

public servant and my good friend, Postmaster Sheldon Rhinehart. Sheldon's recent retirement ends a career with the United States Postal Service that has spanned nearly half a century, leaving a legacy of integrity and inspiration.

In his forty-seven years with the postal service, Sheldon has been witness to a variety of changes, social as well as operational. From his start as a clerk, he moved up the ranks. As New Haven's first African-American postmaster, he is not only an example of these tremendous changes but has continually challenged the postal service to change itself. Sheldon's work has been recognized locally and nationally—a tribute to the invaluable contributions he has made.

Sheldon is a strong advocate for minority groups, both professionally and personally. During his tenure, he has made room at the postal service for many with disabilities. He played a key role in the establishment of the Vision Trail from downtown New Haven to the waterfront and was a driving force in involving the Postal Service with the 1995 Special Olympic World Games held in New Haven. Sheldon has also had a primary role in developing training and social programs for the Postal Service on a nationwide basis. With his outstanding record of commitment, he has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service—leaving an indelible mark on the United States Postal Service and our community.

Sheldon has shown unparalleled leadership, not only in his professional positions, but in the community as well. He is currently serving on the United Way of New Haven's Board of Directors and has served on a variety of boards within his community including the Newhallville Action Committee, the Newhallville Day Care Center and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. We are certainly fortunate to have such a committed individual working on behalf of our community.

I am proud to stand today and join his wife, Carolyn, two children, Deborah and Sheldon Jr., friends, and colleagues to honor Sheldon for his good work and dedicated career. I wish him many years of continued health and happiness in his retirement.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCALLY REGULATED TOWING ACT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to be introducing the "Locally Regulated Towing Act." This legislation will restore the ability of local governments to regulate tow truck operations.

Congress took this authority away from state and local hands when it passed the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994, (P.L. 103-305). This law was intended to replace multiple and sometimes conflicting state and local regulations on interstate carriers like Federal Express and UPS, with a single uniform, national regulation. Expanding services like Federal Express and UPS urged passage of the law to help lower costs and improve their delivery time. While the law achieved its objectives, it also opened

a loophole that permitted tow trucks to qualify as an interstate carrier and thereby exempted them from state and local regulations.

Unlike Federal Express, UPS, and other major interstate carriers which are regulated by the federal government, tow truck operators are not. Congress has never granted any federal agencies the power to regulate tow trucks. As a result, their operations are free of any direct oversight or public accountability.

In response to growing complaints about tow truck operations, Congress did amend the law in December 1995 (P.L. 104-88) to permit state and local governments to regulate prices on non-consensual towing. This change in federal law restored state and local governments' ability to regulate towing performed without the permission of the vehicle's owner, as in the instance where owners of vacant, private lots arrange for a tow truck operator to remove cars parked there without their permission. I am familiar with a number of alleged "sham operations" where lot owners failed to properly post signs that prohibited parking. Local business and restaurant patrons and tourists unable to find street parking were enticed to use these vacant lots only to discover later their cars were towed away and the cost to recover them is \$100 or more.

Unfortunately, even this modest change in federal law has had limited success. Consumer complaints about tow truck operators still abound. In the last two years, Arlington County, a jurisdiction I represent, received more than 160 complaints ranging from rates charged, some as high as \$120, to vehicle damage, to theft and rude behavior. People who have had their vehicles towed have told my office about having to go to impoundment lots late at night in dangerous neighborhoods to recover their cars. When they get there, they are told that only cash is accepted.

Moreover, State and local ability to reassert control over tow truck operations have been thrown into even greater confusion following two conflicting Federal appeals court rulings. Ace Auto Body & Towing v. City of New York upheld the ability of states and local governments to regulate safety issues and prices of non-consensual towing, while R. Mayer of Atlanta, Inc. v. City of Atlanta denied local governments' similar authority.

The only real and effective solution to this problem is to restore full state and local authority over all aspects of tow truck operations. The legislation I am introducing today will accomplish this objective. It is a common sense, pro consumer piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### REMARKS IN HONOR OF THE LATE JUDGE JON BARTON

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and remember the life of Texas state District Judge Jon Barton, who passed away Saturday at his home in Keller, Texas. He was 43 years old. Judge Barton, the younger brother of our friend and colleague, Congressman JOE BARTON, was a good, kind, and loving man. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Jennifer; his sons, Jake and Jace; and to all of his family at this difficult time in their lives.

Judge Barton was born on October 12, 1956, in Pecos, Texas, to Larry and Nell Barton. However, he spent most of his childhood in Waco, Texas, and eventually received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Juris Doctor degree from Baylor University. In 1987, Judge Barton received his Master's degree in Finance from Colorado State University. That same year, he married his lovely wife Jennifer.

After practicing law in Corpus Christi and Fort Worth, Texas, Judge Barton was elected to preside over the 67th District Court in 1996. Judge Barton was a talented and hard working individual. There is no question that he will be deeply missed within the Texas legal community.

Judge Barton was very active in our area. He was a member of the Downtown Fort Worth Rotary Club and past president of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Rotary Club. Judge Barton served on the advisory board of the John Peter Smith Health Network and was a charter member of the Center for Christian Living. As a man of God, he actively served Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Judge Barton was always willing to give of himself to his community, his church, and his family.

Judge Barton was known for his great sense of humor and for his kindness to all. He was a committed husband and father who loved his family deeply. Judge Barton faced cancer with the same humor and courage that he lived life. His deep faith in God gave Judge Barton the strength to carry on throughout his struggle with sinus and liver cancer. His life and fight with cancer serve as an inspiration to us all.

Again, my heart goes out to Judge Barton's family and to all those who are grieving his passing. Judge Barton will truly be missed, but his spirit will live with us forever.

#### 2102 BANKS OF PROMISE

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment that more than 2000 banks in our great country have made to our Nation's Youth

Last year, the American Bankers Association pledged to enroll 1000 banks in America's Promise, the organization led by General Colin Powell that draws on the talents and resources of public, private and nonprofit organizations to improve the lives of our nation's youth. Banks of Promise agreed to increase their involvement in programs and activities that benefit children in order to provide them with the five fundamental resources they need to succeed in life. Those resources are: (1) An ongoing relationship with a caring adult; (2) a safe place with structured activities during non-school hours; (3) a healthy start in life; (4) a marketable skill through effective education; and (5) a chance to give back through community service.

The response by the industry has been overwhelming. Today, the number of Banks of Promise has more than doubled to 2102, reflecting the banking industry's commitment to its communities, America's youth and the future of our nation. These banks—and state

bankers associations across the country—are offering the children in their communities everything from job training and mentoring to safe and accessible playgrounds and financial education. Indeed, our nation's banks are making an invaluable investment: they are investing in our kids.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise not only to recognize the banking industry's commitment but also to encourage other businesses, organizations and individuals to make a similar investment in their local youth. From Fortune 500 companies to government agencies to the local mom and pop store—we all have the ability, and the obligation, to help our children succeed in life.

One familiar quote adequately sums up the importance of America's Promise. It says: "One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

To learn more about the Banks of Promise program and to see a list of the participating banks go to [www.aba.com](http://www.aba.com).

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JUDSON HARPER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today, on the eve of his impending retirement, I honor Dr. Judson M. Harper, Vice President for Research and Information Technology and Professor of Chemical and Bioresearch Engineering, at Colorado State University (CSU), located in Ft. Collins, Colorado. During his tenure at the University, Dr. Harper has been instrumental in positioning CSU as a world-class leader for research in the fields of animal sciences, information technology, natural resources management, atmospheric sciences, and agriculture.

In 1993, Dr. Harper orchestrated the construction of the Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Lab, located on the campus of CSU. With the acquisition of this nationally-renowned research facility, CSU became the first in the nation to develop artificial insemination procedures for livestock. Other accomplishments associated with the lab include pioneering efforts in gene splicing and cloning. Research projects from the Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Lab have also ensured the United States' livestock production industry remains competitive internationally.

Dr. Harper is also primarily responsible for establishing the Center for Geosciences at CSU. The Center, in partnership with the Department of Defense, is entering into a fourth phase of research projects to develop more sophisticated equipment and technology to better understand weather dynamics as it relates to military activities.

Dr. Harper has not only provided leadership in the scientific arena, but as the interim president in 1887, when Dr. Albert Yates, current CSU President, was away on sabbatical. Dr. Harper also directed the University through perhaps its darkest period. The flood of 1997, one of the worst weather disasters in the history of the state, claimed five lives, destroyed

2000 homes, and damaged 212 businesses, resulting in a \$200 million loss. Thirty buildings on the CSU campus sustained damage and nearly 200 faculty, staff, and students were displaced. Many books were ruined, and tragically, many faculty lost much of their life's work. Disaster officials were extremely impressed with CSU's rapid recovery, many attributing the credit to Dr. Harper.

An active administrator and respected researcher, Dr. Harper is recognized internationally as an expert in the area of food extrusion, a process by which food ingredients are heated and fashioned in an effort to achieve desired shapes and textures. Food extrusion is energy efficient, cost effective, and has become a central part of many modern food processing operations. His accomplishments in this area include 77 journal publications, two books, and 10 separate chapters in other works. In addition, he is also the co-holder of five U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the good fortune to work with Dr. Harper for many years and on many projects during my service as a Colorado State Senator and a United States Congressman. I regard him as a friend, an honorable public servant, a scholar, and one of the most decent human beings I've ever met. Dr. Harper's devotion to Colorado State University and the people of Colorado has been the basis for the profound legacy he has established.

Future generations may one day become unfamiliar with the name of Jud Harper, but all will be touched just the same by his exemplary work and his superior intellect. There are many reasons Colorado State University has risen to the top of higher education achievement. Dr. Jud Harper is among the most significant leaders who have positioned the institution in a place of such world-class prestige.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Jud Harper is leaving behind a tremendous legacy as he moves on from Colorado State University to the next phase of his life. He will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE RED ARROW CLUB

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and pay tribute to the Red Arrow Club of Milwaukee. October 15th, 2000 marks the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Army's 32d Infantry Division's call to active duty prior to World War II, and also the 39th anniversary of the October 15th, 1961 call to active duty for the Berlin Crisis. This is a very important day for the club, for those who have worn the "Red Arrow" in war, as well as peacetime.

Comprised of troops from Michigan and Wisconsin, these soldiers were inducted into federal service at Lansing, Michigan on October 15th, 1940. The "Red Arrow" arrived in Australia on May 14, 1942 and participated in a number of heroic WWII campaigns, seeing action in Papua, New Guinea, Leyte, and Luzon, and later in Japan they often withstood bitter hand-to-hand combat, and fought bravely and honorably for their country. During their tour of duty in World War II, the members of the 32d Division laid their lives on the line for

their country, asking nothing in return. And once again on October 15th, 1961 the "Red Arrow" answered the call of their country to protect our vital interests overseas, this time for the Berlin Crisis.

For their bravery, members of the 32d have received a total of ten Congressional medals of Honor and fourteen Distinguished Unit Citations. In addition, the unit has received several decorations including the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

This special day serves to honor the many veterans who answered the call to duty to serve their country in this distinguished division, a number of whom made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned home to family and friends. To the veterans, as well as those on active duty, my sincere congratulations on this very special milestone in the 32d Division's history. It is an honor that is well deserved.

HONORING THE LATE DIANE BLAIR

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a great Arkansan. Today President Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and many other distinguished citizens of Arkansas are attending a memorial service in Fayetteville to celebrate and honor the life of Diane Blair, who passed away last month. I believe that Diane Blair also deserves a tribute in the Congress, because her influence and service impacted our nation as well.

Diane was first and foremost a professor of political science at the University of Arkansas, and it was through this role that she touched an entire generation of Americans. She literally "wrote the book" on Arkansas politics—Arkansas Politics and Government: Do the People Rule? still stands as the one and only authoritative treatment of the subject. Beyond her academic accomplishments, Diane is best remembered as a caring and thoughtful teacher. She engaged her students, and imparted her love of learning to them.

Moreover, through her example she inspired countless people to become active in the political system. She was the conscience of the Democratic party in Arkansas for years, but her grace and magnanimity attracted admirers from across the political spectrum. She was an outspoken advocate for women and education, and for progress in general.

Her accomplishments are manifold and diverse: chairwoman of state and national commissions, including the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; professor emerita; author and editor of two books; mother of five, grandmother of two.

The life of Diane Blair will be memorialized in many ways. The University of Arkansas will create a center for the study of southern political culture in her name. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has already named its new boardroom in her honor. However, the best memorial to Diane Blair exists in the hearts and minds of her friends, students, and loved ones. I am proud to count myself among this fortunate group, and on behalf of the Congress I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Diane Blair in their time of mourning.