

outstanding volunteer work, serves as a community leader, role model or mentor, performs acts of generosity or kindness; and performs extraordinary feats locally or nationally.

The statement of purpose of the U.S. Olympic Committee in Atlanta says: "The committee for the Olympic Games seeks to honor America's community heroes, people whose service to others embraces the Olympic Spirit. For 84 days and 15,000 miles across America, Community Hero Torchbearers will bring the glow of the Olympic Flame to their communities along the route of the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay."

RURAL AIR SERVICE SURVIVAL
ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure the future of commercial airline service in rural America.

When Congress passed the Airline Deregulation Act in 1978, it was understood that rural air service would deteriorate as airlines raced to compete in high-volume markets. Therefore, to preserve an integrated national air service network, Congress created Essential Air Service, a program to support air carriers that maintain routes in smaller, rural markets. For the last 15 years, EAS has continued to achieve this objective and has received bipartisan support in Congress.

A link to the national air transportation system must be maintained for rural states to foster economic development. The fact is that without reliable air service, it is difficult to retain existing businesses and industries, and even more difficult to attract new ones. As farming operations continue to mechanize and consolidate, rural America must aggressively pursue efforts to diversify its economy.

Key to that diversification is access to the national network of air transportation. With the air service supported by the EAS Program, small cities from North Dakota to Texas and Maine to California can market themselves to investors around the country and indeed around the world. However, if the EAS Program were discontinued and rural air service allowed to evaporate, it would be nearly impossible for communities in rural America to attract new business opportunities.

But EAS is about more than just rural economic development. Air travelers around the country, whether urban or rural, benefit from an interconnected, national air service network. In fact, the majority of passengers on EAS routes are not residents of EAS cities but people from around the country who are able to reach rural destinations thanks to this program.

In recent years, the EAS Program has been under increasing assault in the appropriations process. In fact, the fiscal year 1996 Transportation Appropriations Act reduced the program by over 30 percent, forcing airlines to sharply reduce the number of round trips in small cities across the country, threatening the viability of rural air service. The legislation I am introducing today will extract EAS from the an-

nual appropriations battle and give rural communities and air carriers a greater degree of certainty about the future of their air service.

The Rural Air Service Survival Act would transform EAS, placing the program on solid fiscal grounds by creating a required expenditure within the FAA budget. Funding for the program would be provided by a user fee assessed to foreign carriers that utilize U.S. air traffic control services. As a result, the legislation will have no impact on overall Federal spending. I should also point out that almost every major U.S. competitor nation levies similar overflight fees on foreign carriers.

Senator DORGAN introduced similar legislation in the Senate which was adopted by unanimous vote in the Commerce Committee as an amendment to the FAA reform legislation. I am hopeful that this proposal will be enacted as part of FAA reform when the House and Senate consider this legislation in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to cosponsor and support the Rural Air Service Survival Act.

WILLIAM V. "BILL" MOORE,
PHOTOJOURNALIST EXTRAORDI-
NAIRE

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and chronicle the 28 year career of Mr. William V. "Bill" Moore, a photojournalist, who was honored on March 3, 1996. He is the first African-American full-time staff news cameraman on television in the State of California. He has been affiliated with KTVU Channel 2 in Oakland, CA, and for the past 5 years serving as chief photographer.

Bill is a native of Oakland and graduated from Oakland Technical High School. He attended Laney College and the California College of the Arts and Crafts, majoring in photography. Bill was a freelance photographer for the Associated Press before joining what was then a tiny news staff at KTVU Channel 2.

Bill's assignments ranged from the San Francisco Police Department Press for 5 years to U.S. Presidents since Richard Nixon. In between, he covered and recorded on film and tape the events related to the assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Mascone and the trial of his accused killer, Dan White, the antiwar and civil rights demonstrations of the 1970's; the Oakland-Berkeley hills fire storm of 1991; the 1989 and 1993 earthquakes in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles as well as the Nicaraguan earthquake in 1988; the O.J. Simpson murder trial; the training camps and opening season games of the Oakland A's, San Francisco Giants, and the San Francisco 49'ers. Bill did films for television on location in Haiti, Italy, and Brazil. His skill with the camera is as legendary as his good natured way of dealing with his fellow workers.

He is married to Belva Davis, an established and accomplished TV news personality, and

has 2 children, Steven and Darolyn. Bill is fondly known as Belva's husband. Let the record state that Bill is an all-around-nice-guy, and an accomplished professional.

William V. "Bill" Moore, photojournalist extraordinaire, and his contribution in documenting historic domestic and international news are a treasure of human events shaping the development and future of our world.

TRIBUTE TO PLATO (BUDDY)
MATHIS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding employee who has worked at Munroe Regional Medical Center in my home town of Ocala, FL. Munroe's longest serving employee and his name is Plato "Buddy" Mathis. He will be soon retiring.

Mr. Buddy Mathis' loyalty and dedication to Munroe spans over 50 years. He first came to work at the hospital in 1946 as a young boy. In fact, back then he had to stand on a wooden box to perform many of his chores.

Munroe Regional has seen many changes both in its physical makeup, not to mention changes in personnel. But, one thing that did not change over the years at Munroe was Buddy Mathis. He remained a constant in the lives of the people who worked in the medical center and a constant in the community.

Buddy should serve as a role model to all of us. He is the exemplification of the true work ethic. He started working at Munroe when he could barely reach the counter tops without standing on a box. And through the years he moved up, performing a variety of duties, including putting away stock and gathering vegetables from a small garden on the north side of the building. He also assisted fellow employees such as Felicia Stevens—head cook—Mrs. Annie Lee Stroud, and Mrs. Luella Strupp, among others.

In 1951, he joined the military to serve in the Korean war and served for several years. After the war, he returned to Munroe as a cook and was also in charge of inventory. He then attended night school under the GI bill and finished his education.

During the last 10 years, he and Jim Ruth have worked as a team, running the dietary department. Buddy has seen many changes take place in the building and operations of the hospital.

Everybody who has or is still working at the hospital loved working with Buddy and I'm sure they will all hate to see him go. Buddy is respected by all. I am pleased to be able to join with his many, many friends and colleagues in paying tribute to Plato "Buddy" Mathis for his hard work through the years and his kindness and generosity over the years.

I sincerely wish him the best in his retirement and congratulate him on his outstanding service to my hometown hospital, Munroe Regional Medical Center.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE IN WASHINGTON, DC, AS THE "E. BARRETT PRETTYMAN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE"

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to name the U.S. district courts and circuit court of appeals building for the District of Columbia Circuit after the late chief judge E. Barrett Prettyman. I am very pleased that the Chair of the District of Columbia Subcommittee is an original cosponsor. Senator JOHN WARNER has introduced an identical bill in the Senate.

Judge Prettyman was born in Virginia, where he graduated from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. He then graduated from Georgetown University School of Law.

Judge Prettyman served on the Federal bench for 26 years. He was the chief judge of the U.S. Circuit Court from 1953 to 1960. He was widely regarded as one of America's leading legal scholars and a pioneer for judicial reform. He sought the advice of his colleagues to better understand the issues to help improve the efficiency of the judiciary. He also testified many times before Congress as a strong advocate for increasing the number of judges on the District's juvenile court.

As a jurist, Judge Prettyman was known for his centrist positions and his thorough opinions. His most notable opinion concluded that the State Department had the authority to bar U.S. citizens from entering certain areas of the world. He wrote: "While travel is a right, it can be restrained like any other right." The Supreme Court ultimately upheld the decision.

Judge Prettyman also championed the cause of the indigent. At Georgetown University, he established a program where lawyers were trained to better assist indigent defendants.

Naming the courts after Judge Prettyman would be a fitting tribute to an outstanding jurist and legal scholar. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure.

GIVING CREDIT FOR THE MISSING SERVICE PERSONNEL ACT OF 1995

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 10, in signing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, the President signed into law the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995, which had been incorporated into the authorization bill. The passage of the provisions of the Missing Service Personnel Act is a significant milestone for veterans and for the families of our MIA's, and I rise today to give credit to some of the people, including some of my fellow Vermonters, who worked hard for the passage of these provisions.

Their dedication, commitment, and persistence in the face of overwhelming odds has fi-

nally brought to fruition a matter that has been their primary concern for over 13 years. And I am very proud that my fellow Vermonters have played such a significant role in this effort.

I cosponsored the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995 after being convinced by Patricia Sheerin, Don Amorosi, Sean McGuirl, Walt Handy, and Al Diaceticis of the desperate need for this law. The act is the culmination of years of effort on the part of my fellow Vermonters—Tom Cook, Bob Jones, and Brian Lindner, the president, vice president, and chief of research, respectively, of the Northeast POW/MIA Network; and Jim Howley—and the veterans organizations who have supported it, including Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans. Most notable were the contributions of the family members of the missing and prisoners: Tom Cook, Sharon Roraback, and Sarah Pendris.

Were it not for a special conference held in 1993 by the Northeast POW/MIA Network, we would not today have a law to protect missing service persons, to protect their families from exploitation, and to grant basic human rights to the missing as well as their families. Under the guidance of a former POW, Lt. Col. Orson Swindle, participants in that conference were able to clarify the goals of the proposed Missing Service Personnel Act as originally authored by John Holland. Mr. Swindle pointed a new direction: That while we cannot solve all the problems of the past, we can protect missing service persons in the future, based on what we have learned from past mistakes.

Through her courage and intuition, Vermonter Patricia Sheerin, policy analyst for the Northeast POW/MIA Network, convinced the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition to support the legislation and work for its passage. She also formed a plan and policy uniting veterans organizations and veterans advocates with the sole purpose of correcting and updating the outdated Missing Service Persons Act of 1942.

Crucial to passage of this new law was the support of citizens who were informed about its benefits. Joe and Paula Donaldson of Fair Haven, VT, deserve credit for organizing a weekly vigil as part of this educational effort. Nationwide distribution of information on the progress of the legislation, a responsibility of Bob Necci, helped pave the way to passage of this important act. Education is often the key to success, and such was the case with the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995.

I commend the supporters of this bill for their loyalty and devotion to the men and women who wear the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces. These Vietnam veterans and family members of those missing and captured in Vietnam have left a legacy of justice and fair treatment for future soldiers who become missing while fighting to defend our country and our freedom.

THE ABORTION PROVISION IN THE TELECOMMUNICATION BILL

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the telecommunications bill has been signed into

law. It is a bill that I supported and I am pleased to see this important legislation become law.

However, I am outraged at the way in which this extreme Republican leadership snuck a little-known provision into the conference report. In the attempt to eliminate "obscene" material from the Internet, this provision included an old, outdated definition of the word "obscene." Known as the Comstock Act, it included as part of the definition of obscene materials "any drug, medicine, article, or thing * * * intended for producing abortion." This obscure, never enforced law dates back to the early 1900's and is clearly an unconstitutional violation of free speech. If enforced, this outdated law would prohibit the discussion of abortion over the telephone, on the computer, or through the mail.

The new telecommunication law makes it a felony, punishable by 5 years for the first offense and 10 years for each subsequent offense, for anyone to discuss abortion on the Internet. I believe that it would be unconstitutional to ban citizens from speaking freely on the issue of abortion.

Women's rights have continually been challenged by this Congress. This is just the latest attempt to silence those who advocate a woman's right to choose. I believe that Congress should act immediately to ensure that free speech is not violated by this law.

I lived through the era before Roe versus Wade. I know what poor women went through in the back alleys when abortion was not legal. Any attempt to restrict this medical procedure is just one more way this Congress is throwing away a woman's right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that this extreme anti-choice movement would use the new telecommunications law to threaten a person's rights to discuss abortion. Choosing abortion is the most heartwrenching and personal decision a woman may ever make. But it is a decision that should be made between a woman, her doctor, her family, and her spiritual conscience. This Congress should not be meddling with our ability to freely discuss a woman's most personal medical decision.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INFECTIOUS AGENTS CONTROL ACT OF 1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Infectious Agents Control Act of 1996, which will address the need to keep infectious agents that could pose a serious threat to the public health and safety out of the hands of dangerous people while ensuring that these substances remain available to scientists with a legitimate research need for them.

By now, most of Members of this body have probably read news reports about Larry Wayne Harris, the Ohio white-supremacist who ordered bubonic plague through the mail last summer. It is frightening to think that just about anybody with a 32-cent stamp and a little chutzpah could get a hold of any number of potentially dangerous infectious substances. The Ohio case may be an isolated incident or