

MANDATORY RETIREMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, H.R. 1748, which will raise the mandatory age for the retirement of law enforcement officers from 57 years of age to 60 years.

Under current law those who want to retire may do so at age 50 years.

My bill only affects the mandatory age of the law enforcement officers. I believe that it is too restrictive. Law enforcement officers should be allowed to stay in at least until age 60 years which is the mandatory age for air traffic controllers.

With the mandatory age of retirement for law enforcement at 57 years, in the next 5 years the Criminal Investigation Division of the U.S. Treasury alone will lose 1,350 special agents.

Allowing these senior agents to stay on, if they wish, another three years will be both cost effective as well as help to keep our best, most highly qualified workforce.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1748.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL A. SMITH ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Recently, I had the opportunity to nominate Michael A. Smith for an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

I am pleased to announce that Michael has been offered an appointment and will be attending West Point with the incoming cadet class of 2003. Attending one of our nation's military academies is one of the most rewarding and demanding time periods these young men and women will ever undertake. Our military academies turn these young adults into the finest officers of the world.

Mr. Speaker, without question, Michael Smith belongs with the incoming West Point class of 2003. During his time at Tiffin Calvert High School, in Tiffin, Ohio, Michael performed in excellent fashion. With his outstanding 3.95 grade point average, he is ranked second in his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and earned the National Machinery Citizenship Award as a freshman, sophomore, and junior.

Not only did Michael excel in the classroom, but he distinguished himself on the fields of athletic competition as well. Michael has been a member of the Tiffin Calvert High School Cross Country and Track Teams, earning varsity letters in both sports. Michael is also a member of the French Club and Students Against Drunk Driving.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Michael Smith. Our service academic offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Michael will do very well at West Point, and I wish him much success on all his future endeavors.

SMART GROWTH IN MARYLAND

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Representatives BLUMENAUER and HOFFEL for their effort in organizing this special order on the Department of Transportation's "Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program"—an outgrowth of the Clinton Administration's "Livable Communities" and "Smart Growth" initiatives. Innovative land-use and conservation policies, known as "smart growth" strategies, are used by communities across the U.S. to preserve green space, ease traffic congestion, and monitor infrastructure development.

As stated by Maryland Governor Paris Glendening, "The goal of smart growth is not no growth or even slow growth . . . rather, the goal is sensible growth that balances our need for jobs and economic development with our desire to save our natural environment before it is forever lost."

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you these facts: in 1970, 12 billion vehicle miles were traveled each year in Maryland, by 1990 that number more than doubled to 28 billion vehicles; from 1970 to 1995 Maryland's population grew by 25% from 4 to 5 million—and is expected to top 6 million by 2020; during the same 25 years, the population in the major suburbs around Baltimore City skyrocketed by 67 percent. In the last four years alone, Baltimore City has lost more than 50,000 residents!

Facing these daunting statistics, the state of Maryland has been at the forefront of smart growth initiatives. Maryland passed the nation's first comprehensive "Smart Growth" Act in 1992, which sought to: concentrate development in suitable areas; protect sensitive and resource areas; direct growth in rural areas to existing population centers; promote stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay; practice conservation and reduce consumption of resources; and encourage economic growth and streamline regulatory mechanisms.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am pleased that the Administration has maintained its commitment to strengthening the federal government's role as a partner with urban and rural communities. Through the Department of Transportation, the Administration has actively pursued objectives that not only make communities more economically attractive, but also improve quality of life.

Under the TCSP program funded by the Department of Transportation, the "Maryland Integrating Transportation and Smart Growth Program"—MINTS—has been awarded \$450,000 to demonstrate how smart growth can successfully be linked with innovative transportation policies.

The grant will be used to: maintain and enhance existing communities and contribute to

their quality of life and economic vitality; demonstrate how investments in transportation strategies can encourage well-planned growth where it is desired and discourage new development where it is inconsistent with smart growth objectives; and use sound growth management to facilitate community conservation, preservation of infrastructure capacity, and "smart" transportation strategies.

The MINTS program will be implemented in two distinct growth management settings:

First, an urban community where there are challenges to improve the efficiency of the existing transportation system, to conserve the community, and to prompt re-development; and

Second, where suburban sprawl threatens rural resource protection goals and generates highway and other infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, As legislators, we MUST recognize that growth is inevitable and growth is necessary. However, my hope is that my colleagues will utilize smart growth initiatives outlined by the Clinton administration to protect the environment, while also supporting the growing transportation and infrastructure needs of their districts and states.

THE COPYRIGHT DAMAGES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Copyright Damages Improvement Act of 1999. This bill makes significant improvements to the Copyright Act by strengthening damages for copyright infringement. It is extremely important that the United States remain a leader in the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, not only because of the value of the intellectual property created in the United States, but also to set an example for other countries to follow.

This bill will increase the range of statutory damages available for copyright infringement. Copyright owners may elect to receive actual or statutory damages for infringement of their registered works. Because of the difficulty in proving actual damages, many copyright owners choose statutory damages. The amount of statutory damages were last increased in 1988 when the United States acceded to the Berne Convention. The proposed amount of statutory damages are rounded from the rate of inflation since 1988. In this time of economic and technological growth, it is necessary to increase the level of damages if they are to be an effective deterrent to copyright infringement. Further, the increase in damages will assist the United States in its negotiations with other countries concerning protection of intellectual property.

This bill also adds a new tier of statutory damages. It targets "repeat" offenders or parties that have engaged in a "pattern or practice" of infringement. These are the worst of the worst offenders. These individuals, who continue to infringe a copyrighted work in spite of receiving notice from the copyright owner that the use is unauthorized, should be subject to stricter penalties. Currently, an infringer may be liable for up to \$100,000 per infringed work. An infringer who is distributing thousands of unauthorized copies of a popular

movie or software program may not be deterred by this penalty. In response to this problem, my bill will establish a strong deterrent for this kind of infringement by allowing the courts to award up to \$250,000 per infringing work.

Finally, this bill ensures that a debtor may not be discharged from debts resulting from willful copyright infringement. The Bankruptcy Code lists items that may not be discharged in bankruptcy. One of these items is, "... for willful and malicious injury by the debtor to another entity or to the property of another entity." Federal courts have split on whether "willful" copyright infringement equates with a "willful and malicious" injury under the Bankruptcy Code so that the debt may not be discharged. This bill will close a loophole and ensure that a copyright infringer who receives a judgment against them does not have an incentive to file for bankruptcy and avoid the debt.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes a strong statement that the United States supports protection of intellectual property rights and will be diligent in enforcing those rights against infringers. It provides incentive for the creation of intellectual property in the United States and for other countries to establish and enforce copyright laws as well. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING GEORGE R. MUIRHEAD

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor Dr. George R. Muirhead upon his retirement from Central Connecticut State University in my hometown of New Britain, Connecticut.

Dr. Muirhead began teaching CCSU students in 1949. During his many years of service to this fine university he has been Director of the Division of Social Sciences, Dean of Instructional Services, Acting Dean of the School of Business, Acting Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Executive Director of the Experimental College, Co-Director and Administration for U.S.A.I.D. Program for Management Training and Economic Education in Poland and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Muirhead has provided outstanding instructional opportunities to generations of students in the academic areas of history and contributed significantly to scholarships through his research and publications. He has been a leader in establishing Central Connecticut State University's Center for Excellence in International Education and the chief architect of the University's nationally recognized General Education Program.

Few educators have the vision, intellect, extraordinary level of curiosity or ability to set forth complex matters in an orderly and memorable way that Dr. Muirhead possesses. He has taught, mentored and influenced generations of scholars and inspired students of all ages to better understand our world and prepare for the challenges of the next century. His work to establish CCSU's international program over many years was truly visionary, preceding today's acceptance of the impor-

tance of international experience and understanding.

Following are quotes from tributes to this remarkable teacher and leader marking his 50 years of service.

From Richard J. Judd, President of CCSU (and class of 1959): "George Muirhead is a quintessential academic. He has guided with great enthusiasm countless thousands of students. His intellectual astuteness is boundless and he is among the great teachers of this university which he has served so selflessly for 50 years. I, as his one-time student, cannot begin to say the multifold ways he has influenced my life. He once told me not to try to be Tom Paine. I never forgot that admonition. As the current President of Central Connecticut State University I am deeply honored to have George Muirhead serve along side of me but more so to have him as a dear friend."

From Arturo U. Iriarte, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Lasselle College and former Professor of Education, CCSU: "You taught me to lead, to accomplish goals, to effect change, and to laugh. Thanks for always being there when I call to ask for your guidance and advice. To you I lift a glass of the Grouse in a toast to your continued good health and happiness."

From Timothy Rickard, Professor of Geography: "George Muirhead's keen interest in student and faculty international exchanges laid much of the programmatic groundwork for CCSU's designation by the state legislature as a Center of Excellence in International Education in 1987. His exchange with a professor at Bingley College in Yorkshire for the 1973-74 academic year was the blueprint for a series of year long faculty exchanges with British institutions and later expansion into a variety of worldwide opportunities for faculty visits to CCSU liaison institutions. Also, as Dr. Muirhead's special legacy, four CCSU students on exchange in the United Kingdom are supported each year by Muirhead scholarships and the country is the destination of choice for about half the students in a greatly expanded study abroad program."

From Eileen Groth Lyon, CCSU Class of 1987, Assistant Professor of History at Florida State University: "By the time I arrived at Central Connecticut University in the fall of 1983, George Muirhead was already something of a legend. My parents and aunt, who attended the university in the late 1940's and 1950's, had spoken of him as one of the finest and most charismatic professors they had known. Dr. Muirhead's encouragement and careful mentoring extended beyond my graduation from Central to a Fulbright scholarship, Cambridge Ph.D. and an academic career. I will always remain grateful for all that he taught me, about both history and life."

From Amy B. Grass, CCSU Class of 1999: "These are the memories I have of Dr. Muirhead: a teacher, a mentor, a practical joker, a tea maker (and occasional waiter), a volume of knowledge and a friend. Those of us at Central, but especially I, can say that knowing him has been a rip-roaring, firecracking roller-coaster of a ride . . . and we're all the better for having bought a ticket."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that directs the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to develop an educational curriculum for our nation's schools in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight. The 100th anniversary of powered flight, which will take place on December 17, 2003, provides an excellent opportunity for our nation's schools to promote the importance of math and science education to our students.

As the former Superintendent of Schools in North Carolina, and as a member of the House Science Committee since coming to Congress in 1997, I have worked for years to improve math and science education in our schools. America's future will in many ways be determined by the ability of our citizens to understand and adapt to the changes in technology that will so dominate life in the twenty-first century. As we watch the sun rise on the dawn of a new millennium, it has never been more important to encourage our children to excel in the areas of science and math. In the twenty-first century, it will no longer be good enough for our children simply to be able to read and write and add and subtract. If today's students are going to succeed in tomorrow's jobs, a firm foundation in math and science is required.

One of the most difficult challenges we face in math and science education in generating interest among our children in these fields. With all of the distractions of modern life, it has been increasingly difficult to interest students in participating in the most challenging math and science curriculums. Such a lack of interest could spell doom down the road as fewer and fewer students enter the teaching profession in these fields. The 100th Anniversary of Flight Educational Initiative I am introducing today is intended to use the history of flight, the practical benefits of flight on society and the mathematics and scientific principles used in flight to generate interest among students in math and science education.

As a young boy growing up on a farm in North Carolina, air travel and the space program captured my imagination as it did most Americans. Unfortunately, today, video games and other distractions are more likely to capture the imaginations of our young people than the space program. However, the 100th Anniversary of Flight, and NASA's plans to land a plane on Mars to coincide with that date, provides an excellent springboard to recapture our young people's interest in the space program and in math and science. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to seeing our students soar in the areas of math and science in our schools, and this initiative will help them take flight.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, May 6, I was present and voted on the