

played or their composers. As a result, the musicians' appreciation for the music is heightened and their performances are elevated to new levels.

Mr. McClimon has led the Scotia Band in performances at a variety of community functions throughout Humboldt County in the last twenty-five years. Some of these events include the Humboldt County Fair, the Rio Dell Little League Parade, the Fortuna Bicentennial, the Ferndale Repertory Theater, high school graduation ceremonies, and memorial services for civic leaders. The band is clearly a visible presence in all aspects of social life in Humboldt County.

As Director of the Scotia Band, Mr. McClimon has maintained its tradition of excellence in musical service. He is a patient and gifted teacher while continuously holding the band members to high standards. Mr. McClimon personifies an excerpt from the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Scotia Band in 1985: "For 50 years the Scotia Band has served Humboldt County communities. This spirit of dedicated public service enriches all those whose lives are touched. The band symbolizes the ideals and traditions that have made America great."

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Michael McClimon, for he, too, symbolizes the ideals and traditions that have made America great. He deserves to be honored today, for he has tirelessly and unselfishly served the members of the Scotia Band and the citizens of Humboldt County for twenty-five years.

THE AMERICAN HOME BUYERS
PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 5033

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 27, I introduced the American Home Buyers Protection Act, H.R. 5033. This bill will make much needed reforms in the practice of including mandatory arbitration clauses in homebuilding purchase contracts.

Mr. Speaker as you may know, mandatory arbitration clauses are now ubiquitous in consumer contracts. These clauses deny consumers the opportunity to go to court to seek redress for damage or harm from a product or service. Many of these clauses typically name a private arbitration service. This creates a potential conflict of interest for a private arbitrator that both must neutrally assess the merits of a case while simultaneously profiting from the continual referral of cases from a particular industry. This is a situation that I believe demands immediate redress by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe arbitration clauses are per se bad. As a former state district judge, I took the lead in bringing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to the civil courtrooms of my hometown of San Antonio. But, I do believe that it is wrong to insert these clauses without the knowledge and prior approval of consumers. I strongly believe that alternative dispute resolution clauses must be mutually agreed to and contain plain language descriptions of their effects. In addition, I do not believe that these clauses should be imposed on consumers as a condition precedent

for entering into a commercial contract, and that the naming of arbitrator must be mutually agreed to by both parties.

The homebuilding industry in particular, I believe, has used mandatory arbitration clauses in an excessive and harmful manner. For most families, a purchase of a home is the largest single investment they will make. It is frequently the largest asset they will ever own. Mandatory arbitration agreements which allow homebuilders to avoid court analysis of their building practices has allowed numerous homebuilders to escape the consequences of shoddy workmanship and construction. I have personally seen several homes in San Antonio that were negligently and poorly constructed, inflicting serious financial harm on the families that purchased these homes.

My bill the American Home Buyers Protection Act, will make the following reforms to the mandatory arbitration process as it regards homebuilding purchase contracts:

1. It will make it illegal for homebuilders to require agreement to a mandatory arbitration agreement as a condition precedent to entering into a contract for the purchase of a new house.

2. It will require mandatory arbitration agreements to be contained on a separate document from the underlying contract and to possess the following plain language statement: "By Agreeing to Binding Arbitration You Are Giving Up Your Right To Go To Court."

3. It will require mandatory arbitration agreements to contain a procedure that adequately guarantees the purchaser an opportunity to participate in the selection of an arbitrator, and shall require that the selection of the arbitrator may only occur after a dispute regarding the homebuilding contract has arisen.

Mr. Speaker I believe the reforms in The American Home Buyers Protection Act are a good first step towards alleviating the abuse of alternative dispute resolution procedures by homebuilders. I believe that it is time that Congress take action now to protect American families from arbitration procedures that will deny them adequate protection of their most important purchase, their home.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF NORMAN AND ANN MALONE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Mayor Norman Malone and his wife Ann Malone of La Porte, Texas, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 15, 2000. Throughout their lives, Norman and Ann have provided tremendous examples of public service, contributing unselfishly to numerous causes while raising a fine family.

Ann and Norman are native Texans who have an abiding love for their state and community.

Ann was only 16 years old when she met 20-year-old Navy man Norman Malone at a party in Denver Harbor, a subdivision of Houston, Texas. They were married on September 15, 1950 at Ann's Mother's house in Houston by the Presbyterian minister from her church.

The young couple honeymooned in San Antonio, Texas.

Norman was born in Marlin, Texas. He served his country in the U.S. Navy for 4 years as Gunner's Mate, and graduated with a B.S. from the University of Houston in 1952. He received his Masters' in Education in 1953. He also attended San Jacinto College, University of Texas, A&M University and Prairie View A&M. While in school he was a hard-working man of many talents, earning money as a bus driver, butcher, a carpenter, a chemical operator. After school he worked 11 years at Shell Chemical. He retired after 30 years from the Pasadena Independent School system and as a Vocational Director for 17 years.

As Mayor, Norman Malone has reached out to the people of La Porte, not only through his elected office, but through grassroots community projects as well. While most people know him as "Mayor," many also know him as "Normy" the Shriner Clown, who is very involved with the Masons.

Ann is a painter and a genealogist, who is known for being multi-talented. She has taught school in La Porte and Pasadena, Texas, and has worked as a librarian. She has owned a gift shop, dress shop, and tearoom.

The Malone family has deep roots in La Porte, having lived there now for 41 years. The Malone's contributions to the community are many. Over they years, Ann and Norman have instilled their values and generosity in their children and grandchildren. Ann and Norman raised 3 beautiful children, who all graduated from La Porte High School—daughter Georgia and sons Scott and Todd. Ann and Norman's grandchildren are: Jennifer, Jessica, Meghan, and Charlie.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ann and Norman Malone on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary and commend them on a lifetime of achievement. Their commitment not only to one another, but to others as well, is an example for all of us. May the coming years bring good health, happiness, and time to enjoy their children and grandchildren. On this joyous occasion, I am pleased to join their family, friends, and community in saying congratulations and thank you.

REPORT OF THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST
CONGRESSIONAL COALITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, today I apprise members of the House of issues that were raised during the May 5th Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition field hearing I chaired in Pittsburgh. This field hearing examined the future of the U.S. Steel and the role of Technology, and was held in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Industrial Technologies Steel Showcase. I, along with Representative KLINK, Representative MAS-CARA, and Senator SANTORUM, gathered testimony from steel company executives and their partners regarding initiatives designed to increase the competitiveness of U.S. steel makers by developing advanced technologies for steel production. For the record, I am including

an executive summary from the field hearing as part of my statement.

The panelists at the Pittsburgh Steel Showcase field hearing described the role of steel in the United States economy at the beginning of the 21st century. In compelling detail, Robert Riederer, CEO and President of Weirton Steel, fleshed out the struggle to surmount challenges to the continued viability of an industry that remains as vital today to our national security and American manufacturing as it has in the past. Paul Wilhelm of U.S. Steel spoke candidly of the need to protect the environment without adversely affecting the industry. Collectively, from the panelists' testimony emerged a vision of a bedrock industry competitive in world markets, environmentally and technically advanced, but threatened on two fronts: waves of imports dumped by countries reeling from constricted domestic markets, desperate to prop up exports, and heightened environmental standards at home. In response to this discussion, members of Congress and panelists explored the following solutions: tighter enforcement of anti-dumping provisions, close monitoring of steel scrap to ensure the purity of recycled steel, increased funding for various offices within the U.S. Department of Energy for research and development of new steel production technologies, and tax credits for investment, research, and development.

It is my hope that all House members will take time to read the full report as it contains a host of important information. And as always, I stand ready to work with my colleagues on issues in support of the steel industry.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The panelists at the Congressional field hearing at the Pittsburgh steel showcase described the role of steel in the United States economy at the beginning of the 21st century. In compelling detail panelists like Robert Riederer, CEO and President of Weirton Steel, fleshed out the struggle to surmount challenges to the continued viability of an industry that remains as vital today to national security and American manufacturing as it has been in the past. Candidly Paul Wilhelm of U.S. Steel spoke of the need to protect the environment without killing the industry. From the panelists' testimony emerged a vision of a bedrock industry competitive in world markets, environmentally and technically advanced but threatened on two fronts: by waves of imports dumped by countries reeling from constricted domestic markets, desperate to prop up exports, and by ever tightening environmental standards at home. Panelists and Members of Congress explored the solutions: increased funding for U.S. Department of Energy Office of Industrial Technologies' Industries of the Future research and development of new steel production technologies, tighter enforcement of anti-dumping provisions, close monitoring of imported steel scrap to ensure the purity of recycled steel, and tax credits for investment and research and development.

HONORING REDWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of Redwood Community Action Agency in Eureka, California. Since its establishment in 1980, RCAA has lead the way in serving Humboldt County's low- and moderate-income residents. The agency has developed programs to help people become more self-sufficient and to improve their own lives. Over the years tens of thousands of individuals have received assistance and in return given back to our community.

Redwood Community Action Agency has successfully competed for grant funds to create jobs, provide affordable housing, assist with housing rehabilitation and improve the environment. They have provided emergency shelter for the homeless, job training and employment readiness programs, as well as crisis intervention for Humboldt County youth and their families. Through their commitment, expertise, and diligence, they have brought over \$75 million into our community over the past twenty years.

Redwood Community Action Agency is an extraordinary example of success. Through their collaboration with other organizations and governmental entities they identify human and environmental needs, work to improve current services, and seize every opportunity to serve low and moderate-income people in our region.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we honor the accomplishments of the Redwood Community Action Agency and their success in improving the lives of so many in Humboldt County, California.

IN TRIBUTE TO JACK F. PARR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has been described as "The newsman other newsmen listened to". Jack F. Parr, a long-time resident of Monterey County in California, passed away on Monday August 7, 2000, at the age of 77.

Born on August 15, 1922, Jack Parr was a veteran of World War II, where he received the Purple Heart for injuries received on D-Day. After serving his nation, he returned to the Central Coast and began working in radio. In all, he worked for three separate radio stations in Monterey County at different times—KMRL, KIDD and KNRY—ensuring that his distinctive voice and thorough reporting would be well-known and loved on the Monterey Peninsula and beyond. He could be found at any event where news was happening, and was a central figure for many people in the county. Print news and T.V. news reporters would listen to Jack's morning news report and use his leads as the agenda for news stories. Before the internet, he was the wireless wire for news. Asked how he did it, he would reply "I

get up at 4:00 A.M. and cover the nightly police reports—everything evolved from there."

Jack Parr was "a jolly soul who never seemed to see the depressing side of things," as Joe Fitzpatrick, a former local reporter, put it. His humor and voice will be sorely missed by his daughters, Jacquelyn Parr Pitcher of St. Charles, Illinois and Karen Parr of Burbank, California, as well as the radio audiences of the Central Coast.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF CHARLES L. BIDWELL OF THE BRIGHTON AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to Deputy Chief Charles L. Bidwell for his 50 years of outstanding service to the Brighton Area Fire Department. His colleagues and friends will be hosting a dinner on September 19 in recognition of his wonderful career.

Deputy Chief Bidwell has been an active, on-call firefighter with the City of Brighton Fire Department and the merged Brighton Area Fire Department since September 14, 1950. He retired from General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford, Michigan and served as Deputy Chief since 1988. Deputy Chief Bidwell was recognized by the City of Brighton Fire Department as Firefighter of the Year in 1987 and most recently, by the Michigan State Firemen's Association, as Firefighter of the Year for 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the Brighton area is very fortunate to have benefitted from the leadership, dedication, sacrifice and hard work of Deputy Chief Bidwell throughout his 50 years of service. As the leader in alarm response for the past decade, he has certainly contributed significantly to the safety and well-being of the citizens he has served. It is my honor, and indeed great pleasure, to stand in recognition of a man who has given so selflessly of his time and energy.

On behalf of the 8th district of Michigan, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Deputy Chief Bidwell's many immeasurable contributions.

LIVIO PALLA, KERN COUNTY'S 2000 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friends in the Kern County farm community in honoring Mr. Livio Palla, this year's recipient of the Agriculturist of the Year 2000.

One of the primary reasons California has been the nation's premier farm state for decades is its people. Today, many outside California are surprised to learn California is the nation's top dairy state, the nation's second largest producer of cotton and the primary source of almonds, pistachios, table grapes and other fruits and vegetables. Americans