

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF LYNN ROGERS, PRESIDENT OF THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as founder and cochairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus [CFSI], I have had the distinct pleasure of traveling across the country and speaking to fire service organizations of every kind. In all my journeys, I cannot recall an organization that captures the spirit of the American fire services like the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association [DVFA].

At the end of this month, the entire Delaware volunteer fire service will assemble at Rehoboth Beach for its second annual conference and 76th anniversary. The purpose of the event is to reflect on a successful year of achievements and look ahead to the challenges facing them. There were many achievements which can be attributed to the tireless work of DVFA president, Mr. Lynn Rogers.

Like most volunteer firefighters, Lynn wears many hats. A successful businessman, fire chief and family man, Lynn has successfully balanced his time to ensure that the things most important to him receive the attention they deserve. In addition, he has played an important role within the fire service at the national level through his support of the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

To put it simply, Lynn Rogers is the quintessential volunteer. When CFSI had 15,000 dinner invitations to stuff, Lynn recruited over 100 friends and family members from Milton, DE and surrounding communities to help with the task. When the institute reserved a ballroom to accommodate 2,000 attendees for the Eighth Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner, Lynn responded by bringing the largest delegation of fire service leaders to the event. And throughout his tenure as president of DVFA, Lynn graciously responded to calls for assistance, gladly providing whatever help he could to CFSI.

When my Delaware colleagues speak of their fire service as the State's third political party, they do so out of respect and admiration for the men and women who contribute their time and energy to public safety. I hold them in the same high esteem, and offer my congratulations to Lynn Rogers, the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Ladies Auxiliary for a successful year.

HONORING MACMURRAY COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 13, 1996

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to MacMurray College of Jacksonville, IL. MacMurray College is celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary and will be closing out its year-long celebration on October 12 and 13, 1996, in conjunction with its homecoming weekend.

MacMurray College was founded in 1846 as a small, liberal arts school. At that time, it was an all women's college; a brother school was formed in 1955. The two were merged in 1969, making MacMurray the coeducational school that it is today. For the past 150 years, it has given all of its students a broad-based and well-rounded education and has done a tremendous job preparing our children for the rigors of the real world.

MacMurray's small size and its 13-to-1 student-faculty ratio have given its students an opportunity to receive a highly personalized education, and to really form a close and lasting bond with their instructors. This is especially meaningful to me because of my teaching background. I understand how much students can benefit from forming close relationships with their instructors, an opportunity which is readily available at MacMurray.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to say that I represent this college and its students as a Member of Congress. It is institutions like MacMurray that help our children learn, grow, and become leaders, both in our own communities and throughout the country and the world. I hope that all of you will join me in congratulating the faculty, students, employees, and graduates of MacMurray College for all of their accomplishments and milestones reached during their first 150 years of existence, and I know you will all join me in wishing them well during the next 150.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL SIMPSON, WINNER OF THE OKLAHOMA VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest. The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call." I am proud to report that Michael Simpson was named the Oklahoma State winner and he is from my district in Tulsa, OK.

Michael Simpson, a senior at Nathan Hale High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Simpson. He plans a career in engineering. Mike was sponsored by VFW Post 577 in Tulsa, OK.

It is with great pride that I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the winning essay written by Mr. Michael Simpson of Tulsa, OK.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Michael Simpson)

I know some people feel my generation isn't up to the challenge that will soon be bestowed upon us. I believe we are.

While developing my thoughts on this theme I tried to determine what my audience would like to hear. After much consideration and soul searching, I decided that I must speak from my heart . . . especially after a story my granddad told me.

Recently, while visiting with a young man, my granddad mentioned something about the Korean War. The young man, with a puzzled look on his face said, "The Korean War? Wasn't that a television show?" My granddad kind of chuckled, and then, with a sad look on his face said to me, "30,000 fatalities and this kid thought it was a television program."

I realized then what an awesome responsibility my generation faces; the stewardship of this great nation and the legacy entrusted to us.

Our values should define what we want to achieve in our lives and we are effective only when our actions are in line with those values. To that end, I have devised three personal goals that I invite my generation to adopt.

These include:

First, and foremost, taking responsibility; second, getting an education; and third, being a hero. Allow me to elaborate a little on each of these goals.

My first goal is taking responsibility. Each of us need to be responsible for our own actions . . . we need to vote, serve jury duty and provide for the children we bring into this world.

Everyone has an excuse these days. In general, society seems to be a broken record; I grew up poor, I came from a broken family, I'm the wrong gender. It's never-ending. Need I go on?

Now don't misunderstand, these are serious elements to overcome, but we cannot allow them to hinder our success. Stop making excuses . . . and start making choices. Stop pointing fingers . . . and start making a difference. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The choices we make are ultimately our responsibility."

My second goal is getting an education. Education is something that can never be taken from you. It is an asset that cannot be stolen. Years ago, it was possible for a person with a ninth-grade education to start in the company mail room, work hard, and eventually become president. Those days are gone. Hard work just isn't enough anymore.

Today's technology demands a higher level of education in order to survive and thrive. Not only does it prepare you for the work force, it also provides the tools needed to be a good citizen. Knowledge of current events, politics and economics are necessities in our ever-expanding global environment.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

My third goal is being a hero. A hero doesn't always have to be the Audy Murphys, the Winston Churchills, or the fireman on the 6 o'clock news. You don't have to save a life or lead a country . . . you merely have to make a difference.

Small kindnesses can make lasting impressions. Delivering food baskets, returning a lost wallet, or coaching Little League Baseball—none of these acts go unnoticed and the rewards are priceless. The purpose is not recognition but to feel good about yourself and to inspire others. There are too few heroes these days—we should all strive to become one.

These three goals are my answer, my pledge, to America's Call—and it's a pledge that I've signed in my heart.

In closing, I would like to assure you, and my grandad, that I do know about the Korean War. I know that it was not a television program, and, for the record, there were actually 33,651 fatalities.

THE FUTURE OF AMTRAK

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will create a 5-year dedicated capital funding program for Amtrak as it transitions away from Federal operating support. This proposal will redirect .5 cent of the existing 4.3 cents gas tax into a dedicated trust fund for Amtrak, allowing Amtrak to quickly reinvest in much needed capital improvements. The remaining 3.8 cents in gas tax revenues will be shifted to the highway trust fund.

Amtrak is an essential part of our national transportation system, providing 22 million intercity rail passenger trips per year to over 500 destinations in 45 States. In 1995, Congress and the administration both determined that Amtrak must reduce its reliance on Federal funding—directing Amtrak to operate without Federal support by the year 2002.

Without adequate funding during this transition period, Amtrak cannot make the investments necessary to survive independently. Unfortunately, Amtrak will need an estimated \$4 billion in capital improvements by 2002 due to funding shortages in the 1980's. This new capital investment alternative is necessary to improve rolling stock, cars and locomotives, upgrade maintenance facilities, and prevent the deterioration of track and signal equipment. Unless Amtrak's capital equipment is improved, it will not be able to operate as a self-sufficient entity as Congress directed.

Between 1982 and 1994, travel on Amtrak rose 40 percent. A dedicated capital funding source will cut Amtrak's operating and maintenance costs, improving reliability and performance. Moreover, these upgrades will reduce air pollution, fuel consumption, highway congestion, and urban parking problems. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

BRUCE F. VENTO CONSUMER
INTERNET PRIVACY PROTECTION
ACT OF 1996

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the age of the Internet is upon us and evolving faster than we ever imagined. Each day new companies and industries grow out of the constant technological innovation that has come to symbolize this information superhighway. The Internet has reached into our schools, businesses and homes. It has allowed average Americans sitting in the privacy of their living rooms to connect with and explore the world. The Internet provides us with entertainment, information and communication. But with all the wonders of the Internet comes the potential for problems. Today, I am introducing the Consumer Internet Privacy Protection Act of 1996 in an effort to address just one such problem.

To gain access to the Internet's endless web of sites, users must work through an Internet provider or server. While these servers provide a valuable service to their customers, they are also capable of collecting an enormous amount of personal information about these individuals. Besides the personal information an Internet server may collect when they enroll a subscriber, servers are also capable of identifying the sites their subscribers visit. Without doubt such information would be quite valuable to direct marketers and those interested in marketing, while providing servers with yet another source of revenue for providing such personal private information. The result—subscribers are inundated with junk mail and/or e-mail.

My legislation is intended to inform and protect the privacy of the Internet user by requiring servers to obtain the written consent of their subscribers before disclosing any of their personal information to third parties. In addition, my bill requires a server to provide its subscribers access to any personal information collected by the server on its users, along with the identity of any recipients of such personal information.

As the Internet becomes a more integral part of our daily lives, it is important that we in Congress take a commonsense approach, like this legislation, to ensure the citizens of our nation are able to benefit from this technology without sacrificing their personal privacy. My legislation will not hamper the growth and innovation of the Internet in any way. It will merely provide an opportunity for the consumers of Internet services to protect their privacy if they so wish. After all, the preservation of our privacy is one of our Nation's most cherished freedoms, which technology must not be allowed to circumvent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker. Due to mechanical problem on my flight to Washington yesterday, I was delayed in Chicago and was not

present for rollcall votes Nos. 414–417. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all four of these bills.

THANK YOU, BRYAN WIRWICZ, FOR
YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from Congress at the end of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship, I feel for each of them.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff, Bryan Wirwicz, my longtime press secretary, for everything he's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years he has worked in my office.

I met Bryan during my first congressional campaign in 1980. He had recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in journalism and political science. Bryan had participated in a 3-day seminar, sponsored by the National Republican Congressional Committee, designed to teach young people how to handle media relations for congressional candidates. His name was passed along to me as someone who might be helpful to me in my campaign.

It was our first political campaign, and we learned together as we worked together. After I was elected, I asked Bryan if he would move to Washington, DC, to serve on my congressional staff.

He did so, but departed in mid-1982 to work in an unsuccessful congressional campaign in California. In early 1983, he went to work for our former colleague, Win Weber of Minnesota. Bryan and I stayed in touch, and we eventually decided to team up once again. He rejoined my staff in mid-1983, and has been with me since that time.

Through the years, Bryan has worked with local, statewide, and national news reporters—developing and maintaining excellent working relationships with them. I've told Bryan many times that I consider him to be the best writer around. In the op-ed pieces, newsletters press releases, and position papers he has prepared for me over the years, Bryan has been able to summarize and explain complex and oftentimes highly technical issues in plain English, allowing my constituents to more easily understand those issues and my positions on them.

Bryan is a generalist, but he is also a quick study—quickly gaining an understanding of maritime issues when I served as ranking minority member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, and gaining an understanding of telecommunications and securities issues when I became chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee in 1995.

In 1993, when I ran for the U.S. Senate, I ask Bryan to take a leave of absence from my official staff, move to Houston, and join my campaign staff. As I told him at the time, his participation in my Senate campaign provided me with a "comfort level" that I would not have enjoyed had he not been with me. I lost