

One hundred thirty-six years ago, on June 20, 1863, West Virginia assumed its proud position as the 35th State of the Union. Since that time West Virginia's natural resources and its citizens have and will continue to play a positive role in our Nation.

The phrases: "the mountain state," "wild, wonderful," and "a welcome change" are always reminders of West Virginia. Indeed, there are countless rolling hills dotted with horses, cows, sheep and their young. The State is home to memorable valleys, known for their rushing streams and rivers filled with bass and trout. Then there are the beautiful colors throughout the fall and spring that bedeck our glorious mountains, attracting tourists from across the globe.

West Virginia is a combination of rural farming communities, coal towns, resorts, and growing cities. It is unquestionably a State in which there is a place for everyone. I believe it is this diversity that attracts many to the State and causes numerous children raised in West Virginia to remain and invest in the State as adults.

West Virginians are proud of their State. As we stand at the dawn of the 21st century symbols of West Virginia pride and achievement can be heard, read, seen, and touched throughout the world via locally produced music, literature, works of art, and crafts. West Virginians are also proud of their people. Almost two centuries ago, the State was known as the fighting place of the Hatfields and McCoys. Since that time, West Virginia has been the home of such remarkable people as, educator Booker T. Washington, pilot Charles "Chuck" Yeager, gymnast Mary Lou Retton, authors Pearl S. Buck, John Knowles, and Denise Giardina, singer and song writer Kathy Mattea, artists Barrie Kaufman, and Susan Poffenbarger, former astronaut Jon A. McBride, scholar Henry Louis Gates, countless athletes, and numerous others.

Today we have the opportunity to honor 136 years of statehood. I ask that we celebrate the people of West Virginia, that we honor the courage of their endeavors and achievements. I ask that we take strength from the majesty of the mountains as do the constituents of West Virginia, and finally that we, as members of this distinguished body, remember the broader message of freedom recognized by West Virginia's logo: Montani Semper Liberi, Mountaineers are Always Free. I am proud of this State and its people and am honored to represent them.●

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA ZELLERS, BRIAN HARDEN, ERNIE JONES, AND DON GREEN

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to four brave individuals who lost their lives last week in a tragic helicopter crash in Breathitt County, Kentucky. Sheila Zellers, Brian Harden, Ernie Jones, and

Don Green, were crew members on a helicopter providing emergency medical service to rural Eastern Kentucky. On Monday June 14, 1999, these dedicated care-givers were returning to the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, from Breathitt County Airport. Tragically, they did not make it.

Mrs. Sheila Zellers, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, served as the flight nurse on the helicopter and had worked with the University of Kentucky's hospital for more than twenty years. She served in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and emergency room before becoming a flight nurse in 1991. More importantly, she was a loving wife and mother. Our hearts and prayers go out to her husband Jeffrey and their four sons.

Mr. Brian Harden, from Richmond, Kentucky, was the paramedic on Monday's flight crew. While only 33, he had already had a distinguished career providing emergency medical services in Kentucky as a paramedic. Flight paramedics, such as Mr. Harden, are critical in providing emergency care from the time they leave the scene until they reach the hospital. I would like to extend the Senate's deepest sympathies to his wife Patricia, and their two young daughters.

The helicopter's two pilots, Ernie Jones and Don Green, were both well-known among their colleagues as experienced, highly-skilled pilots. Frequently, the pilots who fly these emergency helicopters are called upon to land their helicopters in small parking lots, highways, pastures, and gorges, in order to safely evacuate their patients. Their families and friends will be in our prayers.

It is important that we recognize the impact these individuals and their colleagues have on the citizens of Eastern Kentucky. Like so much of rural America, the residents of Eastern Kentucky lack easy access to the advanced medical resources and trauma centers available in more metropolitan areas. In order to provide this much needed care to Eastern Kentucky, the University of Kentucky Medical Center began helicopter flights to the region in 1987. For 12 years, these emergency medical crews have ferried accident victims, critically ill children, cardiac patients, and infants too ill to travel by ambulance to the UK Medical Center. It is not unusual for these dedicated care-givers to work twelve hour shifts and fly up to seven missions a day, each time making a difference in the lives of their patients. It is with this in mind that we recognize the sacrifices of these dedicated care-givers and note that they will be forever missed by their families, friends, colleagues, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.●

FUELS REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support of S. 880, the Fuels Regulatory Relief Act.

This bill will provide relief to hundreds of propane suppliers, farmers, and ranchers in my State of South Dakota.

The Fuels Regulatory Relief Act would exempt propane from being included under the Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Management Program, or RMP, rule. The RMP rule was crafted as a way to increase awareness among state and local governments and the public of hazardous chemicals in communities. The thinking behind this rule was that if chemical companies had to develop and make public information about a worst case scenario in the event of an accidental release, the companies would take steps to lower the possibility of such an accident. Also, the authors of this rule thought local emergency teams would be able to respond more quickly and efficiently to an accident at a hazardous chemical site if the teams knew in advance how much damage to expect.

I do not have any problems with the RMP rule in that respect. I think communities can benefit from knowing the potential for chemical accidents that could happen within their borders. I do, however, have deep concerns about the inclusion of substances that are not toxic but are flammable. The RMP rule was not created to regulate flammable substances, as demonstrated by the EPA's decision not to include gasoline under the rule. Yet propane is included under the rule, and people who have more than 16,000 pounds of propane on their property will have to submit an RMP.

Complying with this rule is a great burden on propane suppliers, farmers, and ranchers, as the cost per site may be as much as several thousand dollars. I have been contacted by a number of propane suppliers in my State who have expressed their frustration with having to submit an RMP, and the American Farm Bureau has voiced its concerns about the effects of this rule on farmers who use propane for fuel purposes. Small business owners, farmers, and ranchers who possess and use large amounts of propane should not be forced to comply with a rule directed at curbing accidents involving hazardous chemicals, especially when flammable substances are subject to a number of other federal regulations.

For these reasons, I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 880, the Fuels Regulatory Relief Act. I believe that exempting propane from inclusion under the RMP rule is consistent with the purpose of the rule, as it does not change the way hazardous and toxic chemicals are regulated. The Fuels Regulatory Relief Act will save propane users and suppliers in my State thousands of dollars in compliance costs, and I urge my colleagues to support its expeditious passage.●

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE TUGEL

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute

to Joyce Tugel for her outstanding work as a teacher at Marshwood High School. Joyce is one of 208 teachers nationwide to receive the "Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching."

This award, which is administered by the National Science Foundation, is the highest honor a secondary teacher of mathematics and science can receive. Joyce, who teaches chemistry and freshman science, applied for the award in February 1998. The process was very intense with minimum requirements of: a 20-page report showing evidence of talent, an assessment of student learning, a listing of background and experience and even photographs of learning activities.

Joyce received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of New Hampshire. She was a biogeochemistry research scientist at UNH's Institute for Study of Earth, Ocean and Space in Morse Hall. She has now been with Marshwood High School for 9 years, and is one of their most valued faculty members.

As a former high school teacher, I am extremely pleased to see educators from New Hampshire being nationally recognized for their tireless efforts and dedication to education. I commend Joyce for her excellent track record. I am proud to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

STEEL CRISIS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there is a crisis facing the steel industry in the United States, a crisis that has left over 10,000 steelworkers out of jobs and could jeopardize the jobs of thousands of additional workers. This disruption is a result of subsidized and dumped goods coming into the United States from a variety of countries—from Russia, from Japan, from Brazil, from Indonesia—at far under the cost of production and far under the price the steel is being sold in those countries.

While our existing laws and administrative procedures are in place and we've received favorable preliminary indications from administration officials, the time it takes to process these cases is too long and does not respond to a situation as dire as ours quickly enough. For example, hot-rolled carbon steel dumping petitions filed in September 1998, a full 10 months after the import surge began, were only recently decided. Under current law, industries and workers must wait until the injury has occurred or is so imminent as to be unavoidable to file a section 201 case.

Meanwhile, steelworkers continue to lose their jobs and the steel industry is suffering tremendous losses from which it may not easily recover. I shouldn't have to remind anyone that five American steel companies have declared bankruptcy and two of them are in the State of Illinois (LaCled Steel in Alton, IL, and Acme Steel in Riverside, IL) and at least 10,000 of the Nation's 170,000 steelworkers have been laid off.

Illinois is one of the top steel producing States and we're proud of our steelworkers, the industry, and the products that they make for the American people and the world.

It is my belief that we should approach this situation with both short-term and long-term strategies that will complement each other and produce the maximum benefit for the U.S. economy, the steelworkers, and the industry. First, steel mills need access to capital to stay open and to keep their workers on the job, producing the finest and best steel in the world. That's a short-term approach that will help the industry and the workers when they need it most: now. And that's an approach that we take with this bill: H.R. 1664, Byrd-Domenici Steel Oil and Gas Loan Guarantee Program.

H.R. 1664 would provide a short-term, GATT legal, guaranteed loan program to address the cash flow emergency created by the historic steel import surge. The maximum aggregate amount of a loan guarantee that could be available to a single company would be \$250 million. The guarantees provided to U.S. steel mills would be 6 years in duration, would require the commitment of collateral, and would require a fee to be paid by the borrower to cover the cost of administering the program. The level of guarantees to be provided to a steel mill would be 85 percent.

Finally, a board would be created in order to implement a steel loan guarantee program that provides maximum benefits to the U.S. steel industry and protection to the taxpayers.

Second, we need to put more teeth into current trade laws. Specifically, we should strengthen section 201 language by removing a very high causation standard and replacing that standard with a lower threshold by which U.S. industries and workers can prove their cases more easily. Let me state for the Record that if we reform our trade laws and we ensure our trading partners know we are serious about enforcing those laws, the incentive to dump steel or other imported products will be reduced. I liken this to the Senate filibuster. The threat of a filibuster may be far more effective than the actual filibuster itself. Similarly, the threat of more readily-proven dumping cases may, in fact, make a country think twice about dumping a product illegally into this country. Legislation was recently marked up in the Finance Committee that addressed the issue of section 201 and we should have a healthy debate about that as well.

In the meantime, Mr. President, we have a responsibility as Senators to address this issue as well as the serious situation the oil and gas industries are currently experiencing; and, I hope we can find a consensus solution that will help both these backbones of the U.S. industrial sector.●

TRIBUTE TO JOEL YEATON

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joel Yeaton of Exeter, NH for his outstanding volunteer service. Joel received the "Prudential Spirit of Community Inspiration" Award, given to those who are significant contributors to their community in the face of enormous personal challenges.

As a volunteer, Joel created the "Help Them Heal" fund to support spinal chord research and facility improvement at the Children's Hospital in Boston. He has raised over \$10,000, a figure which was more than double his original goal.

The reasons Joel's accomplishments are so extraordinary is he too suffers from Curvature of the spine. Instead of focusing on his own problems, Joel is consumed with making spinal surgery and extended stays at the Boston Children's Hospital easier for others, especially the younger patients. His concern for people suffering from spinal problems similar to his has led him to establish the "Help Them Heal" fund.

The money Joel's fund has raised will be used for research on improved spinal surgical techniques. The funds will also be used to purchase a computer, games, and educational materials for the patients at the hospital.

I commend Joel for his commitment and dedication. He is an inspirational young man. I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

TAXING THE WEB

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of the Senate, an OP-ED entitled "Taxing Web Wallets" that appears in today's New York Times. This article on the tax treatment of Internet Commerce is by my nephew, a former Treasury official, Michael Moynihan. Last October Congress passed the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which placed a three year moratorium on any new taxes on the Internet. But as Michael Moynihan points out, "... we have yet to address the long-term tax consequences of the movement of trade on line."

I ask the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, June 21, 1999]

TAXING WEB WALLETS

(By Michael Moynihan)

WASHINGTON—Last month, 14 million Americans bought something on the Internet. Taking advantage of what might be the last tax loophole, 99 percent of them did not pay sales tax. Without knowing it, most broke the law. States cannot force out-of-state sellers to collect sales taxes, but 45 require buyers to pay the tax anyway. Compliance is virtually nil. Today, a Congressional commission on electronic commerce takes up two key questions: How do we tax the Internet? Should we?

The Internet Tax Freedom Act, passed last fall, impose a three-year moratorium on cyber-specific taxes. By banning the infamous "bit tax," which would tax every E-mail and downloaded image, the law helped