

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JOHN E.  
MILLER

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 1997*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American public the distinguished record of service to our Nation by a fellow Missourian, Lt. Gen. John E. Miller. He is retired from the U.S. Army today after serving this great Nation for over 34 years.

Entering the U.S. Army in 1963 as an infantry officer, Lieutenant General Miller started his career by serving two tours in Vietnam, first as the commander of B Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and then as a district senior advisor. Advisory Team 68, Delta Regional Assistance Command. During his service in Vietnam, he earned a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with the "V" device, an Air Medal with the "V" device, a Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Lieutenant General Miller has served in many diverse assignments, including commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth; deputy commanding general for combined arms, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; and commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Other key assignments include: commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell; deputy commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; assistant division commander (Maneuver), 8th Infantry Division; assistant deputy chief of staff for combat developments, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA, commander, 1st Brigade, and later chief of staff, 9th Infantry Division (Motorized), Fort Lewis, WA.

In culmination of his long and illustrious career, Lieutenant General Miller served as deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA. In this capacity, he has been the driving force as the architect of the future for the Army, developing and integrating future concepts and requirements for doctrine, training, and combat developments for Army XXI to operate with joint, combined, multinational, and interagency organizations. Lieutenant General Miller provided vision and guidance in the development of the Army After Next Program and has been instrumental in integrating Army models and simulations into a dynamic, efficient, and effective program. He has led the effort in developing investment strategies which lay the foundation for the Army to grow into the early 21st century. In addition to his combat decorations, Lieutenant General Miller has earned the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Soldiers Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He has also earned the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, there is not enough time in the day to thoroughly highlight the many contributions that this outstanding Missourian has made to our Army. He has dedicated his life

to our soldiers and our Nation. He is truly a leader of leaders.

**ALBANIA—DEMOCRACY AT A  
CROSSROADS**

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 1997*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in March 1991, Albania held free elections for the first time in 45 years. Since then, Albania has adopted a democratic form of government, launched economic reforms, and tried to re-integrate itself into Europe. Today, however, Albanian democracy is at a crossroads.

During the cold war, the Communist Albanian Party of Labor, lead by Enver Hoxha, exercised total political control over the Albanian people and virtually cut off relations with the rest of the world. Large student demonstrations in late 1990 challenged the Communist Party's exclusive hold on power and forced the government to accept multiparty elections. Although the elections' fairness was questioned by outside observers, the Albanian Party of Labor, later renamed the Albanian Socialist Party, won two-thirds of the vote. Large-scale strikes and demonstrations ensued, forcing the Socialist Party to cede power in June 1991 to a coalition government. The coalition government comprises members of all political parties, including the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party.

The March 1992 general elections resulted in a resounding victory for the Democratic Party, which gained 62 percent of the vote. The Albanian Parliament, known as the People's Assembly, elected Sali Berisha to the presidency. The Democratic Party under President Berisha has led a strong and stable government and enacted numerous economic and human rights reforms. While Albania still remains the poorest country in Europe, its economy has grown significantly since 1989. Large, inefficient industries were abandoned and collectivized farms were swiftly dismantled. As a result, Albania's economic growth rates surpassed expectations. In 1993, Albania experienced 10-percent growth in gross domestic product [GDP], and agriculture output of 14 percent. The economy continued to grow at 8 percent in 1994, and 6 percent in 1995. Furthermore, in 1995, the Albanian parliament passed a law "on genocide and crimes against humanity" that facilitated the prosecution of crimes from the Communist period.

Albania's political and economic successes, however, are in jeopardy. Parliamentary elections were again held in May 1996. Amidst allegations of voter fraud, almost all opposition parties pulled out before the polls closed. The Organization for Security and Cooperation [OSCE], as well as other U.S. and international election observer organizations, noted "serious irregularities" during the vote, including voter fraud, ballot surfing, intimidation, and coercion. The European Parliament and the OSCE called for new elections and President Berisha agreed to a partial rerun of the election in 17 districts. The opposition demanded a full election and boycotted the partial rerun. The Democratic Party was re-elected with more than a two-thirds majority. In addition to

Albania's elections problems, in later 1996, Albania's high-risk investment plans, known as pyramid schemes, collapsed. The pyramid schemes, which promised exorbitant returns on investments, attracted over \$1 billion in private investment. The collapse of these schemes affected 800,000 Albanians, many of whom had invested their entire life savings. Following mass riots in January 1997, the Government seized the accounts of two investment groups, banned further pyramid schemes, and approved partial compensation for the investors.

Earlier this month, I had the honor to meet with the Speaker of the Albanian Assembly, Pjeter Arbneri, to discuss the upcoming election and the situations in Albania. Arbneri spent almost three decades in prison for his resistance to Albanian Communist dictator Enver Hoxha. Speaker Arbneri conveyed to me the urgency of the situation in Albania and the crisis facing Albanian democracy. He reassured me that the Democratic Party in Albania will honor the results of the June 29 elections. I was impressed by Speaker Arbneri's dedication to democracy and his strong commitment to the Albanian people. I believe that the United States should do all it can to ensure a democratic Albania.

As a result, I have introduced a resolution expressing congressional support for democracy in Albania. My resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that: First, the June 29 elections in Albania should be free and open and second, all political parties of Albania should honor the results of such elections. Through this resolution, the United States can show solidarity with the Albanian people during the June 29, 1997 elections.

A stable and democratic Albania is vital to the security of Europe and the United States. Should democracy falter in Albania, the world could be confronted with another Bosnia. The Albanian people need to know that America stands firmly behind their struggle to maintain and entrench democracy after years of Communist, totalitarian rule. Now, more than ever, the Congress of the United States needs to make clear its strong Commitment to a free and democratic Albania.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ALCOHOL  
TAX EQUALIZATION ACT OF 1997**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 1997*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Congress will adjourn for recess at the end of this week. By the time we return on July 10, beer and wine will have taken a toll in human life and injury, especially among teens and other young people, because these alcoholic beverages are less costly and have become a virtual part of the holiday itself. By blinking at beer and wine through the Tax Code, Congress will be actively complicit in this carnage.

That is why today I introduce the Alcohol Tax Equalization Act of 1997, a bill that would increase the taxes on beer and wine so that they are taxed according to their alcohol content at the same level as hard liquor. The bill creates a substance abuse prevention trust fund for alcohol prevention programs. The kinds of programs that work include cross-

peer mentoring by high school students about alcohol and drug abuse and traffic safety; teen courts to decide appropriate penalties for other teens who abuse alcohol; community-based prevention programs for pregnant women and high-risk populations; and 100 percent drug and alcohol-free clubs. The programs would be implemented through grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Ask Congress to explain why a can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a shot of hard liquor which have the same alcohol content, are not taxed equally. The answer is plain—the beer and wine industries want it that way. Expect them to fight to preserve the enormous tax break they enjoy compared to their counterparts in the distilled liquor industry.

The Senate Finance Committee has just proposed substantially raising the taxes on cigarettes to discourage teenage smoking. The very same reasoning applies to beer and wine. Minors consume more than 1 billion beers each year. Teens are price sensitive because they have less disposable income. By taxing beer and wine substantially less than liquor, we bring the price down and encourage teens to make these the drinks of choice.

Because the Federal excise taxes on liquor are substantially higher than taxes on beer, Congress in sending the message to teens that these drinks are OK and are not as dangerous and addictive. Congress therefore bears a heavy part of the responsibility for the fact that alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death among teenagers and young adults.

Here in the District where there are so many low income and teen drinkers, taxing beer and wine fairly would be an important step in reducing alcohol-related traffic fatalities, accidents and disease. The need here is urgent. The District of Columbia death rate from alcohol is almost three times the rate in Maryland and Virginia—14.4 in the District, compared with 5.8 in Maryland, and 5.7 in Virginia (1994). I am pleased that the District is 1 of 39 States that has enacted impaired driving legislation. The bill I introduce today will take, District of Columbia and the entire country closer to the national goal of reducing alcohol-related fatalities to no more than 11,000 by 2005.

Beer is what America, and especially young, the America, drinks. In 1995, 60.3 percent of all alcohol sold was beer and 11.4 percent was wine. Only 28.4 percent was hard liquor. America is getting drunk on beer and wine. It is time for the taxes on beer and wine to reflect their alcohol content. A can of beer, a 5 ounce glass of wine, a wine cooler, and a shot of vodka are the same thing.

In America today, parents rarely give permission to teens to drink, but Congress does. It is time we withdrew that permission. This bill does just that.

#### RECOGNITION OF NIKOLA TESLA

#### HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vast accomplishments of an often neglected figure in our Nation's

history. A man who strived to fulfill the American dream and in doing so aided in the synthesis of some of the most significant scientific advancements of this century. The man I wish to acknowledge is Mr. Nikola Tesla: a student, an inventor, and a hero of the American industrial revolution.

Nikola Tesla was born on the morning of July 10, 1856 in the midst of a tumultuous thunderstorm. The weather conditions surrounding his birth led some to call him the storm child while his mother preferred to assume the positive approach and affectionately referred to her son as the child of the light. Both these names proved to be reflections of Nikola's later life as an ingenious inventor. His innate love for scientific discovery became apparent at an early age and lasted throughout his lifetime.

After completing an advanced degree in the field of engineering, Tesla pursued a career as an electric engineer in the United States. He worked closely with Thomas Edison, the world renowned American inventor, to bring the wonder of electricity to the growing metropolis of New York. Allied with the commercial distribution strength of George Westinghouse, Nikola Tesla began his quest to spread the power of electricity across this great country. In 1893, Tesla was commissioned to generate the thousands of volts of electrical power necessary to light the Chicago World's Fair. In addition to this engineering feat, Tesla was also responsible for the design of the Niagara Mohawk Falls power plant which to this day provides an ecological and economical means of power to the upper portion of New York State and parts of Canada.

At the turn of the century, Nikola Tesla dedicated himself to independent research which led to a series of landmark discoveries. During this period Tesla conceived such innovations as the alternating current generator, the properties of the spinning magnetic field, the Tesla coil, the basic principals of broadcasting, as well as 700 other significant inventions and theories. Many of Tesla's discoveries form the foundation upon which our current technology is based, yet presently he receives little recognition for his contributions to the modern world. It is distressing that this man who transformed science fiction into a tangible reality is not properly credited with his accomplishments.

Nikola Tesla is a man who deserves acknowledgment for his numerous contributions to the advancement of American as well as world technology. It is an undebatable fact that Tesla was an essential component in providing the economical distribution of electricity to this country, an important factor in the industrialization of our Nation. In an age in which technology and scientific advancements are vital to everyday life, we are particularly indebted to the work of this unsung hero. The modern day conveniences of electricity, telecommunications, and broadcasting are reason enough to take time to acknowledge the man who is responsible for the basis of these innovations. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to recognize the achievements of this American citizen before the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL A. BRAVETTE

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Michael A. Bravette of Cedar Grove, NJ.

Michael was born on September 19, 1926 in Newark, NJ to Pasquale and Philomena Bianco Bravette. One of two children, he was raised in the city of Newark and attended the city's Barringen High School. During World War II, at the age of 18, Michael entered the U.S. Navy. He served as an electronic technician's mate, third class aboard the heavy cruiser U.S.S. *Bremerton*, CA-130, flagship of the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific Theater of Operations and earned five medals for his bravery and valor.

In 1949, Michael graduated from the Newark College of Engineering, now known as N.J.I.T., with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and a master of science in management engineering. He was a founder and an officer in the fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi and earned a Student Council Pendant Award, for his service as a class officer and in other campus activities.

Michael's first professional position was as a material handling sales engineer who sold the largest single contract in the history of the company—overhead traveling cranes for maintenance on the then-new Tappan Zee Bridge.

A retiree since 1989, Michael was employed for over 30 years in marketing with both the Kearfott-Singer Co. and subsequently, the Plessey Co., as manager for advertising and customer relations. While at Kearfott-Singer, he cochaired their first successful motivation program, was the communications chairman for the zero defects program and served as president of the company's Toastmasters Club. During his many invaluable years of service, Michael was listed in Who's Who in America, Finance and Management.

One of the highlights of Michael's career was touring the company's facilities for 2 days with Apollo 13 astronaut, Fred W. Haise, Jr. He also prepared presentations and tours for astronauts Terry Hart and Mark Lee, Senator Bill Bradley, Congressman Jim Courter and Congresswoman MARGE ROUKEMA.

In 1964, Michael was appointed by then New Jersey Governor Richard J. Hughes as a tercentenary toastmaster lecturer for the New Jersey Tercentenary Commission. In this capacity, he was able to speak before several groups and was the guest speaker for the township of Cedar Grove 4th of July celebration held at the Memorial High School stadium. For his services, Michael was awarded by Governor Hughes a New Jersey Tercentenary Medal.

Michael is and always has been an active member of his community. He has been a parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena church since its construction and currently serves as one of the church's neighborhood ambassadors. Michael served as president of the Holy Name Society in 1960 and again in 1966. Under his leadership, membership in the society increased from 40 to 250. Also, Michael served as cochair of the 1965 fundraising drive which doubled the weekly donations to the church.