

needed and there are some which ought to be adjusted (or even eliminated) to reflect a more competitive marketplace.

The "truth," Mr. Speaker, is that many consumers in America today pay too much to support a bloated subsidy system that was designed to support inefficient monopoly-provided service. As efficiencies arrive in the marketplace due to technological changes and the competitive entry of new providers, I believe that many subsidized services could be provided at lower cost, and therefore less subsidy, than previously provided.

Providing subsidies sufficient to keep costs low in rural America and for the inner city poor, or to hook up schools and libraries, ought to be done in a manner that reflects the actual costs of providing the service. In order to ensure that we give consumers the rest of the truth in telephone billing, I suggest in the legislative proposal I am offering today, that we insist that both the fees and taxes AND the subsidies be made explicit for consumers and listed on their bills.

I suggest that we give consumers the full story. Consumers should know when they're paying \$8 in fees or \$18 in taxes. They should also know whether they're simultaneously receiving (or paying) a hitherto implicit subsidy to the tune of \$2 or \$200. I look forward to working with Chairman BLILEY and Chairman TAUZIN on their legislative proposal and to discussions with our other colleagues—both urban and rural—on how we can better ascertain the true costs, true taxes, true fees, and the true subsidies embedded in the telecommunications bills that consumers pay monthly.

THE NETIZENS PROTECTION ACT
OF 1999

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Netizens Protection Act of 1999. This legislation is carefully tailored to protect consumers and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from the costs and inconvenience of unsolicited e-mail.

My bill allows Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to take legal action against someone who uses their equipment or facilities—without their permission—to initiate the bulk transmission of unsolicited electronic messages. Equally important, it would also permit consumers to take action against someone who sent them unsolicited e-mail, so-called spam.

The bill is based on a simple principle of fairness: consumers should not have to pay for unwanted messages and neither should their ISP. Spam is not just a nuisance that can be cured by the judicious use of the delete key. Spam literally forces you to pay for the costs of some other person's advertisement—it is like getting a piece of junk mail and then having to pay for the cost of the stamp. Spam exposes you to dangerous viruses that can damage files or harm computer hardware. Spam often consists of illegal pyramid schemes and frequently contains illegal child pornography.

Moreover, even if an Internet user is not paying for the additional time online to retrieve

unwanted mail, they are still being charged a higher rate by their ISP for filter services and larger band-widths to combat "junk e-mail." Unwanted e-mail is costly to both the provider and consumer. The problem is that unlike regular junk mail, where the sender pays for the costs, spam shifts the costs from the sender to the recipient.

My legislation would require anyone sending an unsolicited electronic message to provide a name, a physical mailing address, and the electronic mail address of the person who initiated the message, along with a method by which the recipient of the message could contact the transmitter of the electronic mail to request that no further messages be sent. If someone was sent unsolicited e-mail from someone they contacted to request no further mail be sent, they could pursue legal action to recover treble damages.

Along with empowering the consumer to take action against spam, my bill also allows ISP's to seek legal remedies if someone violates their policies against unsolicited electronic mail messaging. Additionally, ISP's would be required to explain their unsolicited e-mail policies in simple terms so spammers could be forewarned and users could make an informed decision about what ISP to use, as well as whether they wanted unsolicited e-mail blocked. Consumers would and should be able to decide whether they want to receive unsolicited e-mail. My bill does that. Furthermore, the consumer would be able to take legal action if a spammer did not respect their wishes under the Netizens Protection Act.

The Netizens Protection Act is directed at the big spammers who tie-up networks with thousands upon thousands of messages. It would not go after someone who just sent a few messages either inadvertently or even intentionally. Language in my bill would allow someone to send up to 50 identical or substantially similar messages to recipients within a seven day period.

My legislation would also not interfere with or affect direct e-mail advertising or marketing. All avenues of legitimate direct marketing would remain. If any previous business relationship existed between the e-mailer and the e-mail recipient, my legislation would not affect the e-mail transaction. For example, if someone made a purchase at a retail store, a business relationship would exist, so that retailer could send e-mail updates to that customer and still maintain compliance with the Netizens Protection Act. Indeed, I believe that unless legislation is enacted to protect consumers from spam, it will discourage the expansion of Internet business and commerce.

HONORING JANICE JAMES

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I had the honor to meet with Janice James, the Kentucky Teacher of the Year. In light of constant stories about the crisis in our nation's schools, it is important to recognize the dedication and outstanding achievements of our teachers. Ms. James serves as the perfect example. It is my honor to pay tribute to someone who has made such a difference to so many children.

Janice James has had a distinguished career as a primary teacher at Price Elementary School in Louisville, Kentucky for 27 years. As part of her teaching philosophy she provides her students with numerous hands-on activities to keep them fully engaged. Ms. James also encourages her students to explore the process of learning by thinking out loud and by pushing them to find multiple solutions to problems. I was particularly impressed by her creative way to encourage students to think more broadly: she hands them a pair of rose-colored glasses every time she wants them to think in a different way.

Janice James has also instilled a sense of leadership in her students through their participation in the Price Leaders of Today program. Students are addressed by key leaders in the Louisville community and are inspired to become leaders and thinkers themselves. Janice James is a teacher who knows how to get the job done. She knows it takes hard work, it takes flexibility, and it takes a commitment to each child. I was proud to hear that Janice James supports what this Congress is trying to do—give schools and teachers the ability to make the choices which best reflect their students needs. We are all in agreement that such changes will help improve education—for Janice James and her students.

Ms. James' remarkable contribution to the field of education deserves our respect and our gratitude. Again, I offer my congratulations to Janice James for this outstanding achievement.

DISTRICT JUSTICE PIERANTONI
HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Fred Pierantoni, III, the Justice of Magisterial District 11-104 in my Congressional District and a good friend of mine. Justice Pierantoni will be honored as "Person of the Year" at the 22nd annual Columbus Day Banquet of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

District Justice Pierantoni, the son of Fred and Betty Pierantoni of Dupont, is a graduate of Pittston Area High School, Wilkes University, and Temple University School of Law. He served as an Assistant District Attorney for Luzerne County and was the senior trial assistant and chief juvenile prosecutor for that office.

First elected District Justice in 1991, Justice Pierantoni is active in many professional and community activities. He is a member of both the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations. He chairs the prestigious Pennsylvania Supreme Court committee that is charged with amending and formulating rules to be followed by District Justices statewide. Justice Pierantoni is the former Chair of the Publications Committee of the Pennsylvania Special Court Judges Association. He is a member of the Luzerne County District Justice Executive Commission, the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association Executive Committee, and the Luzerne County Domestic Violence Task

Force. He is legal advisor to many non-profit volunteer and youth groups throughout the area.

District Justice Pierantoni is active in the community as well, having held a seat on the Pittston Chamber Board of Directors, and several cabinet posts in the Hughestown Lions organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Mother of Sorrows Church in Dupont. Justice Pierantoni is Parliamentarian of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Polish American Citizens Club, and St. John's Lodge. He lectures for Marywood College, Luzerne County Community College, and the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Pierantoni is a dedicated professional, committed to his community and the justice system in Luzerne County. I applaud the Italian-American Association's choice of this year's honoree and am pleased to join with them in honoring this fine Pennsylvanian. I extend my sincere best wishes to Justice Pierantoni as he accepts this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WILLIAM "CHUCK" EVERNS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in memory of my friend, Mr. William "Chuck" Evers, who was born June 13, 1945 in Alton, Illinois, and died Sunday, September 12, 1999.

Chuck practiced law in Collinsville, Illinois for twenty years. He was active in our community and generous in sharing his knowledge of the law. Those who agreed and disagreed with him almost always re-evaluated their positions after speaking with him. This role was very healthy for all levels of government as it greatly enriched the public debate.

Chuck Evers touched many lives as an active citizen of Collinsville. He is survived by his wife, Lynda nee Vandewater, daughter, Caren Evers, son, W. Clark Evers, and mother, Dorothy Mae nee Gericke Evers.

Collinsville and I will remember Mr. Evers for his great contributions to the community. He will be forever cherished for his commitment; first to his family and faith, and then to his country and to his work.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOOD RIVER TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Wood River Township Hospital.

As we near the end of the millennium, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of the small towns and cities which have made a commitment to better health care in their own communities. This past sum-

mer my district celebrated the 50th anniversary of Wood River Township Hospital, with reflection on its vital role in our region.

The Wood River Township Hospital opened its doors to the public on August 1, 1949 with great fanfare. A referendum to build a public hospital had passed three years earlier in a landslide margin of 4,049 votes for to just 270 against. Once passed, plans for the community hospital quickly commenced with the architectural designs of Jamieson & Spearl, built in a year by Brunson Construction Co.

The town's enthusiasm for their new hospital was enhanced by the respect accorded to the patients of wood river township Hospital. The hospital staff today still proudly recall their first doctor, Harry S. Mendelsohn, M.D., first patient, Anna Westbrook, and first baby, Randall Charles Harmon. Today, more than 14,000 babies have been born there.

Remarkably, the Wood River Township Hospital, is well known throughout the state of Illinois for being the site of other significant "firsts" in the world of health care. It was the first hospital in the state of Illinois to be built under a 1945 state law, which authorized townships to levy taxes for the construction, operation and maintenance of hospitals. Additionally, it was the first hospital in Illinois to give chiropractic physicians privileges, as well as the first to have paramedic-staffed ambulances.

Every community is marked by the institutions that serve them, and Wood River is no different. The Wood River Township Hospital's devotion to patients and commitment to community allows us to see the town as a leader in progressive ideas built on a foundation of mutual respect.

As the 20th Century ends and the beginning of the new millennium approaches, Wood River Township Hospital reminds us of our nation's heritage. As they did, 50 years ago, Wood River officials plan to bury a time capsule to honor the community's values and achievements. In this they will show that while the advances in technology made each day continue to fortify our nation's capabilities, it is the principal of caring in which our future generations may find inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wood River Township Hospital in commemoration of its 50th Anniversary.

CARMEN COSENTINO WINS FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME AWARD

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker: Today I am proud to commend one of my constituents and a very good personal friend, Mr. Carmen Cosentino. Last week the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of outstanding individuals in the floral industry and gave its highest honor, induction into the Floriculture Hall of Fame, to Carm Cosentino.

The purpose of the Floriculture Hall of Fame is to honor men and women who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the advancement of floriculture as an integral part of the American way of life.

Carm, who owns Cosentino's Florist in Auburn, New York, is a well-known industry

spokesperson who has touched many in the floral industry through his talks, magazine articles and educational seminars. In his 43 years in the floral industry, Carm's passion has redefined how potent a grassroots effort can be. He has dedicated his life to teaching others in his industry about proper care and handling in order to prolong enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty of flowers.

Carm has spoken at hundreds of industry gatherings, instructed and acted as a spokesperson for major wire services, and has even translated his witty personal style onto paper as a contributor to many publications. His dedication to the floral industry is evidenced by his service as director of the SAF Board of Directors, vice president and president of the New York State Florists Association, and as director of the Seeley Conference.

It is a true accomplishment that Carm also owns and operates his own retail flower shop and wholesale business. Throughout his life in the floral industry, he has demonstrated the highest regard for improving the lives of everyone through flowers.

I am proud to call Carm Cosentino my good friend, and I join his lovely wife Anne Marie and his family today in recognizing this professional achievement.

PROTECTING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SPECTRUM

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization bill contains a number of provisions critical to protecting military access to the radio spectrum. We all know how important spectrum is to information technologies, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), which are critical to a wide range of military and civilian applications.

The importance of ensuring the continuous availability of critical information was demonstrated recently, when the Air Force successfully managed the so-called roll-over of the GPS clock—an event similar to the Y2K transition that we have heard so much about.

By successfully managing the GPS roll-over, the Air Force has ensured the continued stable reception of GPS signals by tens of millions of global users who depend on GPS for everything from air navigation and farming to guiding the war fighter on the battlefield and managing the Internet.

The concerns leading up to the Y2K-like rollover of GPS highlighted the potential global impact from any disruption to GPS services. To its credit, the Air Force, in close cooperation with industry, engaged in rigorous testing and analysis to ensure GPS signals would continue to be received through last month's transition. This effort upheld national policy, as expressed in both Presidential directives and Congressional legislation, that GPS signals will be continuously available and receivable at all times, everywhere in the world.

And many of my colleagues believe it is in our national interest for the government and industry to continue to cooperate in ensuring that GPS spectrum is protected from disruption and interference. The GPS spectrum band