gay marriage, I believe, would extend beyond the gay community.

The rest of us would benefit because legitimizing gay marriage would bolster the institution of marriage. How? By reminding all of us that at its core, marriage is not so much about gender, or sex, or politics, but about caring, maturing, committed love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed a vote on an amendment to H.R. 3662, which passed by a 93 vote margin, 257 to 164. I oppose the amendment which would resume designating critical habitat for the marbled murrelet and would have voted against the amendment had I not been detained discussing a matter of importance to some of my Tulare County constituents with Members of the Senate in the Senate Chamber.

For too long, the Endangered Species Act has hurt our economy and wasted public resources. As a cosponsor of H.R. 2275, I believe Congress must reform the Endangered Species Act, so that it will contain strict requirements for scientific documentation and mandate objective evaluation of evidence prior to any species being listed and a habitat designation made. If society wants to protect a species, then society should pay for it, and not lay the costs onto the backs of that segment of society who own property on which so-called endangered species live.

FOOD STAMPS AND THE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation concerning the Food Stamp Program and the electronic benefit transfer [EBT] system, on behalf of myself and BILL EMERSON, the chairman of the Department Operations, Nutrition, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, who is an expert in the food stamp and EBT programs. We are introducing this bill, along with other members of the Committee on Agriculture, because we believe that EBT systems, in which food stamp benefits are provided through a debit card system instead of coupons, are the preferred choice of delivering food benefits. The inspector general of USDA, in his testimony of February 1, 1995, before the committee, made it clear that EBT systems, while not eliminating trafficking in food stamps, were superior to coupons and a tool that can be used in tracking down persons abusing the Food Stamp Program.

It is vital that States be allowed to proceed with implementation of EBT systems for the Food Stamp Program. An element that is standing in the way of implementation of EBT is a Federal Reserve Board rule known as regulation E. This rule, among other provisions, would create a new entitlement to the replacement of food stamps for persons receiving their benefits under an EBT system. The bill we are introducing provides that regulation E will not apply to the Food Stamp Program.

The National Governors' Association supports exemption of State and local EBT programs from the regulation E provisions and have stated their opposition to unfunded mandates that are created by the liability provisions of regulation E. The National Governors' Association also stated that without this exemption, States will not be able to move forward with EBT.

For more than 10 years the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA], at the direction of Congress, has been investigating the feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and general impact of using an electronic benefit transfer [EBT] system to issue food stamp benefits. Paper coupons are replaced and recipients use a debit-like card at the grocery store checkout. Counties in several States, including Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Mexico, and New Jersey have implemented EBT and Maryland, Texas, Utah, and South Carolina have EBT systems statewide.

USDA has found that EBT administrative costs are lower than coupon issuance costs; that food stamp benefit loss and trafficking are reduced; grocery store costs are reduced; food stamp participants prefer EBT; and financial institutions also prefer EBT and their costs are reduced.

Law enforcement officials have spoken in favor of EBT because it provides an electronic trail of abuses in the program. While trafficking is not eliminated under an EBT system, incidental street trafficking is reduced considerably.

States want to move ahead with EBT. Regulation E rules stand in their way. Until re-

cently, USDA viewed regulation E as inappropriate for the Food Stamp Program. USDA, in May 1993, stated its opposition to the applicability of regulation E to its programs because those programs do not fall under the jurisdiction of that regulation; legislation and regulations for the USDA programs already have provisions for benefit recipient rights and protection; and regulation E may reduce benefit recipient's services.

However, in June 1995, the Federal Electronic Benefits Transfer Task Force, represented by officials from the Office of Management and Budget, the USDA, and the Department of Health and Human Services, stated its opposition to removing regulation E applicability for the food stamp and other assistance programs. This is very unfortunate and this position is contrary to the positions of the National Governors' Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the American Public Welfare Association.

According to a 1993 Department of the Treasury study, application of regulation E for State EBT systems would cost States over \$800 million per year for Aid to Families with Dependent Children [AFDC], food stamp and general assistance programs. This represents an unfunded mandate to the States and many States have said they could cease EBT program planning and operations if regulation E is applied to them.

For these reasons we are introducing this bill today and urge our colleagues to support it.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Encouragement of Electronic Benefit Transfer Systems Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

Section 7(i) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2016(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(7) ENCOURAGE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER SYSTEMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The disclosures, protections, responsibilities, and remedies established under section 904 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693b), and any regulation or order issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in accordance with such Act, shall not apply to benefits under this Act delivered through any electronic benefit transfer system.

"(B) REPLACEMENT OF BENEFITS.—Any regulation issued by the Secretary regarding the replacement of benefits under this Act, and liability for replacement of benefits under this Act, and liability for replacement of benefits under this Act, under an electronic benefit transfer system shall be similar to the regulations in effect for a paper food stamp issuance system.

"(C) DEFINITION OF ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER SYSTEM.—As used in this paragraph, the term 'electronic benefit transfer system' means a system under which a governmental entity distributes benefits determined under this Act, or other benefits or payments, by establishing accounts to be accessed electronically by recipients of the benefits, including through the use of an automated teller machine, a point-of-sale terminal, or an intelligent benefit card."