

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

that campaign, but Bryan's presence made the experience more enjoyable, or at least more bearable, that it would have been without him.

Mr. Speaker, Bryan is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and professionalism.

Bryan plans to continue working in the public relations and media relations arena. He also plans to continue devoting his spare time to his two primary hobbies—bicycling and investing. I wish him may more miles of scenic, safe, and relaxing bicycling, as well as many more years of double-digit returns on his Compaq, Merck, PepsiCo. and other stocks.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Bryan Wirwicz for his loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution, and I know you join me in wishing him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO VRETNAR CONSTRUCTION 1996 ST. FRANCIS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vretenar Construction, city of St. Francis 1996 Business of the Year.

Vretenar Construction, formerly known as Vretenar & Sons, was founded by John Vretenar, Sr. in 1949 with a trailer, a wheel barrow, a mud box, and a lot of hard work. Forty seven years later, Vretenar Construction remains a family business, run by John's son Milton and Milt's wife Elizabeth since John's retirement in 1965. Even Milt and Betty's son Craig was involved in the family business until he became building inspector for the city of St. Francis.

Vretenar Construction has provided many years of service to the community, building homes, and buildings for area residents and businesses. But their dedication extends well beyond that. Milt, the longtime mayor of the city of St. Francis and a talented mason contractor, is constantly donating his time and skills to a city he loves so dearly. Milt quietly helps out wherever he can, from construction of the veteran's memorial to repairs on the St. Francis Historical Society house to a host of other projects too numerous to mention. He and Betty also remain involved in a number of community organizations and have for so many years been so committed to making St. Francis a great place to live and work.

Vretenar Construction is a perfect example of a business with a strong community spirit. It is certainly a well-deserving recipient of the city of St. Francis Economic Development Committee's Business of the Year honor. For the Vretenars, community service is truly a family affair.

TRIBUTE TO MISS ARIANE FRANCO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary young Puerto Rican, Miss Ariane Franco, for her dedication to excel academically and serve the community. She is an inspiration and a role model for many young students in the Nation, specially the Puerto Rican and South Bronx communities to which she belongs.

Ariane was recently selected as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Northeast Youth of the Year. She will represent the Northeast as one of the five finalists in this year's competition, which is being held in Washington, DC.

Like many other youngsters across the Nation, Ariane was raised in a family which faced many difficulties. Her desire to do something positive led her to achieve academically and to serve the community.

Ariane has been an active member of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club over the past 4 years. At the club, she worked as a tutor for remedial math and reading, and as a computer instructor. She was also involved in numerous community service programs, including the Club's Smart Moves Program. Through this program, Ariane taught youngsters to be aware of and to prevent substance abuse, teen pregnancy, peer pressure and AIDS.

Ariane's strong determination to fight adversity, and her family's spiritual strength have molded her into a very positive individual, always full of optimism and with the desire to help others.

In addition to her community activism and leadership, Ariane is an excellent student. In spite of difficulties, she remained an honor student throughout her 4 years of high school at Stevenson's in the Bronx. She now attends the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. Her strong desire to inform people about the truth has led her to major in communications with the goal of becoming a journalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Ariane Franco for her leadership and commitment to her community, and for serving as a role model for young people. Young individuals like Ariane make all of us proud, specially our Puerto Rican community of the South Bronx.

RECOGNITION OF THE METAL DYNAMICS CORPORATION'S CERTIFICATION TO NQS 9000

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the owner and employees of Metal Dynamics Corp. [MDC] of Tulsa, OK, for being the first foundry in the United States to be certified to NQS 9000. This certification recognizes that MDC has implemented and maintained a quality system fully compliant with each provision of ISO 9002-1994.

NQS 9000 is an industry-specific quality program created and administered by the

Non-Ferrous Founders' Society [NFFS]. Sponsored by the Defense Logistics Agency Technical Enterprise Team as part of the AMC lead time and cost reduction program, NQS 9000 is a low cost alternative to traditional ISO 9000 registration for the foundry industry. ISO 9000 is the recognized standard in the quality control community. NFFS developed the NQS 9000 program so that a foundry can pursue a higher level of quality without paying the expensive fees charged by many ISO consultants. The Metal Dynamics Corp. was one of the first companies to enroll in NQS 9000 and achieved NQS certification in only 6 months.

The Metal Dynamics Corp., owned by Don Doss since 1976, has 43 employees, and works with stainless, ferrous and nonferrous materials to do investment casting and sand casting. Among their products are components for the Trident Seawolf Submarine. The employees of MDC are to be commended for their efforts to change old habits and learn new ones—to operate as a progressive and proactive team. Businesses such as Metal Dynamics Corp., which emphasize the importance of a commitment to quality and a proactive approach to achieving it, serve as an example and set a high standard for others in the industry. Their proven success is an incentive for achievement.

Don Doss, the president and owner of the Metal Dynamics Corp., continues to prove himself not only as an advocate, but also as a pioneer in quality control. A graduate from the University of Tulsa in mechanical engineering, he joined NFFS in 1976 when he gained ownership of MDC. He served as president of NFFS from 1982 to 1983, and on the Cast Metals Institute Board from 1986 to 1990. He is currently a board member of the American Foundryman's Society [AFS] and is chairman of the NFFS Quality Task Force, which established the NQS program. By implementing the program at his own foundry and earning the certification, Mr. Doss has demonstrated the benefit of the NFFS NQS 9000 program. By being the first foundry to be certified, the Metal Dynamics Corp. has secured respect and recognition for itself and other small foundries among world leaders in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Don Doss and the employees of the Metal Dynamics Corp. for their admirable efforts to provide quality products, which in turn help our country to be economically stronger and more competitive. I would also like to recognize the other small foundries like Metal Dynamics Corp. It is their devoted hard work, commitment to success, and willingness to change for the better that stand out as encouragement for the rest of us. Theirs is the attitude that made our country great, and that will secure for us our future.

"REMEMBERING AMERICA'S POW/MIAS"

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not bring to your attention an inspirational essay by one of America's leading advocates for veterans, my very distinguished