

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NORTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. HAROLD L. VOLKMER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, MO, and to inform my colleagues of the university's exciting new name, Truman State University. The university's commitment to excellence has been recognized nationally, and with its mission as Missouri's liberal arts and sciences university, it is only fitting that its name honor the State's most famous native son, Harry S Truman.

Like President Truman, the university had humble beginnings when it was founded by Joseph Baldwin in 1867, as Missouri's first Normal School. In 1870, the Normal School graduating class numbered 15 students. In 1996, approximately 1,200 students will graduate from Northeast Missouri State University. Since its founding the university has educated more than 45,000 graduates who can be found in every State and throughout the world pursuing careers in education, sciences, public service, business, law, and the arts.

In addition to this explosive growth the university has expanded into new fields of study since those first graduates. In recognition of the university's strong emphasis on the liberal arts and sciences, it was designated Missouri's official liberal arts and sciences university by the Missouri State Legislature in 1986. Northeast has also distinguished itself as a leader in student achievement and has been repeatedly recognized as a national leader in excellent, cost-effective, education.

On July 1, 1996, Northeast Missouri State University will officially become Truman State University. It is with this change in mind that I offer my warmest congratulations on more than a century of outstanding education and the hope that Truman State will enjoy continued success as Missouri's liberal arts and science university.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH JERSEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the South Jersey Radio Association [SJRA], which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The importance of radio in this society is intangible. From reporting news stories at critical moments to stretching our mental capabilities with thoughtful commentary, the radio has played an integral role in the development of this Nation. As the oldest active amateur radio club in the United

States, the South Jersey Radio Association built the foundation of the radio industry.

The SJRA, originally known as the South Jersey Wireless Association, first met on June 12, 1916 at the home of William G. Phillips in Collingswood, NJ. The meeting was composed of 13 ambitious individuals who were eager to learn more about the technical development and operation of wireless communication. Harry William Densham presided at this historic meeting which was attended by William G. Phillips, George Haldeman, C. Waldo Batchelor, Leon W. Ashton, William A.F. Pyle, Gordon Kressel, William L. Kirby, Edward B. Patterson, Henry Wetzel, Henry S. Byam, Taylor Stokes, and Roger W. Barrington. The South Jersey Wireless Association grew in size to 40 individuals by the time World War I began. The group responded to the growing need of wireless operators brought about by the war by conducting a wireless school in the physics lab of the Collingswood High School. After the course, many members of the club went on to advanced training at the Harvard University Radio School. Soon after the war, the activity of the association declined because of the rise in broadcasting and neighborhood annoyance over interference from local wireless telegraph stations. However, a small group of dedicated pioneers still met at each others homes to continue their pursuit. During this time, Normal Wible, a member of the SJRA, gained national prominence by being the first North American amateur to communicate with a South American over shortwave and vacuum tube transmitters. This event rejuvenated the club and gave rise to what is now known as amateur radio. On March 17, 1932, the SJRA received a station license with the call number W3CTV. Twenty-one years after its inception, the association became incorporated under New Jersey law on March 17, 1932.

Over the past 80 years, the SJRA has taken the initiative to promote amateur radio. In 1993, they developed a special program to introduce amateur radio to over 2,000 fourth, fifth and sixth graders. The program set up an amateur station in each classroom and encouraged the students to talk with amateurs through the various pieces of equipment such as the SJRA repeater. SJRA members have also assisted in many special events such as the New Jersey Fall Festival, the New Jersey Apple Festival, and the New Jersey Cranberry Festival. The service of the SJRA to the community makes them worthy of special recognition.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the South Jersey Radio Association, an organization which has devoted its time and energy to the promotion of radio in the United States. With over 250 current members, the association has come a long way since its humble beginning back in 1916. I applaud the dedication of such an outstanding organization and I wish them continued success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POSTAL REFORM ACT OF 1996

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, Monday, July 1, 1996, will mark the beginning of the 26th year of operations for the U.S. Postal Service under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. That act has worked well for the past 25 years. However, changing market conditions and advances in communications technology necessitate that Congress revisit the legislative infrastructure of the Postal Service to ensure its continued viability and financial well-being into the next century.

Today I am introducing the Postal Reform Act of 1996. This measure represents the first comprehensive reform effort involving the U.S. Postal Service since 1970. For the past year and a half the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, which I chair, has conducted in-depth and lengthy hearings on the U.S. Postal Service. During these hearings we heard from more than 60 witnesses representing all facets of the postal community. In addition, I have had the opportunity to meet with a variety of individual postal customers, postal employees, and business leaders from some of our Nation's major corporations regarding postal affairs. I have listened and attempted to absorb the varying comments and interests put forth on and off the record. Ideally, this legislation addresses many of those issues.

Before outlining the details of the bill, let me say that the one central point of consensus in all my discussions has been the continuing need to maintain universal postal service to all of our citizens at a uniform, affordable rate. Coming as I do from a predominantly rural area, I believe that maintenance of a universal postal system is the cornerstone of any reform measure. I strongly believe universal service at reasonable rates remains the primary mission of the U.S. Postal Service. However, shifting mail volumes and stagnant postal revenue growth require Congress to reexamine the statutory structure under which our current postal system now operates if we are to maintain this important public service mission.

During the conducting of our oversight hearings, the subcommittee heard a number of witnesses describe methods of communications that were not imaginable in 1970. At that time, who could have foreseen the explosion of personal computers, the Internet, and facsimile machines as methods of communication? There has been a steady erosion of what used to be standard correspondence moving through the U.S. Mail that now moves electronically or via carriage by a number of private urgent mail carriers.

According to reports of the General Accounting Office, the U.S. Postal Service controlled virtually all of the express mail market in the early 1970's; by 1995 its share had

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

dropped to approximately 13 percent. Similarly, the Postal Service is moving considerably fewer parcels today than 25 years ago. In 1971 the Postal Service handled 536 million parcel pieces and enjoyed a 65 percent share of the ground surface delivery market. Compare this to 1990 when the Postal Service parcel volume had dropped to 122 million pieces with a resulting market share of about 6 percent.

Even the Postal Service's "bread and butter," first-class financial transactions and personal correspondence mail, are beginning to show the effect of electronic alternatives. Financial institutions are promoting computer software to consumers as a method of conducting their billpaying and general banking, while Internet service providers and online subscription services are offering consumers the ability to send electronic messages to anyone in the world or around the corner. Similarly, many of us have become accustomed to the immediacy of the facsimile machine. These new communication technologies all carry correspondence that formerly flowed through the Postal Service. These former sources of revenues supported a postal infrastructure dedicated to the mission of universal service.

This shift in postal revenues will have a negative long-term effect on the financial well being of the Postal Service. Should the service continue to labor under the parameters established by the 1970 act, its inability to compete, develop new products and respond to changing market conditions jeopardizes its ability to continue to provide universal service to the diverse geographic areas of our Nation. We must make adjustments to the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 which will allow the Postal Service more flexibility in those areas in which it faces competition while assuring all postal customers of a continued universal mail service with the protection of reasonable rates that can be easily calculated and predicted. My legislation meets this goal by replacing the zero-sum game that has driven postal rate-making for the last 25 years with a system that reflects today's changing communication markets.

Mr. Speaker, I propose to allow the U.S. Postal Service the opportunity to make a profit and remove the break-even financial mandate of existing law that promotes the wide, yearly, swings of postal profit and deficit and weeks of negotiations on arcane economic assumptions for ratemaking purposes.

I propose to divide the product offerings of the Postal Service into two primary categories. The first, the "non-competitive mail" category, represents all single piece letters, cards and parcels as well as those classes of users without significant alternatives. The class will utilize a postage rate cap process by which the associated customers can easily determine postal rates. The second category will be the competitive mail category and will include those mail classes, products and services the Postal Service provides through the competitive marketplace. Within this category the Postal Service may set its rates according to market forces subject to an annual audit provided to the Postal Rate Commission to assure that rates are reflective of costs while providing a contribution to the overhead of the U.S. Postal Service. In addition, it would allow the Postal Service freedom to experiment with new offerings for a period of 3 years before

requiring the Postal Rate Commission to permanently place it in either the competitive or non-competitive mail categories.

This legislation grants significant freedoms and flexibility to the Postal Service. Consequently, other changes are needed to reflect this status. I propose to remove the safety net of the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Financing Bank from postal operations and repeal the remaining authorizations for taxpayer appropriations to the Postal Service. Similarly, I propose to apply the anti-trust laws of our Nation to the Postal Service products offered in either the competitive mail or the experimental market test categories. I am also proposing that the Postal Service conduct a demonstration project that will provide us with the data needed to determine the continued necessity of providing the Postal Service with sole access to individual private mailboxes. This bill, Mr. Speaker, will also settle once and for all the nagging problem of an agency's chief law enforcement officer and member of postal management serving as its Inspector General by establishing an independent, Presidentially-appointed, Inspector General for the Postal Service.

The bill enacts stringent reporting requirements to the Congress and to the U.S. Postal Rate Commission by providing the Commission with the ability to issue subpoenas, manage proprietary documentation and procure necessary information. This legislation places significant responsibilities on the Commission and, reflective of that, directs that the Commission will have for the first time its own Inspector General.

My proposal, Mr. Speaker, also increases the penalties for repeated mailings of unsolicited sexually oriented advertising as well as the mailing of hazardous materials and controlled substances. It protects workers on the job by making it a felony to stalk, assault or rob a postal employee. Just this past month we saw a letter carrier killed while on duty in our Nation's capital and we cannot allow those that would harm or rob postal carriers to go without significant punishment. My proposal addresses this serious situation by increasing the penalties for such acts of violence.

I stress that significant areas of current law remain intact. This legislation does not affect the existing collective-bargaining process. However, the subcommittee recognizes that serious problems exist between postal management and labor. To address this serious situation, I propose to form a Presidentially appointed commission made up of non-postal union and corporate representatives as well as those well known in the field of labor-management relations. The commission would be charged with addressing these issues in detail and provide guidance to the Congress and the Postal Service on any needed changes.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HAROLD WEBSTER WALES

HON. JOHN SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Harold Webster Wales, a longtime friend of mine from the district I represent. I am usually reluctant to single anyone out from

my district for praise because there are many outstanding citizens in the Fourth District of Arizona. However, Hal's expertise in tax law inspired and encouraged me to take actions to ease the burden our tax system places on small businesses and American families.

Harold Webster Wales was born June 23, 1928, in Seattle, WA, and passed away in Phoenix, AZ, on June 1, 1996. Hal was an Air Force veteran, who served his country honorably. He graduated cum laude from Seattle University with a degree in accounting and received his juris doctorate from the University of San Francisco. Admitted to the California and Arizona bars, Hal practiced extensively as a tax and estate planning attorney. He was a recognized authority in these fields, lecturing widely on matters of estate planning, income tax, and charitable organizations.

A member of professional organizations, Hal was active in the community both in his professional and civic life. He was president of the Central Arizona Estate Planning Council, president of the Catholic Social Service, and Arizona chairman of the National Foundation for the March of Dimes. Additionally, Hal served as a board member of the Garsky Wellness Foundation and Camelback Hospital as well as a finance committee member of the Marie Academy and St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

I have always been concerned by the inequities contained within the current Tax Code. However, when I met with Hal last February he spoke of his clients—honest hard-working Arizonans who were being victimized as a result of overburdensome tax regulations and penalties. These tax horror stories as well as his great knowledge and understanding of these issues prompted me to host a public hearing into the subject at the Phoenix City Council chambers on April 3, 1996. His participation and guidance helped me make this hearing a success.

Hal's greatest legacy is his family—his wife, Dorothy; two daughters, Lissa and Mary, grandson, Andrew, three sisters, Joan Wales, Shirley Hctor, Duane Jones; his brother Bill, and aunt, Betty Spence. My most sincere condolences go out to them on this sad occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to continue to fight to reform our Nation's tax system. Whatever success we may achieve will be a result of the tireless effort and wisdom Hal brought to this issue. I owe a great debt to Hal for his knowledge and friendship. His death is a personal loss to me and to the citizens of the Fourth District of Arizona.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for an amendment offered by Representative FURSE to the Interior appropriations bill that was voted on last week and would have repealed the emergency timber salvage provisions enacted last summer.

I was in Minnesota on a leave of absence due to illness and unable to be here for the vote, but had I been here I would have voted in favor of Representative FURSE's amendment.