

under the Multidistrict Litigation statute. It obviously promotes judicial administrative efficiency.

Section 3 of the bill consists of the text of H.R. 967, the "Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999," which I introduced on March 3rd. This is a bill that the House of Representatives passed during the 101st and 102nd Congresses with Democratic majorities. The Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported this bill during the 103rd Congress, also under a Democratic majority, and just last term the House approved the legislation as Section 10 of H.R. 1252, the "Judicial Reform Act." The Judicial Conference and the Department of Justice have supported this measure in the past.

Section 3 of the bill would bestow original jurisdiction on federal district courts in civil actions involving minimal diversity jurisdiction among adverse parties based on a single accident—like a plane or train crash—where at least 25 persons have either died or sustained injuries exceeding \$50,000 per person. The transferee court would retain those cases for determination of liability and punitive damages, and would also determine the substantive law that would apply for liability and punitive damages. If liability is established, the transferee court would then remand the appropriate cases back to the federal and state courts from which they were referred for a determination of compensatory and actual damages.

Mr. Speaker, Section 3 will help to reduce litigation costs as well as the likelihood of forum shopping in mass tort cases. An effective one-time determination of punitive damages would eliminate multiple or inconsistent awards arising from multiforum litigation. At the same time, however, trial attorneys will have the opportunity to go before juries in their home states for compensatory and actual damages.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a hearing on this measure which will take place before the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property.

The legislation speaks to process, fairness, and judicial efficiency. It will not interfere with jury verdicts or compensation rates for litigators. I therefore urge my colleagues to support the Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999 when it is reported to the House of Representatives for consideration.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MORRIS JAMES BOYD

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the accomplishments of a truly outstanding individual, Major General Morris J. Boyd, U.S. Army. General Boyd will soon be completing his assignment as the Deputy Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood, which will bring to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army. It is a pleasure for me to recognize just a few of his many outstanding achievements.

General Boyd, a native of Oakland, California, entered the Army in April 1965. Upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in

March 1966 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Field Artillery. He has served in a wide variety of Field Artillery and Aviation assignments in Infantry, Air Cavalry, Mechanized, and Armored Divisions. He has commanded at battery, battalion, and brigade levels and served as Deputy Commander, V Corps Artillery, Frankfurt, Germany, and as Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Staff assignments have been at battalion through Department of the Army. His most recent staff tours include an assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine (Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command), followed by assignment to Washington, DC, as the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison. Major General Boyd's overseas tours include Greece and Germany; two combat tours in Vietnam, one as a field artilleryman, the other as an aviator; and one in Southwest Asia, where he commanded the 42nd Field Artillery Brigade as part of VII Corps, during Operation Desert Storm. General Boyd served a tour of duty at Fort Hood during 1971-1972 with 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, 2d Armored Division, as Battalion S-3 and Battery Commander.

Major General Boyd holds Bachelor of Arts and Masters degrees in Business Administration. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, the Fixed Wing Aviator Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal (12th Award), Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. He has also earned the Parachutist Badge, Senior Aviator Wings, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

Major General Boyd and his wife Maddie live at Fort Hood, Texas. They have one son, Ray, who resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, General Boyd has devoted his life to preserve the peace that we enjoy. He is truly a great American and has served his country with honor and distinction. I wish him well in the days ahead and am proud to recognize his achievements today.

#### HONORING THE SLATEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Slateville Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary Celebration. I am pleased and proud to bring the history of this church to the attention of my colleagues.

The church, located in Delta, Pennsylvania, was founded in the summer of 1849. It was one of six churches that stemmed from the first Presbyterian Church west of the Susquehanna River in the southern region of York County, the Log Church in the Barrens. In its

150 years of existence, the church has been home to a tightly-woven community whose faith and fellowship are a source of inspiration in the area.

I send my sincere best wishes as the Slateville Presbyterian Church celebrates this milestone in its history, and hope that the new millennium will see this community prosper and be strengthened in its faith.

#### CONGRATULATING EXCEPTIONAL PARENTS UNLIMITED OF FRESNO

##### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Exceptional Parents Unlimited of Fresno for receiving the Daily Points of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C. The Points of Light Foundation, established by President George Bush, recognizes individuals and groups that give service to their communities.

Exceptional Parents was founded 22 years ago by a registered nurse Marion Karian, who still runs the organization today. It began as a support group at University Medical Center of Fresno, California, for parents of children with Down Syndrome, and has grown into a large, non-profit organization, which serves the family members of children with special needs. Marion states, "When there is a child with disabilities it affects the whole family. Our approach is to help the whole family."

The heart of the organization's program is providing support, education and advocacy assistance to families of disabled children, including siblings and grandparents. An early-intervention program targets families with children up to three years of age. It offers developmental assessment and assistance including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. It enhances the development of infants and toddlers with disabling conditions and minimizes their potential for developmental delays. There is also a Family Resource Network which provides multicultural parent training and information, a Safe and Healthy Families program and Child Abuse Prevention services which is one in seven in the state, funded by the Department of Social Services. All of these services are free to the public.

"We can give out lots of technical information, and we do," says Marion, "but what parents can do for other parents is empowering. When a new parent gets together with an experienced parent and finds out he is not in isolation, not alone, they connect. We strengthen families and enables them to handle their own situations, that is the thread of who and what we are."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Exceptional Parents Unlimited for receiving the Daily Points of Light Award. The service of emotional and educational empowerment is invaluable to families of disabled children. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing this organization many years of continued success and service to their community.

THE HONORABLE BOB BADHAM'S  
70TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 1999*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable man who is celebrating his 70th birthday today. The Honorable Bob Badham is a former colleague, a leader, and a friend.

Congressman Badham served 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives before he retired in 1988. During my freshman term Bob helped me immensely through his advice and friendship. Today, I am honored to serve many of the constituents that live in parts of his former district.

Congressman Badham has an astute mind and was one of the most knowledgeable members the House Armed Services Committee has known. He was a senior member of the North Atlantic Assembly, which is the legislative arm of NATO, during some of the most crucial times since they were formed.

During Mr. Badham's tenure on the Armed Services Committee he was known on both sides of the aisle as an expert on military matters. He spent many hours evaluating weapons and systems for the benefit of his committee colleagues. Bob has been a valuable service to the defense of this great nation.

I would like to congratulate Bob on his 70th birthday. He has served this country with distinction. I wish him and his family all the best for the future.

**A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DOUGHERTY  
RECIPIENT OF THE UNICO GOLD  
MEDAL**

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 1999*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipient of the 1999 Unico Gold Medal of Achievement, John Dougherty. Unico is continuing its tradition of honoring outstanding Union Leaders with the prestigious Unico Gold Medal of Achievement Award. This year the Greater Philadelphia Chapter Unico has selected John Dougherty, Business Manager of Local 98, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

John began his apprenticeship with Local Union 98, IBEW, in 1981. Active in many positions in the union, he was elected to the Electric Machinists Association in 1987 and in 1998 was unanimously elected to the local Union's Executive Board. In 1993, at the age of 33, John became the youngest Business Manager in the history of Local Union 98.

Since becoming Business Manager, John has given of himself tirelessly. Currently he is President of the Philadelphia Mechanical Trades Council, Vice President of the Philadelphia Building Trade Council, and Vice President of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO. John has been noted by the Philadelphia Business Journal as one of the "Forty under Forty". He sits on both the board of the Philadelphia Inter-Land Commission and the Penns Landing Corporation, and has been chosen to rep-

resent Mayor Rendell on the Mayor's Telecommunications Advisory Commission and also on the Airport Advisory Board.

In conclusion, it is with great pride that I rise to announce the presentation of the Unico Gold Medal of Achievement Award to John Dougherty, a man who exemplifies the Unico Motto "Service Above All."

**INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE MODERNIZATION NO. 10: THE PAPERLESS CLAIMS PROMOTION ACT OF 1999**

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Paperless Claims Promotion Act of 1999, the 10th in a series of Medicare modernization bills designed to improve program administration and the quality of the health care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA), included a number of administrative reforms for Medicare. The submission of electronic claims to Medicare instead of traditional paper claims is one of the main aspects of those administrative simplification efforts.

Currently, a large majority of providers submit their claims utilizing an electronic system. In fact, as of January 1998, about 96 percent of all Medicare Part A claims were submitted electronically while 80 percent of all Medicare Part B claims were submitted in electronic formats. These numbers have continued to increase in the past year.

While these numbers are commendable, the providers who have not yet begun to submit claims electronically are a real concern. Allowing paper claims to be submitted indefinitely will require duplicative systems that will create additional costs and inefficiencies for the Medicare system.

The Administration has responded to this situation by proposing that by the beginning of fiscal year 2000 (October 1, 1999), any claims not submitted electronically will be subject to an administrative fee of \$1. Since that announcement, they have assumed an additional 6 month delay in implementation due to Y2K activities.

Unfortunately, however, such action is likely to have a disproportionate effect on smaller and rural providers that have been less aggressive in developing electronic information systems in their offices.

I understand that developing such systems is labor intensive and expensive. Therefore to accommodate those providers who have not yet developed the capability to submit paperless claims, my bill proposes that the administrative fees charged for claims submitted in paper format would become effective as of January 1, 2003.

In addition my bill would also grant the Secretary the power to waive the imposition of this administrative fee under certain circumstances, as she deems appropriate.

To facilitate the implementation of electronic submission, my bill would also require the Secretary to make public domain software readily available at no charge.

Converting to an all electronic claims system is a critical aspect of modernizing the

Medicare program. In doing so, we must also be certain that we do not unfairly penalize providers in this process. My bill would allow providers ample time to get up to speed with the process prior to the imposition of administration fees for non-compliance.

The Paperless Claims Promotion Act of 1999 is the 10th in my series of Medicare modernizations. It is a sensible change to current law to move us an electronic filing system.

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, I rise today out of concern regarding funding for the Food Contact Notification (FCN) program in H.R. 1906, the FY 2000 Agricultural, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This program is new and provides for the expeditious review of new food contact substances. Food contact substances are products like plastic, paper, and aluminum wraps that are used as containers for food products.

It is not commonly known that these materials must be reviewed for their safety before being marketed, because they touch food products. As a result, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 included FCN to reduce the time and cost involved in marketing a new food packaging material. Although FDA began the initial phase of setting up this program, with \$500,000 designated for the program in FY 1999, the program cannot continue unless the Congress provides \$3 million for FY 2000.

Mr. Chairman, this program is a terrific example of real regulatory reform—it reduces the agency's workload by streamlining regulation, reduces regulatory burdens on the plastics, paper, and aluminum industries, increases the potential for new and improved products to reach consumers, and does all these things without compromising public safety.

As you well know, the Congress is not able to fund every program and we have to make some very difficult choices. However, I believe it would be unfortunate to let this good idea languish. While the Administration and the Appropriations Committee may prefer funding this program with user fees, discussion of such a proposal has not even begun. Even if agreement was near, it will be difficult to enact the authorization this year. As we move to Conference, I urge the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Agricultural Appropriations Committee to seriously consider funding this program at the authorized level in the event that a fee system is not enacted in time for FY 2000.