

her away from her beloved San Antonio, her neighbors and many friends in the Lone Star State are hopeful that she will eventually return home; and

Whereas, In this, as in all of her endeavors, Ms. Conley has enjoyed the love and support of her family, which includes her husband, attorney Jim Conley, and four children: James, Jason, John, and Karyne Jalon; and

Whereas, Both in her personal life and in her professional service, the Honorable Karyne Jones Conley has exhibited an abiding concern for the well-being of her fellow Americans, and she is indeed deserving of recognition as she pursues this new chapter of her life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas, Regular Session, 1997, hereby congratulate former State Representative Karyne Jones Conley on her new position with SBC Telecommunications, Inc., and extend to her warmest best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

Resolved, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Conley as an expression of highest regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2015, BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this bill because I believe it addresses many of the priorities and concerns of the American people. It sets us on a course toward a balanced budget while meeting the important needs of children, working families, and legal immigrants.

The bill provides \$24 billion to make sure that the most vulnerable among us, poor and uninsured children, have access to health care. This is perhaps its best feature. Using revenue from an additional tobacco tax, the bill enables States to provide Medicaid benefits for up to 5 million children who are currently uninsured.

The House-Senate conference report also undoes some of the harmful and unnecessarily harsh provisions contained in the welfare reform law. It restores disability and Medicaid for legal immigrants and extends food stamp eligibility for people making the transition from welfare to work. This bill also provides minimum benefits for refugees and asylees.

These provisions help mend holes in the safety net through which children, legal immigrants, and working poor were likely to slip.

This bill charts a path toward a balanced budget. Make no mistake, though—it assumes great spending discipline on the part of future Congresses in order to meet this goal. That discipline will be difficult—perhaps impossible—to sustain, and it would have made more sense to set a course that relies less on back-loaded cuts in later years.

If this conference report is more responsible, both fiscally and socially, than the original House bill, it also contains serious flaws. Most important, Medicare provisions fail to address the structural problems that threaten this program in the long term.

Cutting payments to hospital and providers is palliative, not curative. Very likely, many of

these cuts will be paid for through increased premiums on private insurance and other steps to pass costs on to other health-care consumers.

Two provisions, the Medicare savings accounts and the private fee-for-service plans, will likely skim healthier and the wealthier beneficiaries from the Medicare-risk pool. They will leave the program with higher costs but fewer dollars at the very time demand is ready to explode.

In addition to problematic cuts in Medicare, cuts in Medicaid unfairly single out those hospitals now serving the indigent. This will have a serious impact on Colorado hospitals in particular.

In short, if the conference report has much to recommend, it also leaves much undone and much that needs to be improved. And yet, on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe the merits of this bill outweigh its failures and flaws.

I voted against this bill when it was first considered by the House; I am voting for the conference report. The conference report substantially improves the earlier bill and remedies most of the defects in last year's welfare reform law. It sets a course toward a balanced budget without putting the well being of citizens at risk. It deserves support.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise to pay tribute to the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its ninth year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our Nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday in my South Bronx Congressional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx.

Under the leadership of its founder, Mr. Angel L. Rosario, and its president, Mr. Francisco Gonzalez, the parade has grown into one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in all five boroughs of New York City and beyond.

The parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the island and all across the Nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the thousands of people who with pride will march along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will gracefully decorate the festival.

The parade ends at Joyce Kilmer Park, where live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainments await partakers. It is expected that this year's parade will surpass last year's half-million visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade on its ninth year of strengthening ties and bringing joy to the South Bronx community.

REAUTHORIZING ISTE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to bring to the attention of the House the importance of reauthorizing ISTE in a fashion that recognizes and maintains the important role of public transportation.

Even in my rural home State of New Hampshire, transit is a vital lifeline for many residents. In fact, a recent report entitled "Dollars and Sense: The Economic Case for Public Transportation in America", cites Advance Transit of Lebanon, NH, for its contribution to the economic vitality of Grafton County and neighboring Windsor County, VT. I would commend my colleagues' attention to the entirety of this report, which provides an impressive summary of mass transit's benefits.

In closing, I would like to again remind my colleagues that the benefits offered by public transit, and indeed all improvements to our Nation's transportation network, will be threatened without the necessary funding to reauthorize ISTE. As we all know, committing the revenues generated from transportation taxes to improvements to our Nation's public infrastructure, including transit, will allow our great nation to move forward with economic growth and prosperity.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the 85th anniversary of an organization that has been providing young women with skills and opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

For nearly a century, the Girl Scouts have been empowering young women to make decisions that will enhance their life, to develop self-esteem, and make a contribution to their communities. The Girl Scouts are the largest voluntary organization for girls in the entire world, with more than 8,500,000 girls in more than 130 countries.

In particular, I want to recognize a special group of Girl Scouts from my district and the surrounding area, the Tierra del Oro Girl Scout Council. The Tierra del Oro Girl Scout Council serves more than 19,500 girls in fourteen counties: Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. I know that many of my constituents have benefited from belonging to such an outstanding organization.

This year, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America [GSUSA] celebrate their 85th anniversary. The Girl Scouts were founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, GA. Ms. Low's vision was hopeful and far-reaching: to provide opportunities and partnerships between young girls and adults, to

accumulate knowledge and skills, that will carry them forward to a productive life, and to allow them to widen their horizons and explore their world. Ms. Low's vision is just as relevant today as it was in 1912. The Girl Scouts are all about learning, experience, service, and above all—opportunity.

Throughout the 1910's and 1920's, membership in the Girl Scouts continued to grow. From 5,000 in 1915, the Scouts grew to more than 88,000 in 1921. In 1927, following the death of Ms. Low, the Girl Scouts established a fund in her name to support projects and events dedicated to promoting international understanding, global awareness, and an appreciation of pluralism.

During the years of the Great Depression in the 1930's, the Girl Scouts used their resourcefulness to battle the adversity of that era. They worked hard in the Depression relief effort and refused to turn away any girl because of her inability to pay dues or buy equipment. Out of the need for extra funds during this time period, an idea was born, an idea which has become an American institution: the sale of Girl Scout cookies.

As the Girl Scouts became accessible to more and more girls during the 1940's, membership grew to more than 1 million and began to include girls with mental disabilities. The year 1950 saw the organization reincorporated under a charter from Congress. As the Girl Scouts entered the 1960's, the diverse organization responded to the civil rights movement by further broadening their commitment to reach out to young women of color. The GSUSA allocated special funds to broaden membership in urban areas in particular. A similar outreach to Latinos resulted in the publication of the Girl Scout Handbook in Spanish. Another edition of the handbook was produced in braille for the visually impaired.

Around the same time, the organization extended their outreach toward older age groups. The Girl Scouts began to cosponsor a project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to teach older women the necessary skills to secure office jobs. Also, the Campus Girl Scouts, composed of college women, was registered for the first time in 1968.

As the organization moved into the 1970's, a time when women's advocacy groups began to take on a larger social and political role, the Girl Scouts confirmed their already strong commitment to the positive development of young women by establishing programs like Careers to Explore. Also, the Scouts turned their effort toward environmental action, establishing Eco-Action, a nationwide environmental education and improvement program. Also during the 1970's, the Girl Scouts expanded their outreach effort to Mexican-Americans, Native Americans, and migrant worker families.

In the 1980's and 1990's, with volunteer efforts increasing in record numbers, the Girl Scout of the U.S.A. began to expand into the younger age groups, establishing the Daisy Girl Scouts. Daisy Scout membership reached 61,000 in its very first year.

Recent years have also found the GSUSA introducing a series of programs to address contemporary issues like substance abuse, teen pregnancy, youth suicide, child abuse, and family crises. The Scouts have also taken steps to encourage girls to pursue interests in math and science.

The achievement of the Girls Scouts of the U.S.A. throughout this century have been

nothing short of outstanding. A 1991 study showed that of the 473 women in Who's Who in American Women, 64 percent had been Girl Scouts. These women today are involved in diverse fields such as law, medicine, journalism, education, politics, finance, and science.

It is impossible to gauge the positive effect that the Girl Scouts have had on America—because that positive effect is so widespread. The Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and the Tierra del Oro Girl Scout Council have been helping girls grow up to be caring, competent, confident women since 1912. The Girl Scouts are an American institution. The purpose of Girl Scouting is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. The Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have succeeded gloriously in this goal, and we wish them all the best as they approach the 21st century with purposeful optimism and an enduring belief in the power of the individual.

CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT COMMEMORATION ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce the introduction of the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act. This bipartisan legislation establishes the Centennial of Flight Commission, a national organization to direct the celebration of the 100th anniversary of manned flight.

The year was 1903, and at 10:35 a.m., on the cold, windy morning of December 17, the era of modern aviation was born. At that exact moment, Orville Wright lifted off the dunes in Kitty Hawk, NC, and became the first man to successfully complete a free, controlled, and sustained flight in a power-driven, heavier-than-air machine. Those 12 seconds changed the course of world history forever.

On December 17, 2003, the world and this great Nation will come together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight. I have introduced this important legislation, along with my colleague TONY HALL of Ohio, to establish a national commission to plan and develop programs and activities related to this anniversary, in addition to other duties.

The Commission will be made up of 21 members. Twelve of these members will be U.S. citizens, who are not Government employees and will be appointed by the President. Of these, two will be chosen from among persons recommended by the majority leader of the Senate, two will be chosen from among persons recommended by Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Representatives whose districts encompass either the Wright Brothers National Memorial or the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and eight will be chosen based on qualifications or experience in the field of history, aerospace science, or industry. In addition, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, the Director of the National Air and Space Museum, and the Administrator of NASA will be members of the commission. Fi-

nally, the following local officials will be included: the chairman of the First Flight Centennial Commission of North Carolina, the president of the First Flight Centennial Foundation of North Carolina, the Governor of Ohio, and the chairman of the 2003 Committee of Ohio. These members will receive no compensation. An executive director and appropriate staff will be hired.

The commission will be charged with many responsibilities and duties. It will represent the United States and promote U.S. participation in international activities related to aviation history and the Centennial of Flight. It will encourage participation in national and international commemoration activities by U.S. aviation-related organizations and individuals with aviation interests. It will maintain and publish a calendar of events, provide national coordination for celebration dates, as well as provide a central clearinghouse for information on national and international activities. The commission will assist educational, civic, and commemorative activities that highlight achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright in North Carolina and Ohio.

Finally, the commission will raise funds in coordination with fund raising efforts at the state level. It may devise and license a logo, with excess royalties distributed equally between the state organizations. The commission will expire in 2004.

Most would agree, there are few technological accomplishments that are more important than what was achieved for the first time by those two brothers, on that cold December morning in Kitty Hawk. The Wright Brothers' actions have touched every American in some way and have changed forever our international economy, the way we fight our wars and the way we live our lives. Perhaps most importantly, the invention of the airplane is a truly American accomplishment. It symbolizes a triumph of American ingenuity, determination, and hard work. Certainly this great tradition deserves the full support of our people and our Government.

The Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act will serve to honor this great American institution as it should be. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

DELIVERING FOR AMERICA

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, in literally every congressional district this past May 10, letter carriers did more than deliver the mail. They also collected food donations along their routes to help needy families in their own communities.

In only its fifth year, the National Association of Letter Carriers' national food drive delivered more than 72.3 million pounds of donations to local food banks and pantries, and just at a time when supplies were getting low.

I want to congratulate those letter carriers who helped in the drive as well as NALC's partners in the effort—the U.S. Postal Service, the AFL-CIO, and local United Ways—and also the Campbell Soup Co., which not only donated 20 million pounds of canned goods, but also printed 92 million postcard flyers to help get citizen participation.