

needs of veterans since 1946, assured veterans the assistance and recognition they deserved prior to approval of this Government department and continue to encourage fair consideration of veterans' issues. For this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 7765 a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The famous historian George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember history are bound to repeat it." V.F.W. posts all across America have not forgotten the past or those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I ask all Members in the House to rise in tribute to V.F.W. Post 7765 and join me in saluting all the members, past and present, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

LIFEJACKETS: THEY FLOAT—YOU DON'T

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, each year an estimated 76 million Americans—more than one-fourth of our population—enjoy recreational boating as a means to forget the stress and pressure of everyday life. Fortunately, our Nation is blessed with vast water resources that provide a means of escape for those who just want to "get away from it all."

Tragically—and to a great extent needlessly—approximately 800 people die each year in boating-related accidents. Recreational boating is second only to motor vehicles in the number of transportation-related fatalities.

Since 1958, by sponsoring National Safe Boating Week and other activities promoting boating safety throughout the year, the United States Coast Guard has continuously worked to remind the American public of the importance of boating safety. "Lifejackets: They Float—You Don't!" is the slogan of this year's boating safety campaign. National Safe Boating Week is being observed this week, May 18–24, just prior to Memorial Day weekend which is the beginning of the traditional summer boating season.

Falling overboard and capsizing are the leading causes of boating accidents. In 77 percent of the documented recreational boating fatalities reported to the Coast Guard, the victim was not wearing a personal flotation device, more commonly referred to as a lifejacket. The Coast Guard considers wearing a lifejacket the single most important factor to ensure survivability in these accidents. It is unfortunate that, while hundreds of people die needlessly each year, the boating public still does not understand the importance of wearing lifejackets.

The most recent tragic example of the need for lifejackets was the drowning of former CIA Director William Colby. It is presumed that Mr. Colby drowned when he fell out of his canoe as he was boating in a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, Mr. Colby was not wearing a flotation device when found. Another tragic example is an incident that occurred in Arkansas in July 1993. A family of nine (two parents and seven children) went out on the Fourche LaFave River in a 14-foot flat-bottom boat designed for only three people. Although the weather was clear and the

water was calm, the overloaded boat quickly began to take water, and within minutes of leaving the shore the boat went down. There were no lifejackets on board even though only two of the people could swim. Both parents and five of the children drowned. This incident is a textbook case of failure to observe basic boating safety rules.

So as Americans everywhere flock to our Nation's rivers, lakes, and oceans to enjoy the hot summer weather, remember "Lifejackets: They Float—You Don't!"

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL HUGHES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a man of outstanding public service from my district who recently passed away—Mr. Bill Hughes, director of the Pleasantdale Park District.

Mr. Hughes, who battled colon cancer for 10 months, served the district for 5½ years. His tenure saw explosive growth in both the communities Pleasantdale served and programs the district offered.

Perhaps Mr. Hughes' greatest achievement was helping to guide the development of Flagg Creek Golf Course, a premiere 9-hole course, in conjunction with the city of Countryside.

Countryside Mayor Carl LeGant, who worked closely with Mr. Hughes said of his passing: "It's sad. He was a good person to work with. He will be missed."

Mr. Speaker, I join Mayor LeGant in mourning the loss of this community leader, and extend to Mr. Hughes' family my condolences.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARAPAHOE LIBRARY DISTRICT

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arapahoe Library District on its 30th anniversary. This is an operation that began back in April 1966 with a used bookmobile and 4,000 books borrowed from the State of Colorado. Now, the district operates 8 branch libraries throughout Arapahoe County and serves over 100,000 people annually.

The Arapahoe Library District is a shining example of a locally run organization that provides effective programs without appropriations and regulations from Washington.

Besides promoting the obviously worthy cause of literacy, the district also sponsors an annual photo contest and a children's summer reading program which focuses on a specific topic—this summer's suggested reading deals with the history of the West. It also provides an information center available to small businesses and technology classes on how to utilize the internet. Another mark of distinction is the Glendale branch's dual function as library and community center for the local population

of Russian-Jewish immigrants. Here they receive vital classes in English and general life-skills.

The Arapahoe Library District is an example of how locally run institutions can contribute to the educational benefit of the surrounding communities. Thus, it is with great pleasure I join with my colleagues in the House in commending the board of trustees, the employees, and the over 100,000 patrons of the Arapahoe Library District on its 30th anniversary.

END TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRAUD NOW

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to alert my colleagues and the American people to the growing nationwide problem of telecommunications fraud. Last month, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, I conducted hearings on telemarketing fraud against the elderly, and the tremendous toll that it takes. Telemarketing fraud is just one aspect of the telecommunications scheme and the elderly are not its only victims.

Telecommunications fraud can manifest itself in several forms including crimes like "shoulder surfing," where criminals literally look over the shoulder of unsuspecting victims entering their calling card number on a payphone. These victims are often unsuspecting tourists in a crowded airport, hotel lobby, or shopping mall who use a pay telephone for a long distance call. The criminal then can use their calling card number himself/herself or it or sell it later, costing the victim or phone company hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Criminals have also been known to pose as law enforcement officials, and approach elderly citizens claiming they need to bill a call to a residential number as part of an investigation. As cellular technology has progressed, so has the criminal methods. For example, cloning devices are used to steal cellular phone serial numbers from the radio waves that carry the phone signal. These unique codes are used to charge thousands of dollars of calls to the accounts of innocent phone users.

Telecommunications fraud affects millions of Americans each year, and the damage done is appalling. This year alone telecommunications fraud is expected to reach \$3.7 billion, an increase of \$395 million from 1995. A survey of over 90 businesses who were victims of telecommunications fraud found that the losses ranged from a few thousand dollars to \$4 million. The amount of long distance charges stolen through business equipment in the United States is around \$1.5 billion. The cost to telephone users in "800" line charges, run up by thieves and attempted thieves, is estimated to reach a minimum of \$215 million this year.

We must stop these criminals and protect Americans from this deceptively simple fraud. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Florida many elderly citizens have come to retire comfortably, and many tourists visit our attractions, especially now as the summer season is about to begin. When they pick up the phone

and place a call, they should not have to worry about someone stealing from them. We must end telecommunications fraud and stop these criminals cold.

Twelve telecommunications companies have come together to fight this crime and to enhance public awareness through the Alliance to Outfox Phone Fraud. Their education efforts have gone beyond their service areas and reach out to make the national and international community aware of this problem and how to deal with it. Besides public service announcements, the alliance has launched a full campaign to include brochures, posters, and even a toll free number to encourage telecommunications customers to educate themselves and join the campaign.

We in Congress must learn from efforts like this to help Americans become aware of this problem so they can avoid becoming victims of crime.

FAIRNESS FOR DISABLED VETERANS ACT OF 1996

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about a very important issue that affects veterans in my district in Florida and veterans around the country. Right now, a veteran who has bravely served our Nation cannot collect VA disability payments while collecting payments for early separation from the armed services. Although a person may be eligible for both, under current law, a disabled veteran can't receive both. To me, that just doesn't make sense.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to introduce the Fairness for Disabled Veterans Act of 1996 to correct this injustice in current law.

The language of the bill is simple. The bill repeals the requirement that amounts paid to a member of the Armed Forces under special separation programs shall be offset from amounts subsequently paid to that member by the Department of Veterans Affairs as disability compensation. The repeal would be retroactive to the date this rule went into effect on December 5, 1991.

Here's how this works in practice. If an individual received an SSB payment of \$30,000, he would not receive the first \$30,000 of VA disability compensation to which he would otherwise have been entitled. This legislation would allow eligible individuals to receive the full amount of disability payments regardless of prior SSB or VSI payments.

In the early 1990's, Congress established early military separation benefits to help the Defense Department reduce the size of the Armed Forces. The Department of Defense [DOD] currently offers certain military personnel the opportunity to leave military service voluntarily in return for cash payments under two programs, the Special Separation Benefit [SSB] and the Voluntary Separation Incentive [VSI]. The SSB program offers a one-time cash payment, while the VSI program provides an annual payment over many years, depending on length of service. Servicemembers who leave service under these programs have the option of choosing either program.

When this law was passed, Congress also included restrictions on these programs preventing military personnel who receive early separation benefits from receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs until the separation benefits are repaid.

Today, thousands of the veterans who accepted the payment and left the military are suffering from service-connected disabilities such as gulf war syndrome and other health problems. These disabled veterans are unable to work and their families are faced with financial hardship.

SSB and VSI benefits are for services rendered as well as compensation for the veteran's participation in DOD's downsizing. Disability pay is compensation for mental or physical disabilities incurred in that service. These are two separate compensations. That's why I believe it is unfair to offset one payment with another. If the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs offers a benefit to a retiring member of the Armed Forces, that person deserves to receive that benefit.

That's why I've introduced this bill. Let's tell our disabled veterans that we care about them and that we will fight for what's right. I urge my colleagues to support the Fairness for Disabled Veterans Act of 1996.

RED COLEMAN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Red Coleman and his family on the 50th anniversary of operating a successful, thriving business in Dallas. Red Coleman, a good friend and consummate businessman, has used his resources of leadership and education to operate 12 Red Coleman's package stores and 19 Red-E Mart convenience stores throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Mr. Red Coleman and his wife, Frances, started their business in 1946 with one store on Forest Avenue. Since that time, his stores have grown and prospered. Throughout all of his business dealings, Red Coleman has operated his stores with adherence to the highest ethical standards and a commitment to customer service.

But Red Coleman's success in business is not only evident in the quality management of his stores, but in the community in which he lends his skills and time. He is someone who believes everyone has a responsibility to give back to our community—and he does it on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, Red Coleman is a truly exceptional businessman and an outstanding person in Dallas. He, Frances, and their son Ronnie, when he joined the family business, are responsible for making so many contributions to our community. I wish Red and his family another 50 years and more of success and happiness with all their endeavors.

LIVERPOOL'S COACH JENSEN RETIRES WITH 89 PERCENT WIN RECORD OVER 33 YEARS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues today to join me in saluting a man who has been a scholastic sports leader in central New York for 33 years. Now, he is retiring as the Liverpool High School cross-country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field head coach.

His name is Oscar B. Jensen, and he is known respectfully and affectionately as "OBJ."

He is a man who has been, as all good educators are, devoted to the academic as well as physical well-being of students. His extraordinary record of excellence and his exemplary guidance of young people is legendary in Liverpool, NY.

The memories students have of Oscar Jensen will remain vivid. Parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and Liverpool fans will recall his strong leadership in the athletic program for many years to come.

To relate his records briefly, in cross-country he won 207 meets, lost 99 and tied 1. He led the team to be section III champions three times and a State championship team in 1991. In indoor track and field he won 4804 and lost 500, tying 19. His teams were section III champions eight times. In outdoor track and field, he won 279 and lost only 43. His teams were OHSL Champions 14 times. He coached six State champions.

Coach Jensen's career winning percentage for all three sports is 89 percent, an outstanding tradition of excellence. Additionally, all his teams consistently finished with the top schools in the State in academic achievement.

This retirement follows his retirement 2 years ago as a physics teacher. It frees him to pursue clinics and other training of coaches and athletes, some of whom will eventually reach world-class levels of competition.

Oscar B. Jensen is an example of discipline, commitment and inspiration. He will be missed by the Liverpool community and respected for his accomplishments throughout school history.

IN HONOR OF CYRUS KATZEN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Dr. Cyrus Katzen who is the recipient of the 1996 President's Award from the American University in Washington, DC. An exceptional member of our local community, Dr. Katzen was recently honored for his dedicated service to the arts, education, and the Washington Metropolitan community.

In his life, Dr. Katzen has pursued many diverse interests in the business and the artistic communities. He received a dental degree from Georgetown University and then served as a dental surgeon at Providence Hospital, a