

also applied to governmental plans. Unfortunately, these limitations do not take into account the design and operation differences between public and private pensions. Some governmental pensions are designed to offer higher compensation to long-tenured, but low paid workers, or include special accounting of disability and survivor benefits, leading to violation of the pension limitations and endangering the plan's tax-exempt status. If this status is revoked, the benefits paid by such plans would be much smaller than otherwise. To prevent this, my bill lifts such restrictions on governmental pensions, allowing continuation of the special nature of these pensions without threatening their tax status.

This measure is key for public sector employees. Like those in the private sector, they need a reliable, safe retirement system and the flexibility to plan for retirement. My legislation provides the necessary changes to provide this security and flexibility. I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TUFTS UNIVERSITY TUFTONIA'S DAY 1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA and to honor its 88,000 plus alumni on the occasion of the 12th annual celebration of Tuftonia's Day.

On April 21, Tufts students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents gathered on its campuses in Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA and around the country and world to observe Tuftonia's Day, a holiday that is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of the Tufts community. This day derives its name from the title of the revered Tufts football fight song written by E.W. Hayes, class of 1916. Tufts University is a world class institution of higher education that was founded in 1852 by Charles Tufts. From the undergraduate through the professional degree level Tufts University instills in its students the importance of volunteerism and the need to give something back to one's local community.

The theme of this year's Tuftonia's Day was TuftServe, which focused on volunteer alumni involvement in community service. Last year, Tufts University alumni recorded more than 19,000 volunteer hours of community service. This is an outstanding record that should serve as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate the alumni of Tufts University for their hard work, their dedication and their loyalty.

HONORING THE GASSAWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Gassaway Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people

give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the important link between music and the brain—more specifically, how music makes us smarter. This is a timely subject as States and localities throughout the country are evaluating and reforming their education systems, and as we, at the Federal level, are determining funding priorities for education programs. In each case, the goal will be to ensure the highest academic achievement. Music is essential for making that goal a reality.

My hometown of Nashville, TN, is known as Music City, USA. Nashvillians are exposed to all types of music every day, and consequently, we have an inherent sense of the beneficial and profound impact that music has on our lives. But the impact extends far beyond making us feel good. We now have scientific evidence that instructing children in music leads to dramatically improved math and complex reasoning skills, in addition to the discipline and sense of self worth that we all know music provides. This research is described in the February 19, 1996, issue of Newsweek magazine. I recommend the article to parents, educators, Members of Congress, and anyone else who cares about the education and development of our children.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that today H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, has 226 cosponsors—a majority of the House of Representatives.

Two hundred twenty-six Members of the House understand that travel and tourism means economic prosperity for millions of Americans.

Two hundred twenty-six Members understand that the travel and tourism industry is the first, second, or third largest employer in every congressional district in America.

Nationwide, the industry employs over 13 million people. That translates to one out of every nine Americans.

Mr. Speaker, last week you and I and millions of other Americans wrote out a check to the government and paid our taxes.

Thanks to the travel and tourism industry—the second largest industry in the Nation—you and I and every household in the United States paid \$652 less on their tax bill.

That's because the travel and tourism industry puts \$54 billion into the U.S. Treasury in the way of tax revenue.

Ironically, last week, on April 15, the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration was forced to close its doors forever.

Closing USTTA means U.S. tourism promotion efforts drop to zero.

That's why H.R. 2579 is so important. The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act will make sure that in this \$3.4-trillion industry, the United States claims its fair share of the pie.

According to futurist John Naisbitt, three industries will drive the global economy of the 21st century: telecommunications, information technology, and travel and tourism.

With the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, we now have the chance to reshape our approach and our economic future with this monumental industry.

You've all heard the statistics before:

First, tourism employs 204 million people worldwide: almost as many people as we have living in the U.S., minus California. That equals 10 percent of the global workforce. And in the United States alone, travel and tourism accounts for one out of every nine employees.

Second, tourism produces \$655 billion dollars in Federal, State, and local tax revenue.

Third, more than 10 percent of all capital investment worldwide goes into travel and tourism. Maybe that's why travel and tourism is growing 23 percent faster than the world economy.

However, in this vastly growing market, 2 million fewer visitors came to the United States last year. That's a 19 percent decrease.

H.R. 2579 addresses this critical problem of declining U.S. market share.

In a \$300 billion international travel market, the United States of America should not be getting the short end of the stick.

Why is the U.S. losing ground?

The major reason for this slippage is that we are being out-classed and out-hustled by other nations' tourism promotion campaigns.

And, as I said before, when USTTA closed its doors on April 15, U.S. tourism promotion efforts plummeted to zero.

It's time to turn this situation around.

We're losing jobs.

We lost 177,000 jobs in the past 3 years to countries who are willing to promote tourism.

H.R. 2579 is the blueprint we need to increase our market share and save those jobs.

This 226 Member bipartisan bill will establish a ground-breaking cooperative effort between the tourism industry and the U.S. Government to promote of international travel to the United States.

This plan allows the United States to compete globally for tourism dollars against countries like Canada, Germany, Spain, and Australia.

Even small countries like Malaysia and Tunisia have been spending more than the United States year after year.

In the next 5 years, there will be an increase of some 50 million travelers worldwide.

This could mean tens of thousands of new jobs for American workers. But not if we in Congress don't have the foresight to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity.

That is precisely why, as chairman of the 304-member Travel and Tourism Caucus—the largest caucus in Congress, I introduced the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act.

It's time to take a bold new approach to our economic future.

Rather than creating another government-run program, this bill designs a partnership between the tourism industry and the public sector to devise and carry out a more effective marketing plan.

H.R. 2579 is vital to the United States.

This is a job-creating bill.

All over the world, and particularly in the United States, travel and tourism is the predominant industry for the jobs our people need.

With all this potential, the United States is losing its market share of travel and tourism in a growing market.

With one out of every nine American workers employed by travel and tourism, we can't afford not to take action.

I urge you to join the 226 Members who have already co-sponsored the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act.

Join us and get involved in the blockbuster industry of the 1990's and the 21st Century.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP ACT
OF 1995

(By Congressman Toby Roth)

FACTSHEET

Implements a central recommendation of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Forms a "public-private partnership" between the travel/tourism industry and the federal government to strengthen the promotion of international travel to the U.S.

Establishes a 36-member National Tourism Board (75% private sector)—to advise the President and Congress on policies to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. travel and tourism industry in global markets; appointed by the President with the advice of the travel and tourism industry

Establishes a National Tourism Organization as a not-for-profit corporation under federal charter—to implement the tourism promotion strategy developed by the national Tourism Board; to develop and operate a marketing plan in partnership with U.S. travel and tourism firms to increase the

U.S. market share of the world travel market; governed by a 45-member board of directors, reflecting the breadth of the travel and tourism industry; board of directors develops a plan for a long-term financing; interim funding from industry; data and staff resources provided by federal government.

Requires federal agencies and U.S.C. overseas missions to cooperate in implementing promotion strategy developed by National Tourism Board.

THE RETIREMENT OF DEXTER MAYOR WILLIS CONNER

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to this country's attention the retirement of a civic servant in my southeast Missouri congressional district. The Honorable Mayor Willis Conner of Dexter, MO, will be turning over his gavel on May 6, 1996.

A reason I feel compelled to mention Mayor Conner's retirement is that his life embodies the very meaning of community service. When he does step down, he will have served the city of Dexter as its chief elected officer for 30 straight years. All told, he has served our southeast Missouri region for nearly half this century—48 years to be exact including Democrat committeeman, Liberty Township collector, Stoddard County public administrator, and city of Dexter Ward I alderman. In fact, Mayor Conner was recently named this year's recipient of the Missouri Municipal League's [MML] highest honor. It named him the State's current or former municipal official who has made outstanding contributions and leadership to the MML.

In a position that isn't supposed to be a full-time job, Mayor Conner has always faithfully and diligently served his community while also delicately balancing his needs at home and at his paid occupation in real estate and insurance.

As the Eighth District's Congressman, I have had the personal privilege and high honor of working with Mayor Conner on a number of initiatives over the years. One of the most notable is the four-laning of Highway 60 which provides an East-West link through the southern part of the State. Mayor Conner joined me as a visionary who could see the direct benefits of improving our region's transportation infrastructure. He well understood that once we improved our roads and bridges more folks, more businesses, and more industries would be attracted to our region. Mayor Conner is one of those civic leaders who steadfastly supported important efforts such as the Highway 60 project to directly link Dexter, Stoddard County, and southeast Missouri to other reaches in the United States and the globe. From day one, Mayor Conner has helped to improve the quality of life for folks today and in generations to come.

As I close, I again want to bring to the rest of America's attention how impressive and remarkable Mayor Conner is as a person and as a pillar of is community. Thirty years in any job, elected or unelected, is a Herculean undertaking, let alone nearly a half-century of public service. The city of Dexter, Stoddard County, and the State of Missouri will certainly

miss his leadership as Mayor; however, I truly believe, even in his so-called retirement, Mayor Conner will still be active and provide guidance, strength, and energy to overcome future hurdles. I am proud and honored to say thank you to Mayor Conner on behalf of his constituents, all Missourians, and our great country in general.

ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, an environmental organization concerned with cleaning up and preserving Maryland's greatest environmental treasure, the Chesapeake Bay.

It was most appropriate that on Monday, Earth Day, we turned our attention to the fine job done by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay is a national resource that has a profound effect on much of the east coast. Its 64,000-square mile drainage basin—from the Finger Lakes in New York to the Ports of Baltimore and Hampton Roads—provides millions of us with food, energy, recreation, and water.

Since its inception in 1971, the alliance has been dedicated to creating a healthier, cleaner Bay. It has proven equal to the task. The alliance's nonadversarial approach has enabled it to work with a wide range of people for a better Bay. Over the years, the alliance has successfully rallied support from the business community, citizens groups, environmentalists, industry, scientists, farmers, sports enthusiasts, and others to preserve and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The alliance has accomplished its mission by establishing several important programs. The Alliance's Public Policy Program builds consensus on issues that directly affect the Bay. The Information Services Program provides unbiased information about issues. The Watershed Restoration Program gets people involved in hands-on habitat restoration work.

I urge my colleagues to acknowledge the fine work of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and to commit themselves to preserving the important programs that are so vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

HONORING THE MIDWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Midway Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming