

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a prior commitment, I was unavoidably detained during the following rollcall votes. Had I been there, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 302; "no" on rollcall vote No. 303; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 304; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 305; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 306; and "no" on rollcall vote No. 307.

HECTOR G. GODINEZ POST OFFICE BILL

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the House of Representatives to introduce a bill to rename the Santa Ana U.S. Postal Processing Center after a true American, Hector G. Godinez. Mr. Godinez gave so much to his country and community, and this bill will recognize his life long efforts.

Santa Ana has been Mr. Godinez' home since 1925. After graduating from high school he joined the military, beginning his service to our country. He served during World War II and in recognition of his strength and bravery in General Patton's tank unit, was awarded a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

When Mr. Godinez returned home from the war, he decided to continue his record of public service as a letter carrier. During his 48 years in the U.S. Postal Service he rose from letter carrier to Southern California District Manager.

Mr. Godinez' belief that individual action can help build a better community is clearly illustrated by his active involvement in Santa Ana. Mr. Godinez was deeply committed to the Orange County District Boy Scouts of America and was their chairman in 1985. He served as president of the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce and was a board member of the California Regional Center Program for Handicapped and Special Needs Children in Orange County.

Mr. Godinez was a founding member of the Santa Ana League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council and served on the Board of Directors LULAC Foundation. He and the other Santa Ana LULAC members were participants and supporters in the 1948 case of *Mendez v. The Board of Education*, a monumental civil rights case ending discriminatory practices against Mexican American children in Orange County schools.

He guided our citizens through decades of change in California, both as a public servant and an activist. Our lives as Orange County residents are better for his life's work, and as his Congressional representative, I feel obligated to seek this honor on his family and community's behalf.

I believe it is only fitting to honor this man who gave so much to his community and country. I hope my colleagues will support this bill to name the Santa Ana U.S. Postal Processing Center after Hector Godinez.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE E. "SHORTY" MCGRAW

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Arkansan. This man served his country with intelligence, courage, and dedication, Mr. George E. "Shorty" McGraw.

Mr. McGraw was born in 1918 in Gillett, Arkansas. He worked as an auto mechanic until 1941, when he enlisted into the military. Mr. McGraw went on to graduate from Air Mechanic School and Flight Engineer School. He later served overseas with the Twentieth Air Force, 6th Bomb Group. On July 20, 1945, while flying his 33rd mission, Mr. McGraw was shot down and wounded. He was captured, beaten, and taken as a prisoner of war until his release on his 27th birthday. Mr. McGraw later attended Navigator Training School. He eventually retired as a Captain in 1961 with a total of 10,000 flying hours over his twenty years of service.

George E. "Shorty" McGraw is not only a wonderful citizen, neighbor and friend, he is a brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is the heart and soul of his community. Captain McGraw was recently bestowed with a Purple Heart for his selfless service of his country. His devotion and love for his country never diminished. Captain McGraw serves as an inspiration to all.

A DIPLOMAT'S DIPLOMAT RETURNS HOME

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, Mr. Pat Hennessy, the Political Counselor at the Irish Embassy here in Washington, returns home for service in his government's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The DFA's gain will be our loss here in America at a critical point in Irish history.

Pat is known to many of us in the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, as a diplomat's diplomat. He previously served with distinction in the Irish Consulate in New York City before his tenure at the Irish Embassy here in Washington. In New York, he got to know and worked closely with the large Irish American community and the many friends of Ireland in America's largest and greatest city. He understands our nation and people well.

Pat has worked tirelessly for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland during his service in the U.S. He has also helped to advance greater U.S.-Irish relations in many areas, whether cultural, economic or otherwise.

During an important transition to Republican control of the House and new congressional leadership in the cause of lasting peace and justice in Ireland and improved U.S.-Irish relations, Pat did not miss a beat. He treated all of those many friends of Ireland equally and fairly.

In 1997, then-Speaker Newt Gingrich reintroduced the long dormant Irish American

interparliamentary exchange. Pat has played a vital role in fostering and improving these parliamentary exchanges since then.

Our sessions on both sides of the Atlantic since 1997 have served to further the bonds of friendship and understanding between the Congress and the Dail, the Irish Parliament, in Dublin. They increased interest in the Congress on events in Ireland, whether in the north, or the Republic in the south with its booming economy and many American firms' vast investment in the "Celtic Tiger."

The success of these legislative exchange programs is in no small part due to Pat's efforts and the growing and expanding U.S.-Ireland links in so many areas of common interest and support. We wish Pat and his wife Pauline and their family much happiness and success as he returns to Ireland.

Our door will always be open when Pat decides to return to America, whenever or in whatever capacity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday July 15, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 302. If I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on this amendment.

THEATER HIGH ALTITUDE AREA DEFENSE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends this editorial from the July 15, 1999, Norfolk Daily News to his colleagues regarding the need for development of the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in light of recent successful tests and North Korea's intention to launch a long range missile capable of reaching Alaska or Hawaii.

IT CAN BE DONE—FIRST "HIT" OF MISSILE INTERCEPT SYSTEM AN INDICATION THE TECHNOLOGY DOES WORK

In hindsight, it would appear that the media gave too little coverage to a report several weeks ago that had U.S. intelligence sources confirming that North Korea is preparing a late-summer launch of its Taepo Dong 2 missile, an ICBM capable of reaching Alaska or Hawaii. This will make North Korea one of only a few countries above to strike U.S. soil with long-range missiles.

But what should be given even bigger coverage is the news that the U.S. Army's new anti-missile system successfully intercepted a target ballistic missile launched 120 miles away in a test that was conducted last month.

Without using an explosive warhead, the interceptor destroyed the incoming missile by crashing into it at an altitude of almost 60 miles. What's called the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) is designed, however, to defeat intermediate-range missiles. That means it will not be able to stop North Korea's Taepo Dong 2. But it proves that "hit-to-kill" technology can work,

which is something critics of missile defense have long denied.

The challenge now is to build an effective defense against long-range missiles that builds on THAAD's success. This will require much more development and testing, and much more support from Congress and the Clinton administration.

The fact that it took the Army seven tests to score the first THAAD "hit" is not an argument against missile defense but an argument for investing more in anti-missile technologies. It can be done, but it's a difficult proposition.

Unfortunately, the United States cannot make progress as long as the Clinton administration observes the restrictions of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. As a matter of international law the treaty is defunct since the United States' signing partner, the Soviet Union, ceased to exist in 1991. Misplaced devotion for the ABM Treaty hampers the development, testing and deployment of certain kinds of missile defense, ensuring that any system will be less capable than it otherwise could be.

IN MEMORY OF VICTORIA "VIKKI"
BUCKLEY (1947-1999)

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Colorado State Secretary, Victoria "Vikki" Buckley: a wife and mother of three, a public servant, a self made individual, and a leading citizen of the Denver Metro Area, in Colorado, who passed away last week.

Vikki Buckley was a courageous political leader who worked in the Secretary of State office for the citizens of Colorado for more than a quarter century. Few realize that Vikki, a Denver Native, began working in the secretary of state office 28 years earlier. She had been a welfare mom and actively removed herself from a system that she believed fosters dependency.

Many people have read about individuals who lift themselves through their own dedication and efforts, but it is seldom that they rise so quickly to an elected office. Vikki was educated in the Denver Public Schools attending East High School. She continued her education at Metro State College and then the Seible School of Engineering in Englewood where she received an Associates Degree in drafting. She was an active participant at Heritage Christian Center and in various political organizations including the Aurora Republican Forum and the Araphahoe County Republican Men's Club. She spoke frequently on issues of community and inclusion from the perspective of an American woman who happened to be black and Republican.

Elected Secretary of State in 1994, Vikki was the first American of African descent elected to a statewide constitutional office in Colorado. As a Republican, she was noted as the highest ranking African American female holding statewide office in America. She has been featured in publications from the controversial Limbaugh Letter (June 1999) to the Ladies Home Journal ("Against All Odds").

She was a rising star that believed in making government work for people. She was loved by friends and admired for her courage

of conviction. My heart goes out to her entire family upon their loss. I am honored to have known Vikki.

Governor Bill Owens released the following statement, "I join all Coloradans in being deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Colorado Secretary of State Vikki Buckley. She overcame many challenges in life and achieved high office in our state through determination and hard work. Vikki's competitive spirit paved the way for her election as Colorado's first African-American Secretary of State. Frances and I and our three children express our profound sympathy to Vikki's family on behalf of all Coloradans and our appreciation for her many years of service to our state."

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States show that Vikki Buckley was a tireless advocate for the people of Colorado, and a friend of America.

THE MEAL TAX REDUCTION ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Meal Tax Reduction Act. This legislation, which I also introduced in the last session of Congress, is designed to alleviate some of the tax code inequities that hurt the food service industry. As many of my colleagues know, the food service industry is the only business specifically excluded from normal business expense deduction rules. My legislation is aimed at restoring fairness to current law.

The Meal Tax Reduction Act would partially restore the deduction permitted for meals and entertainment expenses to 80 percent. While I believe we should eventually reinstate the meal tax to 100 percent, this legislation takes the first steps to gradually restore the tax to at least the pre-1993 level of 80 percent.

Under the Balanced Budget Act, transportation workers can already deduct a higher percentage of their meal expenses than other workers, and transport workers will eventually be able to deduct 80 percent of their food expenses. My legislation would simply extend the deductions already put in place for the transportation industry, so that fairness is ensured for everyone.

This important legislation would eventually allow someone starting a small business, working away from home on a construction job, or traveling away on business to take a reasonable tax deduction for food expenses.

Since the law was changed in 1993 to a 50 percent meal tax deduction there has been a notable has had a negative effect on the restaurant sector of our economy. And the restaurant industry employs millions of people. Restoring the meal tax deduction would help create new jobs in our economy, often for people who are trying to enter the workforce for the first time. If welfare to work is to be fully implemented, we need to create the kind of entry level positions and entrepreneurial opportunities that are often the first steps up the ladder to the American Dream.

In addition, law penalizes and de-legitimizes the food service. The Meal Tax Reduction Act would begin moving the restaurant industry to

ward parity with other businesses. The act immediately increases the meal tax deduction to 60 percent next year, and eventually to 80 percent by the year 2008. My legislation gradually fixes the meal tax inequity.

Lastly, I want to note that since the introduction of my legislation last year, that support for meal tax equity has been steadily increasing. In fact, Chairman Bill Archer of the Ways and Means Committee has included meal tax reductions in his comprehensive tax plan that are very similar to legislation for which I have been advocating. There is nothing like an idea whose time has come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
TELECOMMUTING AND AIR
QUALITY ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, traffic congestion and lack of mobility threatens not only our nation's prosperity, but quality of life and the family unit. That is why today, I am introducing the "National Telecommuting and Air Quality Act," a bill designed to reduce both air pollution and traffic congestion.

Efforts around the country to widen existing facilities and construct new bridges and highways and improve mass transit are essential. However, improved and expanded use of new technologies is also essential to meeting transportation needs.

Telecommuting is also part of the answer to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution and easing the strain on families trying to find time to raise children and make ends meet from one payday to the next. It's also part of good environmental stewardship and energy conservation. Many jobs can be performed as well or better at home through the use of computers, faxes, email, and telephones than at an office or in other work centers.

Mr. Speaker, telecommuting, by large numbers of employees, has many positive bi-products to which I would like to draw my colleagues' attention.

Traffic congestion: In cities such as Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. (Numbers 1 and 2 on the gridlock list), telecommuting could reduce peak commuter traffic. According to research, 40 percent of the nation's workforce have jobs which are compatible with telecommuting. This reduction would come without paving one more lane of highway or adding one more bus or subway car. That saves money and makes everyone's life better.

Air pollution: Automobiles produce about 30 percent of urban smog. Telecommuting could take a large bite out of air pollution (including nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, lead, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and carbon dioxide). The result helps now and leaves a better world for our kids.

Family wellness: Telecommuting gives workers more time to spend at home. Parents could care for infants or small children while they work. The stress of what to do with an ill relative—an older parent afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, for example—can be lessened. Working moms and dads could be better and more nurturing parents without having to leave the workforce. Instead of choices, there are good choices.