

members from employers outside of those who already belong while they wait for the final ruling. In addition to this disruption in the industry, if this case stands, credit unions may be forced to exclude all employers with the exception of the single original employer that the credit union received its charter to serve.

Mr. Speaker, credit unions are the last source of financial services for millions of Americans who do not have the credit background to receive help from traditional banking institutions. If this case is allowed to stand, as many as 10 million current credit union members could be expelled from their credit unions, and services could be interrupted for all 70 million American credit union members. Many critics of credit unions feel that they have become a threat to the banking industry. However, according to the Credit Union National Association, the average credit union has less than \$28 million in assets—less than one-sixteenth the size of the average bank. In fact, Chase and Citibank, the two largest U.S. banks, combined have more assets than the aggregate holdings of all 12,047 credit unions. I do believe that banks play an important role in America's economy, but I believe that a balance can be found between their needs and those of the credit union industry. Banks are likely to remain America's chief source of financial services, but there is no reason that a thriving credit union industry cannot survive and continue to serve those people who cannot be helped by banks. Mr. Speaker, it could take many months before the Supreme Court makes its final decision on this case. The credit union industry can not hang in limbo while it waits for the Supreme Court to act. Representative LATOURETTE has introduced a bill to this Congress in order to clarify this issue. The Credit Union Membership Access Act of 1997, of which I am a cosponsor, will protect the status quo by allowing employees from more than one company to become members of the same credit union. I support this legislation wholeheartedly, and I urge this Congress to act to prevent a disaster for America's credit union industry.

HELP COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSURE

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that will facilitate the swift transfer of closed military bases to local communities. This action is necessary because current law hinders the large and complex transfer of military base property with economic redevelopment in mind.

Many of the laws governing the reuse of military bases are antiquated and filled with confusing terms and conditions. One major existing hindrance is a clause prohibiting the obtaining of profit by local communities. This is a problem because it prevents local communities from generating profits through subleasing for the purpose of reinvestment to maintain and improve landscaping, maintenance, and infrastructure. The remedy for this situation is to replace the clause with legislation embodying the provisions of the base closure laws and amendments of the 1990's.

The interim lease provisions have not been as successful as planned because many of the terms and conditions act as disincentives to economic development conveyance. For example, there is no commitment for final ownership by Federal agencies upon assumption of control or occupancy of transferred property. Commercial firms are willing to enter into leases, but are refusing this option because of the lack of commitment for final ownership. In addition, the new occupants of closed base property are unable to conduct major renovations unless they agree to restore the property to its original condition. Many of the facilities require major alterations from their original condition just to bring them to local code standards. Why are we requiring restoration of undesired conditions? This makes no sense and ultimately results in taxpayer waste.

Prior to 1996, departure of Federal agencies reverted property to the Federal Government for disposal by GSA. A leaseback provision was established in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996 to protect communities from a Federal agency revolving door. Under this law, property approved for Federal usage would be transferred to the local redevelopment agency, then leased to a Federal agency at no cost for up to 50 years. The reasoning behind this is to ensure transfer of property to local communities in the event of departure by Federal agencies. The lack of a mandatory requirement for leaseback acceptance allows for circumvention of the legislative intent. In Orlando, FL, the Veterans Administration has requested Orlando Naval Training Center property through the Federal screen process. VA has refused to enter into a long-term lease which would allow enactment of a leaseback provision. This creates major problems for community redevelopment authorities as it limits their ability to finalize reuse plans. My legislation guarantees an option for communities to obtain reuse property after the departure from the property by the first Federal agency lessee.

We must allow common sense to prevail in this base reuse process. There are some instances where it makes sense to lease to organizations affiliated with the branch of service that previously occupied the base property. This is currently prohibited, yet doesn't it make sense to relocate recruiting stations, reserve centers, and military processing centers onto closed base property? This type of action will allow these units to function in a military environment while reducing taxpayer burden generated by lease of civilian property.

The four branches of the U.S. Armed Services are currently able to contract with local governments for fire and police services for 6 months prior to the closure of a base. Families remaining on closed bases need these services, yet there is no provision for bases being closed in phases as the services do not define phased closures as operational. In simpler terms, local communities bear the burden for fire and police services because the service branches are unable to contract for services.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I'm introducing today will make major strides in reforming the base closure reuse process. We must enact this legislation to protect our local communities. I urge my colleagues' support.

HONORING DAVID ALLEX

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend David Allex of Harlingen, TX, and to commend his life's work of improving the economic conditions of south Texas.

David is a legend in south Texas. He has served as the president of the Harlingen Industrial Foundation, Inc. [HIFI] since its inception in 1968. That is an incredible tenure, but David Allex is quite the economic pioneer. Few people have had the effect that David has had on the economic fortunes of the south Texas business and professional community. David is leaving HIFI, and his presence will be sorely missed.

During David's tenure, his efforts attracted a host of industries to the south Texas area. He was actively involved in bringing the following companies to the Rio Grande Valley: Tex Steel, Fruit of the Loom, Anderson, Greenwood and Co., Valley International Cold Storage, Atlantic-Durant Technology, Inc., Tadm, Levi Strauss, William Carter Co., Velcon Filters, and Allocorp.

The high unemployment rate in the valley has always been my paramount concern since coming to Congress. These companies would not have relocated to south Texas if not for David's assertiveness and commitment to the economic development of our area. His vision, innovation, and ideas have made the valley a force in our Nation's new economy.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the quality, loyalty, integrity, and accomplishments of David's service to the economy of south Texas. I offer David my personal thanks and best wishes.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA STEIN

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to pay a well earned tribute to Marcia Stein, who retired from this body on January 20, 1997. For 15 years, Marcia provided exemplary service as one of the Official Reporters of the House. She and her husband, Robert P. (Bob) Stein, an oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, are present this morning, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to commend Marcia for her outstanding service to this institution.

A native of Abilene, KS, Marcia attended Phillips University in Enid, OK, before relocating to the Washington, DC, area. After working for a number of years at Andrews Air Force Base, she attended Strayer College and graduated as a court reporter in 1975. She worked several years as a freelance reporter before joining the staff of the Official Reporters of the House on November 12, 1981. Marcia especially enjoyed specializing in hearings on national security and intelligence; 10 of her 15 years were spent as a reporter for the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security. Some of the highlights of her Hill career included reporting the Iran-Contra hearings and

traveling to Bonn, Germany, and other parts of the globe to report field hearings.

Now that Marcia has retired, she is able to devote more time to pursuing her favorite pastimes of golf, she carries an 18 handicap, and duplicate bridge. She has been a life master in duplicate bridge since 1968. She also enjoys reading and snorkeling. Marcia and Bob are the proud parents of 4 children: Danise, David, Adam, and Jason; and 2 grandchildren, Allison and Jacob.

Marcia has enjoyed observing history in the making, and she feels privileged to have been assigned to report some of the most interesting events taking place in this august body. Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with her during her distinguished career, also feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with an individual of such outstanding ability and professionalism.

Thank you Marcia for your service to your country and to the House of Representatives. I wish you and Bob a long, healthy, and prosperous retirement.

SALUTING WILSON A. ROGERS OF
CLEVELAND, OH

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and hard work of a constituent who has been honored recently for his distinguished service to his field and his community. Wilson A. Rogers of Cleveland, an owner and operator of McDonald's restaurants, was recently bestowed the prestigious Ronald McDonald Award. This award is the highest award given to an owner/operator and covers 40 regions. Mr. Wilson earned this award through this outstanding work in his local community and for outstanding management.

Wilson Rogers has been a part of the McDonald's team for more than 22 years. His interest in becoming a restaurateur was sparked by reading about the opportunities of owning a McDonald's franchise in the newspaper. He had learned the lessons of success through hard work on his family's farm in South Point, OH, but what he has given back to his community comes straight from his heart.

Mr. Rogers has a rich history of involvement with the future of the youth of our community. His passion for academic achievement brought about the creation of the McDonald's Martin Luther King Scholarship and Exhibition at Cuyahoga Community College. This project made a 5-year \$50,000 contribution to the Tri-C/MLK scholarship program and created an exhibit for the college to honor the late civil rights leader. He has also aided many disadvantaged students who might not otherwise attend college through the United Negro College Fund. He has chaired and cochaired the UNCF Telethon and Golf Tournament and now sits on their advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, among other efforts to help children get ahead, Wilson Rogers was instrumental in helping the Achievement Center for Children secure a grant from Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. Mr. Rogers also helps feed the hungry and homeless, and is a past

board member of the Harvard Community Center. His dedication to the Greater Cleveland area and improving the lives of others speaks volumes about his character. This devoted husband and father, businessman, and philanthropist has brought much to those around him and those he may never meet. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the admirable personal and professional accomplishments of Mr. Wilson Rogers.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB GRIFFITTS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a great American, my friend, Bob Griffiths. Bob turns 50 today, and in some ways, I am sure that he does not want a lot of attention called toward this occasion.

Bob has never been one to seek attention or publicity or credit at any time. But this should be a special day in his life, and he deserves a lot more credit and praise than he ever receives.

Bob Griffiths is my district director and long-time closest personal friend. He spends his days quietly helping the constituents of the second district and over the last 8½ years has helped thousands in ways big and small. He works nights, weekends, and holidays and never really leaves the job behind. People would be shocked if they followed him around for a few weeks and saw how many hours he puts in.

Bob serves the people of east Tennessee at a personal financial sacrifice. Before taking his present job, he was a very successful realtor and appraiser.

He handled many commercial real estate deals for groups of doctors and other investors. He had many leading companies as clients of his appraisal business.

Throughout his career, both in business and politics, he has always inspired a great feeling of trust and confidence in all those with whom he has dealt.

There is not a dishonest or unethical bone in Bob Griffiths' body.

Always giving of himself to others, Bob has almost never asked anything for himself.

He has served this Nation well, through our great free enterprise system, in government, and through two other very important ways as well.

First, while he almost never mentions it and no, very few people know it, Bob is a veteran of the frontlines of some of the toughest fighting which went on in Vietnam.

He was and is a courageous, patriotic man who deeply loves this country.

Hardened in numerous wartime battles, he is the kind of man you want beside you when times get tough.

He would be embarrassed to be described in this manner, but to me he is a true American hero.

Secondly, and most important of all, he is a devoted family man.

He has had a long and happy marriage to his wife, Barbara, and his loyalty and friendship to me is without question a distant second to his love for and devotion to her.

There is, though another woman in Bob's life, and no man has ever loved a daughter more than Bob loves his Deena.

Deena has grown into a beautiful young woman, a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee and now getting off to a great start in a career with one of Knoxville's most respected insurance firms.

Deena has never let her dad down and has made him a proud and happy father for many years.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, Bob Griffiths is the kind of man who has made this country great. He is not rich or famous, but he is well-known and greatly respected in his beloved east Tennessee.

He deserves very much to be considered as one of our Nation's finest citizens.

On this special milestone in his life, I would like say happy birthday and best wishes for many, many more.

I could never repay Bob for all he has done for me, or thank him nearly enough. But I will close by saying that I am very proud to call him my friend.

THE TAXPAYER BROWSING
PROTECTION ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor, along with my Democratic and Republican colleagues, a bill titled the "Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act." As the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee Oversight Subcommittee, I have worked with the IRS Commissioner and the other subcommittee members in support of the legislation being introduced today.

Most recently, the IRS Commissioner wrote me and renewed her request that legislation be introduced to clarify the criminal sanctions for unauthorized access to or inspection of tax information, referred to as browsing, by IRS employees. A copy of the Commissioner's March 10, 1997, letter follows my statement and is included in the RECORD.

Importantly, this bill would prohibit unauthorized review of tax information, retained by the IRS in both paper and electronic form. Violators would be subject to significant criminal sanctions, including monetary fines and imprisonment, and dismissal from IRS employment.

This legislation will significantly enhance the IRS's current zero tolerance policy for illegal browsing of tax information. The public will benefit from this legislation knowing that their tax records are only inspected by IRS employees who need the information as part of their job responsibility. Also, all the hardworking and committed IRS employees nationwide will benefit from this legislation knowing that a bad apple hired by the IRS will be quickly removed from the agency and punished under the law.

I look forward to working with the members of the Committee on Ways and Means, on a bipartisan basis, to approve this legislation and to bring the bill to the House floor in a timely manner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Washington, DC, March 10, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM J. COYNE,
Subcommittee on Oversight, Committee on Ways
and Means, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. COYNE: I wanted to let you know about a case that was recently decided by