

a craft sale, a golf tournament, a benefit concert, and donations from member banks.

The Edgewood Children's Ranch, a residential child care and development facility that has been helping troubled youngsters and families in the Orlando area for more than 30 years, is one of my favorites in an area blessed with many fine helping organizations. The ranch has been called a "boot camp with love," because of its emphasis on structure, school, and parental involvement.

Although the ranch accepts children from all denominations and races, it expects them to attend chapel, pledge allegiance to the American flag, and respect their elders—activities, to quote Gaby Acks, the ranch's development director, "that disqualify us for public funds."

That's why America's Community Bankers' unrestricted gift of \$170,000, which represents about one-tenth of the ranch's annual budget, is so important. "We are ecstatic," said Joan Consolver, executive director of the ranch. "It is unheard of for a convention group to leave a gift like this for the community."

I recognized America's Community Bankers' unique commitment to community in my remarks at the convention and I was glad that Orlando did as well. Mayor Glenda Hood and Orange County Chairman Mel Martinez both took time from their busy schedules to come to the check presentation ceremony and express the collective thanks of our community. Chairman Martinez said the philanthropic model developed by ACB's Housing Partners "serves as an example of leadership and community service for other trade associations and conventions." He commended them "for the extraordinary gesture of goodwill and the legacy they have left to our community." Mayor Hood proclaimed October 31–November 3, 1999 as America's Community Bankers and Housing Partners Day in Orlando "in recognition of their philanthropic excellence."

The Orlando Sentinel ran the following editorial.

**BANKERS GIVE BACK TO LOCAL CHILDREN—
THEY RAISED \$170,000 FOR EDGEWOOD CHILDREN'S RANCH DURING THEIR CONVENTION**

People who live near the Edgewood Children's Ranch can drive past it for years without ever knowing it's there. Tucked next to a lake and down the hill from a quiet street off Old Winter Garden Road, the sprawling campus affords a splendid view that few see.

Last week, a Washington, D.C.-based banker's group got the chance to set eyes on the ranch. And its members liked what they saw so much, they raised \$170,000 for the 30-year-old home for troubled kids, a record for the trade group.

America's Community Bankers picks a city for its convention each year, and every year, its organization of spouses and housing partners hold fund-raisers during the convention. In 1994, the group raised \$50,000 for House of Hope, an Orlando-based teen program. Last year, it gave \$150,000 to a battered women's shelter in Chicago.

From a popular craft sale to a big, convention-capping concert—this year's featured Frankie Avalon—the fund raising gives spouses a chance to do more than just tag along for golf outings or fancy dinners, said Joan Pinkerton, a spokeswoman for America's Community Bankers.

"People will say to me, 'That's the reason I come to the convention,'" Pinkerton said. "It's a neat way to tie into the community." For the children's ranch, which ekes out an existence on a \$1.2 million annual budget and a lot of prayers, the gift is the largest ever that will go to its general fund. We were

blown away by the amount," said Gaby Acks, children's development director for the ranch. Faith is a huge component at the ranch, which accepts struggling children and teens for a year or two. While the residents are not ordered by the courts to be there, many have chosen the ranch as an alternative to juvenile detention or other probationary conditions.

The rules are strict—hospital corners on the beds, neatly folded clothes and taking only what you can eat at meals—but the kids who live there find they don't mind after a few weeks.

Richard Amado, 16, found himself at the ranch after some minor scrapes with the law. Although he says he initially chafed at the carefully regimented days there, he has made up two grade levels in his schoolwork and has become a quiet, well-mannered young man.

During their convention, the bankers held a golf tournament in addition to the craft sale and the concert.

Some of them also toured the ranch, meeting the kids and seeing where their money will go. They were so impressed, they may donate some of next year's fund-raising haul to the ranch, Pinkerton said.

Acks, who said each day can bring small miracles for the often-strapped ranch, wasn't surprised at their reaction. Anyone who visits, she said, can't help but be touched.

"It's really just an amazing place," she said.

I commend America's Community Bankers for leaving its most recent hand-print in Orlando at the Edgewood Children's Ranch, and encourage other groups to follow this unique example of community involvement.

A CLARIFICATION FOR THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK PROVISIONS IN H.R. 1554, AS PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON NOVEMBER 9, 1999

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1554, the Satellite Home Viewer Act, includes most of the legislation that would impact the U.S. Patent system. I worked closely with the authors of the bill in the House of Representatives. I appreciate the time they took to listen to my strong concerns about the original bill, H.R. 1907, which passed in the House overwhelmingly this past August. I offer these remarks, however, to create a legislative history and to clarify language in one of the sections I believed needed reworking—the title concerning Third Party Re-Examination.

Under Subtitle F—Optional Inter Partes Re-examination Procedure, Section 4605 Conforming Amendments, paragraph (b) contains what I believe to be a technical error. Section 134 of title 35 of the United States Code is amended in two sub-paragraphs (a) and (b). H.R. 1554 uses the term "administrative patent judge" where it should read "primary examiner," in both paragraphs. Therefore, this section should read,

Section 134 of title 35, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"Section 134. Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

"(a) Patent Applicant.—An applicant for a patent, any of whose claims has been twice

rejected, may appeal from the decision of the primary examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, having once paid the fee for such appeal.

"(b) Patent Owner.—A patent owner in any reexamination proceeding may appeal from the final rejection of any claim by the primary examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, having once paid the fee for such appeal."

I thank the Speaker for his indulgence in allowing me this opportunity to clarify the language of this section of H.R. 1554.

CELEBRATING THE 134TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROCKETT, TX

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an important milestone in the history of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, of Crockett, Texas. On October 10, 1999, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church celebrated 134 years of service to this East Texas community. As the church members celebrate this important anniversary, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing this milestone. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Delvin Atchison for his continued leadership of the Bethel congregation.

Organized in 1965 by newly-freed slaves, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church today is a vibrant and growing ministry. As a resident of Crockett, I can truly attest to the tremendous impact the church and its members continue to have on the lives of Houston County residents. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has become known throughout Crockett and surrounding communities as "A Community of Caring Christians."

Through the years Bethel Missionary Baptist Church as profoundly influenced the life of our community because it has been blessed with lay leaders who have also been leaders in the civic, cultural and political affairs of Crockett, Houston County and the State of Texas. In addition, Bethel has benefited from the leadership of many gifted and talented ministers exemplified by its current pastor, Delvin Atchison. My personal relationship with Reverend Atchison and with the late Reverend J.T. Groves has been a blessing to me and my family. Their leadership has expanded the boundaries of influence of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Bethel's ministry has contributed not only to meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation but to the healing, reconciliation and racial harmony of the larger community. During the past 134 years, the members of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church congregation have been at the forefront in advancing civil rights and civic participation and have fostered unity, justice and social progress for all citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the congregation of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, under the guidance of Reverend Atchison, as it celebrates its 134th anniversary. All past and present church members

and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has made in the spiritual life of the Crockett community over the past 134 years. May God continue to bless this ministry of service and caring.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. BORDER PATROL'S SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation "recognizing the United States Border Patrol's 75 years of service since its founding."

I have nearly 800 miles of the Texas-Mexico border in my congressional district. I know all too well the extent to which Border Patrol agents meet the daily challenge of keeping our borders safe and curbing the flow of illegal aliens and drugs into the United States with courage, patience and sheer tenacity. They go out every day and fight to keep our borders and our border residents safe.

Our Border Patrol field agents are the best in the business. It is an ongoing battle to keep our borders safe, drug-free and crime free. The Border Patrol is faced with carrying out a tremendous task with limited, often outdated and failing resources. Yet, every day they go out to defend our borders. The brave men and women of the Border Patrol put their lives on the line for us. Those of us in border communities know what a crucial role the Border Patrol plays in protecting our borders daily.

As a Texan I take pride in recognizing the fact that the founding members of the Border Patrol included Texas Rangers, sheriffs and deputized cowboys who patrolled the Texas frontier during the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

I am honored to support this legislation which honors our Border Patrol personnel who serve this nation in defending our borders.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to provide a technical clarification to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). This clarification is necessary to protect workers and small businesses from unsafe work conditions and to root out illegal activity in the workplace.

Provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) as amended in 1996 undermine investigations of sexual harassment, embezzlement, workplace violence, drug sales and other illegal activities in the workplace. Because of an interpretation by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of the 1996 FCRA amendments, employers who retain investigators, attorneys, or others to conduct inquiries

into unlawful activities subject themselves to the provisions of the Act and must: Provide notice before initiating an investigation; obtain written authorization from the suspect and other employees; upon request, disclose the "nature and scope of the investigation"; and prior to taking any adverse action against an employee, provide the employee a complete and unedited copy of the investigative report.

When the FCRA amendments were passed in 1996, Congress did not intend for such burdensome restrictions to be placed on employers who seek to provide safe, crime free workplaces for their employees.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires employers to provide a safe and secure workplace. And Civil rights laws require employers to investigate allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination. Yet, the FCRA makes such inquiries impossible. Even if the employer is able to persuade a suspect employee to consent to an investigation, the investigation could still be thwarted by the accused who may be able to "cover his tracks." Even more important is the chilling effect of providing investigative reports to suspected miscreants. What witness will be forthcoming when they find out the accused will know who spoke to the investigator? What is the logic of asking a deranged employee if you can investigate him?

Americans are all concerned with the rise in incidences of workplace violence, including killings this month in Seattle, Washington and Honolulu, Hawaii. At a time when we are all concerned about workplace violence, the FCRA is tying the hands of employers who attempt to protect their employees.

The application of the FCRA is far broader than Congress intended when the law was amended in 1996. It now undercuts virtually all workplace investigations and may impact on legitimate inquiries outside of the workplace as well. Congress needs to make clear that these investigations are not covered by the Act.

The legislation I introduce today, the Fair Credit Reporting Amendments of 1999, has been drafted through a careful bipartisan process. Concerns from consumer groups and the FTC were incorporated into the final draft of this legislation. The legislation removes the requirement of employee consent for an employer to investigate a limited number of illegal or unsafe activities in the workplace. These limited activities include drug use or sales, violence, sexual harassment, employment discrimination, job safety or health violations, criminal activity including theft, embezzlement, sabotage, arson, patient or elder abuse, and child abuse.

Additionally, should an employer seek to use such a report to take any action against an employee, the employer must inform the employee that a report was prepared as well as the nature and scope of the report.

This is important legislation that should be considered early in the next session of Congress. I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors and push for speedy passage of this bill to reduce crime and provide safer workplaces.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOMMY J. DORSEY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Tommy J. Dorsey for his outstanding contributions to his community, particularly through the Meharry Medical College Benefit Golf Tournament.

The Meharry Medical College Benefit Golf Tournament began in Orlando, Florida, in December of 1991 to raise funds to support Meharry Medical College and its needy students. With golf participants in its first event, the tournament raised \$10,000 for the college. In its second year, the tournament drew 120 golfers, and continues to grow yearly. To date, the tournament has raised over \$100,000 for the college and its students.

Dr. Dorsey is one of the very distinguished alumni of the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. He graduated from Jones High School in 1961, and attended Fisk University where he received a B.A. in Biology. He then attended Meharry Medical College for 4 years where he received his D.D.S.

Dr. Dorsey served as a Lieutenant in the Navy from 1969-1971, and was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal in Human Relations. After his stint in the service, Dr. Dorsey served as the Chief Family Dentist at the Neighborhood Family Health Center of Miami for 4 years. In 1975, Dr. Dorsey went into private practice in Orlando, where he continues to work today.

Dr. Dorsey has held many positions in his community, and has been recognized for his service and dedication on many occasions. He founded and served as Executive Director of the Orlando Minority Youth Golf Association in 1991, he has served as the Vice Chairman of Orange County Membership Mission and Review Board, a member of the Community Development and Youth Service Board, President of the Orlando Alumni Chapter of Meharry Medical College, member of the Board of Trustees at Meharry Medical College, and was chosen as the 1994 Alumnus of the Year from Meharry Medical College. Dr. Dorsey also received the Winter Park Alumni Chapter Community Service Award from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., in 1996, the Omega Psi Phi Outstanding Service Award in 1997, the Tiger Woods Foundation and The Minority Golf Association Recognition Award in 1997, the Orange County Classroom Teachers Association Martin Luther King, Jr. Award in 1998, the Orlando Alumni Chapter of the Year Award in 1998, and the Star 94.5 Home Town Hero Recognition.

Dr. Dorsey is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., he is a Prince Hall Affiliated Mason, a member of the Noble of the Ancient and Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine, and a member of BETA XI BOULE—Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in honoring Dr. Tommy J. Dorsey for his outstanding community involvement, and in wishing him continued success with the Meharry Medical College Benefit Golf Tournament.