

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS J.W. "SKIP"
TINNEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and constituent, J.W. "Skip" Tinnen will soon be retiring from the board of directors of Saint Luke's Northland Hospital and I want to express my best wishes to him on this occasion.

Skip was first elected to the board of directors of the Spelman Memorial Hospital (which later became Saint Luke's Northland Hospital in 1978). He served as an active member of the board until January 1999, when he was elected to Emeritus status, and he continues to serve in this capacity. He is the first member of the board of Saint Luke's Northland or Spelman Memorial Hospital to serve in this role.

Skip has actively served on many committees of the hospital board including Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Joint Conference Committee, Public Relations & Personnel Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. During the years 1994 and 1995 he had a perfect attendance at hospital board meetings. He has been very active in the expansion of the hospital facility. Also, he has been an active supporter of the philanthropic efforts of the hospital which include the golf classic and serving as vice president of the Spelman Medical Foundation.

Not only has Skip served the local health care community, he is also active in many civic and community organizations. He is the owner of the Plattsburg Leader newspaper and is very active with the Northwest Missouri Press Association.

Skip Tinnen's contributions to Saint Luke's Northland Hospital, the community, the sixth Congressional District of Missouri and our Nation should not go unnoticed. For all his many efforts on behalf of that which is good in our country, I want to say "Thank you, Skip, job well done."

TRIBUTE TO HAMMOND
CARPENTERS UNION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On September 18, 1999, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599 will recognize their members with 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized at a pin ceremony during their 100 year anniversary celebration banquet to be held this Saturday at the Operating Engineers

Local 150 Hall in Merrillville, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the proto-typical American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenters Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. The members who will be honored for 60 years of service include: Frank E. Caise and Frank Rueth. The members who will be honored for 50 years of service include: Willard Rains and Wayne Verble. The members who will be honored for 45 years of service include: Ronald Carlson and Leo Ceroni. The members who will be honored for 40 years of service include: Ezequile J. Lopez and Walter Wisinski. The members who will be honored for 35 years of service include: Donald Archer, Robert L. Farkas, Paul Hornak, Joseph W. Komoroski, Robert Lowry, Harold G. McMillion, Bernard Ritchey, Edward T. Scheeringa, Darrell E. Sills, and John Verbeek. The members who will be honored for 30 years of service include: G.A. Argentine, Charles A. Gibbs, Raymond J. Maida, Rudy Medellin, and William R. Underwood. The members who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Daniel R. Brown, Timothy P. Foley, and John S. Perz.

As Orville Dewey said, "Labor is man's greatest function. He is nothing, he can be nothing, he can achieve nothing, he can fulfill nothing, without working." The men and women of Local 599, in addition to all of the local unions in Northwest Indiana, form the backbone of our economy and community. Without their blood, sweat, and tears, Indiana's First Congressional District would not be the place I love, nor would it be my proud home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenters Union Local 599, in addition to all the hard-working union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union men and women; I am proud to represent such dedicated individuals in Congress. Their hard labor and dauntless courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
BLOCKING RETURN TO WORK
HELP FOR THE NATION'S DIS-
ABLED

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, important health care legislation to provide work incentives for the disabled was unanimously passed by the Senate on June 16, 1999 (S. 331) and approved by the House Commerce Committee

on July 1st (H.R. 1180) this year. Since then, this bill which was jointly referred to the Ways and Means Committee has been stalled and blocked. The Ways and Means Committee has done nothing to move this legislation forward despite the fact that this bill is good policy and has widespread support (229 cosponsors in the House and 79 cosponsors in the Senate).

According to the Social Security Administration, 8 million people of working age now collect disability benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). While America's unemployment rate is the lowest in decades, the unemployment rate among working age adults with disability is nearly 75%. H.R. 1180 will help the disabled re-enter the workplace, yet Ways and Means refuses to act.

The current SSDI and SSI legislation forces the disabled to choose between work and health insurance coverage. The choice between being unproductive or uninsured is inherent to SSDI's and SSI's definition of disability which equates disability with unemployability. This is a distorted view in a world where individual worth and accomplishment are measured in the workplace.

Surveys show that most people of working age with disabilities want to work; however, they are fearful of losing health care coverage if they seek employment and then lose their job. The result is that less than half of one percent of SSDI beneficiaries and only about one percent of SSI beneficiaries ever actually leave the SSA disability rolls to return to work.

It is difficult to overstate the benefits associated with holding a job when you suffer from physical or mental impairment. The restoration of emotional wellbeing associated with feelings of self-worth and accomplishment causes a domino effect with a cascade of benefits that goes well beyond the monetary value of employment. It is well recognized that depression is endemic among the disabled and that depression frequently contributes to a downward spiral of hopelessness, helplessness and amplified symptoms. Doctors understand that there is no prescription in their medical bag that will remedy this vicious cycle; in the absence of a cure, what the patient really needs are the tools to adjust to chronic impairment.

Today's challenge in health care is to empower each individual to live productively in the face of impairment. We cannot delude ourselves that medicine through research and clinical excellence will master the problems of death and disability. We cannot look to new miracles to prevent, cure and effectively treat every ailment. The reality is that improving clinical practice is likely to increase, not reduce the ranks of the disabled. We bear the responsibility to integrate individuals with impairments as fully as possible into the fabric of our society. Indeed, we cannot afford to squander the skills and talents of these individuals.

The fact is we should not confuse the difference between impairment and disability.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Unfortunately, impairment is common and frequently permanent. Disability occurs when impairment has serious functional consequences. Our governmental programs should promote the realization of the full potential of the impaired individual, thereby minimizing disability. Health-promoting legislation provides incentives to return to the marketplace, providing a secure safety net for those who require it.

The Work Incentive Improvement Act is one step in the right direction—empowering individuals with impairments by emphasizing new possibilities rather than lost potential. The Ways and Means Social Security and Health Subcommittees have lost their way if we do not grasp this important opportunity to acknowledge the value of disabled Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STUDENTS OF YOUTH TOGETHER AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR "WEEK OF UNITY: ONE LAND, ONE PEOPLE"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the students of the Ninth Congressional District as they return to their classrooms for the 1999–2000 school year. In particular, I wish to highlight a group of students who are working diligently to ensure peace and harmony in our schools.

Throughout the week of September 7 through 13, 1999, students from Berkeley, Castlemont, Fremont, Richmond, and Skyline High Schools, celebrated a "Week of Unity: One Land, One People." These students are members of the Youth Together Project, a multiracial violence prevention and social justice project which operates in each of the five high schools. The event is an attempt by Youth Together students and their allies—students, teachers, parents, and community leaders—to unite students of all races together to promote unity and peace on their school campuses. It is a concept of unity, reconnecting us to our ancestors and homelands, reminding us that we are all native/tribal people struggling in an urban environment. It is based upon the creation belief held by our Native American foremothers and fathers that we are all descendants of one land and one people.

The theme for this year's event was eloquently taken from a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." Some of the many activities and initiatives held during the "Week of Unity" included: The Castlemont Unity Mural, honoring 17 Americans who have come to represent the struggle for recognition and inclusion in the ideal of a united community. The "Commitment To Peace Banner" which involved students and adults asking all students to sign a banner committing themselves to peaceful conflict resolution. In addition, a mentoring program has been proposed that would connect seniors and juniors with incoming ninth graders to help promote a safe and comfortable transition for new students.

The students hope to establish the "Week of Unity: One Land, One People" as an an-

nual event at each of their campuses. The main objectives of the event are to prevent outbreaks of violence and to set a positive tone that will determine the environment for the rest of the school year. By taking leadership and ownership of their schools, students are demonstrating through action the vision of a united community based upon principles of respect, justice and peace. These and many other initiatives stand as incontrovertible evidence that the young people of Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond have a clear understanding of the multicultural issues that exist in their communities and are not afraid to stand up and take the lead in combating problems where they exist.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say how proud I am that the students of Youth Together understand that Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders and whites must come together to work for peace and justice in our schools and communities. In addition, I believe that the work being done by students in my district proves to the world that our young people are for real in seeking peace and justice and are living and working each and every day the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO JOSÉ CHARFAUROS NEDEDOG

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sense of sadness that I acknowledge the passing of one of Guam's leaders. The Honorable José Charfauros Nededog, a member of the 4th Guam Legislature, recently passed away at the age of 79.

Senator Nededog was born on January 31, 1920, in the village of Agat—the son of Emilio Nededog and Carmen Charfauros Nededog. He attended Bishop Olaiz Elementary School in Agat and graduated from Seaton Schroeder High School in Agana. Prior to enlisting in the United States Navy, he attended Phillip Commercial School in Honolulu, HI. Having enlisted in the Navy, Senator Nededog took personnel supervision courses in Brooklyn, NY, and Naval Intelligence Courses at Pearl Harbor, HI. He served during World War II, attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Reserve.

He was elected to represent the people of Guam and serve in the 4th Guam Legislature. His experience as a senator enabled him to further serve the people as a member of several governmental councils. He was a member of the Territorial Planning Commission, the Bureau of Planning Council, the Manpower Resource and Development Council, the Seashore Protection Agency, and the First Constitutional Convention. At various times, he served as Center Director, Program Director, and Executive Director of the Government of Guam's Office of Economic Opportunity. He also served as Executive Director of the 17th Guam Legislature.

In addition to his government service, Senator Nededog also worked in the private sector. He was the general manager of the Kaneohe Venetian Manufacturing Co. in Hawaii, the sales and promotion manager of the

Marianas Electric and Supply Co., and the general manager of Universal Insurance and Realty Co.

The Senator was also active in community organizations. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post at Pearl Harbor, HI. In addition, he was active with the Kaneohe Welfare Association and OEO, 9th District. In his desire to help the youth and be a role model, he worked with the Boy Scouts Committee, Troop 5 at Mount Carmel Parish in the village of Agat. He also served as Scout Master for Troop 113, St. Ann's Parish at Kaneohe, HI.

The passing of the late Senator José Charfauros Nededog is a loss felt by the whole island. On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, the former Josefina Torres, and their children, Joseph, George, Melvin, Franklin, Kathleen, and Jocelyn, in mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and fellow legislator and servant to the people of Guam. Adios, Senator Nededog.

INTERNET CONSUMER INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the age of the Internet has put more and more Americans on-line and is evolving faster than we could have ever imagined. Each day new companies and industries form out of the constant technological innovation that has come to symbolize this information superhighway. It has allowed average people sitting in their living rooms the opportunity to connect with a myriad of businesses and services. However, with this convenience there comes a growing concern that private information is being misused. Today, I am introducing the Internet Consumer Information Protection Act in an effort to address this problem.

The Internet Consumer Information Protection Act will allow people to regain control over their own personal information without unnecessarily hindering those services which collect data for legitimate purposes. Under this legislation, any customer data gathered by an entity could not be passed on to a third party unless: notice is provided, consumers are allowed an opportunity to direct that the information not be shared; and are given the opportunity, at no charge, to review, verify or correct any data compiled. Internet services would still be allowed to share information with affiliates and would also be allowed to supply data to third parties for the purpose of performing services or functions except for marketing purposes, provided that such entity would have an affirmative responsibility barring the use or sharing of such data.

Obviously, issues involving the internet are complex and constantly changing, and therefore deserve careful and thoughtful consideration. It is important to note that the focus of this legislation is not to stop the accumulation and transactional use of data, but to give consumers a sense of understanding and effective control over their own information. Also, such policy would function to ensure that such entities take responsibility to maintain the integrity of the information being used for intended purposes.