

international child abduction in my home State of Pennsylvania, I formulated legislation which created punitive measures to respond to these crimes. I had hoped that when we passed that measure, now Public Law 103-173, the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993, that tragic instances of child abduction would be halted. Unfortunately, I was wrong.

Imagine that your former spouse—who does not have custodial rights of your children—comes to your home and picks up your kids for a weekly visit. Then imagine that you discover your spouse has taken your children to a foreign country, and you have little recourse in getting your children back. Sadly, this happens more than 1,000 times each year.

Prior to passage of this legislation, there was no Federal law that addressed this heinous crime. Now, this law provides both deterrence and prevention. For anyone convicted of unlawfully kidnapping their child and taking him or her overseas, a one- to three-year jail term and stiff fines can be expected. In addition, this legislation established educational programs for judges and others involved in custody proceedings that continue to serve as preventive measures. By passing that law, Congress for the first time put the weight of Federal law behind our desire that children never be taken away from a loving parent.

Yesterday the House of Representatives debated and passed the Gibbons amendment to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. Representative GIBBONS, like myself six years ago, has diligently worked with the State Department in order to find a resolution to this same problem that plagues families across the country. His amendment helps prevent international child abduction by ensuring that in order for a child to be issued a passport, certain requirements must be met by her/his legal guardians.

I applaud the efforts of Representative GIBBONS and I wholly support his amendment. As Members of Congress, we should do all we can to end the nightmare of international parental child abductions.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH E. BEASLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL #66

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor my longtime friend, Mr. Joseph E. Beasley. On June 30th, Mr. Beasley retired from the International Union of Operating Engineers, bringing to a close a career that spanned five decades.

After serving his country in the military, Mr. Beasley joined the work force in Pittsburgh. Soon after, he joined the Union and began what would become a 49 year association with the Operating Engineers. Mr. Beasley served in a wide variety of capacities during this tenure, distinguishing himself through dedication and hard work.

Mr. Beasley's career began with his election to the position of Financial Secretary for the Local Union in 1972. He held this position until his 1981 election to Business Manager, a seat

he held until his retirement. In addition, Mr. Beasley served as Vice-President of the Pittsburgh Building Trades Counsel and Chairman of the Local 66 Pension and Annuity and Welfare Funds.

In addition to his work on the local level, Mr. Beasley also served as an International Trustee and the eleventh General Vice President of the International Union of Operating Engineers. Most recently, he served as the Vice-President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and as Secretary Treasurer of the Northeastern States Conference of Operating engineers.

Mr. Beasley's accomplishments throughout his career have gained him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. He has proven himself a great asset to not only the state of Pennsylvania but also hard working men and women across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Beasley for all his efforts throughout his nearly fifty year career. I wish him the best in his much deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BATEMAN Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent and missed rollcall vote No. 327 on July 21, 1999. The vote was on the Bilbrey amendment to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. I include in the RECORD that I would have voted "aye" had I been present.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT THROUGH EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS TO AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, we know that today our armed forces are facing serious shortfalls in recruitment. Already, these shortfalls are having a dangerous impact on our Nation's military readiness. We will have all the best tools, and no one to fight the war. In part, the problem may be caused by a blessing: America's flourishing economy, which leads our young people to enter a booming job market rather than the rigors of military service. Therefore, it is essential for our national security that our government do all it can to support our armed forces in effectively communicating to young people of recruitment age the advantages and benefits of service.

Honor, patriotism, and the desire for adventure still engage and motivate America's young men and women. America's armed forces offer the opportunity to be part of something meaningful, to learn self-discipline and sacrifice. For many idealistic young people, that offers them an experience unmatchable elsewhere. So we have to get the message out about what service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines means to their country, and what opportunities such service entails. And we must recognize that in today's world,

we are competing with some of the most effective marketing and recruitment techniques ever devised by U.S. companies, which quite reasonably want to catch as many of the best and the brightest as they can for themselves.

Therefore, it is essential that we convey our message by the most effective means possible, employing language and images engaging to young Americans of recruitment age. Programming messages by the U.S. Navy have scored significant recruiting success in recent months, partially reversing the downward trend of Navy recruitment. Programming directed toward high school students for post-graduation enlistment can be particularly well targeted and unusually effective means of increasing awareness of the military service option and positive attitudes towards it. As a result of this exposure, students in the Channel One schools are more likely to consider enlisting.

Mr. Speaker, the use of innovative methods to educate and encourage young people about the benefits of service to their country is essential in today's marketplace. Our national security demands such an effort. At the same time, service in the United States military truly provides young Americans with an opportunity to gain by giving to their country. I intend to work hard to ensure that our government expands its support for our armed forces' efforts in this direction.

CONGRATULATING THE SULPHUR ALL STAR BASEBALL TEAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like for my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the 8-year-old Sulphur All Star Baseball Team which has earned a trip to play in the Little League World Series this July 22-25.

The Sulphur All Stars have won their last three tournaments to reach this point. In the process, the All Stars placed 2nd in the State of Louisiana and was also awarded a trophy for the "Best Defensive Team." Mr. Speaker, we are extremely proud of these young men and I wanted to briefly recognize the players and coaches at this time. The All Star players are Brady Landry, Tyler Kuykendall, Jon Thomas Chargois, Jeremy Abshire, Sha Hale, Charlie LaBoeuf, Phillip Ivey, Keith Lemelle, Jonathon LeBlanc, Mackenzie McGuane, Corbett Reed, Evan Harris, Kade Guillory, and Jacob Theriot. The All Star coaches are Terry Kuykendall, Eugene LeBlanc, Von Chargois, Mike Evans, Len Lemelle, Shannon Theriot, Buckie LeBoeuf, Jamie Guillory, Jim McGuane, and Don Hale.

I want to wish the Sulphur All Stars all the best in the World Series and I will be rooting for them from Washington!

PRIVATIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, remember that old excuse "the check is in the mail"? In the

"old days," this excuse could be used more easily than today, when the myriad of electronic options makes sending a check a nearly instantaneous procedure. In fact, they are not even called "checks" anymore, but are called electronic financial transfers. With the telecommunications, computer and information technology revolution, there are a variety of options to get a document or payment from one place to another. As we use these advancements more and more in everyday life, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is losing steam, and its revenues are being greatly affected. Some even wonder if the Postal Service will become to the 21st Century what the horse-drawn carriage was to the 20th Century.

The federal government itself is taking advantage of these developments and using electronic means to do much of its business. For example, this year, millions of Americans paid their taxes and received refunds through electronic financial transfers. Many Social Security beneficiaries also receive their payments in the same manner—an electronic deposit into their bank accounts, thereby eliminating the role of the Postal Service. And, the federal government is saving taxpayer dollars by operating in this way. It costs approximately 43 cents to send a payment by check versus 2 cents to send funds electronically. Thus, fundamental change is necessary to enable the USPS to adapt and compete in this rapidly changing world.

The USPS has conceded that they do not operate in a legislative framework that allows them to be responsive in adapting to these changes in technology and to competition with these new services. In a 1995 speech, former Postmaster General Marvin Runyon said that USPS is losing a lot of its financial and business mail due to such technological changes, which has created competition from e-mail, electronic financial transfers, fax machines, and the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, as you will agree, the vast majority of USPS employees are hard-working people who want to deliver their product in the fastest, most efficient way possible. For the most part, the problem is not with the employees of USPS—it is with the legislative mechanism that limits their ability to do their job effectively. First, the Postal Service has an absolute monopoly over first-class mail—there is no competition and thus no motivation to improve service. Also, the federal government subsidizes USPS. Thus, it has no real motivation to improve service. Also, the federal government subsidizes USPS. Thus, it has no real motivation to be in the black at the end of the year because it can borrow from the Federal Treasury when necessary. The Postal Service does not have to pay taxes, and therefore has no real incentive to improve its efficiency. In total, USPS has no motivation to become more productive and efficient because it will continue to operate due to its subsidy and a lack of competition.

For these reasons, I am reintroducing legislation to convert USPS into a totally private corporation, owned by its employees. This legislation calls for this transition to be implemented over a five-year period, after which the current monopoly over first-class mail would end. To make sure USPS has a fair chance at succeeding as a private corporation, my legislation allows for the cost-free transfer of assets currently held by USPS to the private corporation. Consequently, USPS would have an

enormous infrastructure to start with that they are already familiar with, and the ability to create new products and services to make it competitive with other corporations providing services it can only dream of challenging today. To increase the motivation of employees to work hard and make USPS competitive, the employees would own the corporation, making their earnings contingent on the amount of work they put in.

In past Congresses when I have introduced this legislation, I have been opposed by those who believe that privatization would result in the Postal Service being chased out of all metropolitan markets, leaving it with troublesome rural areas to service. With changes in technology occurring everyday, the USPS is more likely to be left with rural and bulk mail if it remains in its current government-subsidized form, than if it privatizes and has plenty of options to respond to the technology revolution.

For these reasons, I hope the employees of USPS will carefully consider this proposal and recognize its merits, as they stand the most to gain with privatization. I continue to hope that my colleagues in the House of Representatives might join me in this effort to privatize the USPS so that it will be a responsive, efficient service for all Americans to use in the years to come.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MARGARET ROACH

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, the South Florida community has lost a truly great leader. I am saddened that Margaret Blake Roach passed away at the age of 88 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on July 16, 1999. We mourn the loss of a woman whose legacy will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come.

Margaret Roach was at the forefront of the social justice movement in Broward County for three decades. Well known as the founder and president emeritus of the Urban League of Broward County, Margaret was also the founding member of the Broward/South Palm Beach region of the National Conference for Community and Justice, formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Her leadership was instrumental in the fight for social equality throughout South Florida and, indeed, the entire state of Florida as well.

During her 24 years as an administrator in Broward County Schools and a trustee and former chairperson of the board of trustees in Broward County Schools and a trustee and former chairperson of the board of trustees at Broward Community College, Margaret Roach was very active in various civic matters. Though she retired from the school district in 1975, Margaret continued to work on behalf of children nationwide. She played significant roles in the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Cleveland Clinic. It truly seems that there was no organization that worked for the greater good in Broward County in which Margaret Roach did not play a role.

Mr. Speaker, while Margaret Roach's passing is a tremendous loss for the South Florida community, I can say without hesitation that

her memory lives on through the work of the many organizations to which she dedicated her life. Margaret was an extraordinary human being who went above and beyond what she needed to be, because of her sincere desire to help others. For the thousands of lives she has touched, I thank and praise Margaret Blake Roach for her hard work, her leadership, and her compassion for others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, on rollcall 310, I inadvertently voted "no." I intended to be recorded as "yes."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Religious Liberty Protection Act.

First let me commend the gentleman from Florida, Mr. CANADY. As chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. CANADY has established himself as a stalwart in defending the Constitution and our precious right to the free exercise of the religious freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget, let us always be mindful, that the very first freedom guaranteed by our forefathers in the Bill of Rights was the right to freely exercise our religious beliefs. When we study history, we quickly recognize that this is neither coincidence nor accident that our forefathers enumerated this as the first constitutional right, for they came to this country seeking the right to freely exercise their religious beliefs. Since our first forefathers arrived on our shores until very recently this freedom has been unquestioned. Today, Americans are united on few things but we almost uniformly agree that our religious liberties should be cherished and protected.

However, sadly, in 1990 the Supreme Court, created by the very Constitution which guarantees our right to religious freedom, began, hopefully unwittingly, what constitutes as no less than an assault on this freedom. Is it not inconceivable that, of all things, of all institutions, our Supreme Court has been at the forefront of denying Americans this cherished right? They did so, in a 5-4 decision, by repealing a long-established legal principle which required the government to prove a compelling state interest before restricting religious liberty. Within a year following this unfortunate decision, Catholic prisoners were denied access to priests or their confessions were monitored, Jewish prisoners were denied the right to wear yarmulkes, and a Christian church right here in Washington, DC, was ordered to stop feeding the homeless. Congress quickly responded to this breach of protection created by the Supreme Court, and with only three dissenting votes, passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act which restored the historic compelling state interest test. It was