CELEBRATING ''A WEEKEND OF GIVING CARE, A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT''

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate ''A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment,'' which will take place around our great nation on December 2–3, 2000. I would also like to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Martin K. Bayne, of Clinton Park, in Upstate New York, who first advocated establishment of this wonderful celebration. Martin is a 50 year old publisher and long-time advocate for our nation's elders. Mr. Bayne has worked closely on long term care issues with several of my House colleagues in the recent past. His work has been instrumental in beginning the slow, long process of re-establishing our ties with the generation who brought us up, fed us and protected us.

A century ago, the average life expectancy was 46 years. Today, improvements in diet and medical practices are keeping us alive to average age of 78. Death, however, is often slow and preceded by years of chronic pain and disability. In 1900, we were usually surrounded by family when we died. Today, we often die alone, surrounded only by the sounds of compressors, ventilators, and electronic displays.

In 1900, aging was a normal part of our life, and an important intergenerational bond within the family. It signaled the natural cycle of birth and death, like the changing of the seasons. Today, aging is an aberration in a culture that is fixated—some say obsessed—on eternal youthfulness. Unfortunately, the old are sometimes even shunned, ignored, abused, and neglected.

As a show of commitment to our elder citizens, Martin Bayne proposed setting aside the first week in December as ''A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment.'' On that weekend, Mr. Bayne, who himself lives with the daily challenges of advanced Parkinson's Disease, will join other members of his community to volunteer in an elder care facility as a demonstration of their genuine commitment to the nation's oldest citizens—a generation too often forgotten and too seldom embraced.

''A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment'' will be an opportunity for many elder Americans to see beyond the health challenges of aging. This event also honors a sacred covenant and repays a debt. Our elders were responsible for our care and safety as infants. Now, the wheel of life comes full circle, and we must be mindful and ever vigilant of the well-being of our parents' generation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating ''A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment.'' This celebration is an important step in showing our care and concern for elders in this nation. I salute Mr. Martin K. Bayne's efforts to establish this vital celebration, as well as all those volunteers who will participate in the event. I hope our nation pays close attention to the celebration on December 2–3, 2000 and carries the ''Lifetime of Commitment'' message forward in an attempt to provide respectable treatment and care to all our aging Americans.

PROPOSED SEC RULE COMMENT PERIOD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a rule proposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, that would affect the consulting affiliates of auditing firms.

In response to concerns voiced by some of my constituents, I joined many of my Small Business Committee colleagues in writing to SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt. We asked that the comment period on the proposed rule be extended past its September 25 deadline and that the rule be modified to address the concerns raised by members of the accounting industry.

It was not my intention to delay the final decision to next year. I strongly oppose any attempts to delay the final rulemaking process through legislative means.

As the SEC moves forward with this rule, it is my hope that all interested parties will have adequate time to voice their concerns. That being said, I have no doubt that SEC Chairman Levitt will conduct a thoughtful, inclusive comment period.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was not able to vote during consideration of rollcall votes 500–530.

Had I been present, I would have voted: ''yea'' on rollcall numbers 500–505, 507–518, 520–523, 525–528, and 530; ''no'' on rollcall numbers 506, 519, 524, 529.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, as the information age continues forward, crimes resulting from the use of stolen personal information have occurred with greater frequency. Time and time again, a person's identity is taken from them unknowingly and used to someone else's advantage. Information such as Social Security Numbers, financial records, or medical documents are often easily found and easily abused.

The problem is wide spread. Unfortunately, our own Federal Government, in the form of the Social Security Administration, helps to allow for identity theft to more easily occur. In an alarming practice, the Social Security Administration has the Department of Treasury print a Social Security recipient's name, address, and Social Security Number on their benefits check. This information is then openly displayed in the window of the envelope. These envelopes are placed in the public mail system when any individual could potentially, and relatively easily, gain access to this information. This practice is irresponsible and must be changed. We cannot allow senior citizens to be the victims of government irresponsibility.

H.R. 3218, ''The Social Security Number Confidentiality Act,'' addresses the practice of printing Social Security Numbers in a place where the number can easily be seen or accessed. This forward thinking legislation directs the Treasury Secretary to take the necessary steps to end the practice of printing a recipients Social Security Number in an open and visible location.

Current law ensures that information obtained by the Social Security Administration is confidential. This legislation will make sure that the Federal Government obeys the law, and that it does not act irresponsibly in its job of keeping personal information confidential.

I urge further action by the Congress to explore where further privacy protection is needed and where the Federal Government is not protecting that privacy. In the same way, it is important that citizens take steps to protect themselves. One should always be careful to guard personal information.

This legislation is a positive step in protecting the privacy of our Nation's senior citizens. I urge my colleagues to help pass this legislation and help keep our nation's citizens' private lives just that—private.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER U.S.S. ''COLE''

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commmend the valiant sailors of the U.S.S. *Cole* and to express my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones who suffered losses due to an act of terrorism.

On October 12, 2000, the Navy family suffered a tremendous loss, when the U.S.S. *Cole* fell victim to terrorism while attempting to refuel at the Port of Aden in Yemen. My heart continues to go out to the families and friends of the American sailors who were killed, injured or are still missing. I commend our valiant sailors who responded quickly to this tragedy, minimizing casualties and damage to their ship.

It was a honor to assist three families from my District as they waited to hear news on their loved ones. Fortunately, the families and friends of Petty Officer Kevin Benoit of Cairo, NY, Ensign & Deck Division Commander Gregory McDearmon of Ballston Lake, NY, and Chief Petty Officer Charles Sweet of Broadalbin, NY, after hours of waiting, received word that their loved ones were safe.

It is important that we always remember that these brave men and women are serving our Nation and we should pay tribute to them. These sailors have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. This is a loss felt by the entire nation.

This tragedy highlights the constant dangers faced by our armed forces around the world.

Our country must remain vigilant in protecting them from future terrorist or other attacks. Our government must work diligently to protect and provide aid to those who are injured and work with the families who are going through a period of grieving.

Again, Mr. Speaker, our prayers go out to the sailors, their families and friends.

IN MEMORY OF BETTY BANKS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a beloved citizen of the Fourth Congressional District and a dear friend, the late Betty Jean Henderson Banks of Ivanhoe, Texas, who passed away earlier this year. Betty was a wonderful woman whose kindness and dedication to her family, friends, and community will be long remembered.

Born in Louisiana to the late Lafayette Victor Henderson and Ida Butler Starke Henderson, Betty married James Walter Banks in 1938 in Bonham, Texas. Throughout her years in Bonham, Betty raised a family and worked tirelessly on behalf of her community. Betty was known by many for her work at the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, where she worked in food service. She also was known throughout Bonham for her volunteer efforts on numerous causes, from making uniforms for the Missionettes (Girls Club) to helping find and fight for a liver transplant for a baby in need. Betty was an integral part of a women's prayer group that met monthly for a prayer breakfast at the First National Bank in Bonham, and she was a member of the First Pentecostal Church of God in Bonham.

In the local paper, this was written about Betty by Mrs. Paul Keahey: ''Over the years she stood up for truth and honesty at all levels of society and government and what she believed to be right.'' These sentiments were echoed by her many friends and fellow citizens who knew her and loved her.

Betty is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, James V. ''Butch'' Banks and Carol of Baytown; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Mike Stockton of Ravenna and Becky and Victor Santiago of West Haven, Conn.; and a brother, Robert H. Henderson of Colville, Wash. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, James Walter Banks, who passed away in 1996; a granddaughter, Amanda Stockton; brother, L. Victor Henderson, and a sister, Yvonne Henderson.

Betty was an honest and loyal friend to many and a role model in her community. We will miss her—but her legacy will live on in the lives of all those whom she touched with her generosity and kindness. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, may we do so in memory of this beloved citizen of Fannin County, Betty Banks.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley was established in 1900. The first two decades of the century were years of intense recruitment as new Christians were being sought, baptized, and organized into a church body. The founder and first pastor, the Reverend Price David Chandler, united two small groups, a home-based weekly prayer meeting and a home-based Sunday School class, to form the nucleus of the church.

Through World War I, the church remained intact and served as a place of worship for the community suffering from national unrest and disrupted family lives. During this time, the building experienced a series of remodelings and renovations including the installation of electric lighting, stained glass windows, a metal ceiling, pews to replace chairs, and central heating.

The 1930s brought the Great Depression and First Baptist established a system of dues whereby members were considered in good standing if they paid 25 cents each month on Communion Sunday. In 1937 after 37 years of faithful service, Reverend Chandler passed away.

The spirit of First Baptist Church was tested in the 1940s as a result of World War II. Attendance was unstable because young men were drafted into the military and other members, both men and women, worked in defense plants with irregular and demanding hours. Despite the hard times, First Baptist remained in business.

The 1960s were a time of renewal for the church. A Vacation Bible School was initiated and the First Baptist Church installed its fourth pastor, the Reverend Howard Cartwright, Jr., whose intense interest was missionary work. The congregation became acquainted with missionaries from far and near, serving in both foreign and domestic areas.

In 1997, the First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley installed its current pastor, the Reverend Bruce Wayne Petty, Sr., whose very vigorous, enthusiastic teaching and preaching ministry increase spiritual insights necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

As one of the oldest churches in Montgomery County, First Baptist demonstrates how commitment and dedication can lead to a prosperous and successful church. The history that surrounds the First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley is unparalleled and it is a privilege to recognize this extraordinary parish on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I have the opportunity to voice my strong concern over the lack of legislation being passed to improve the deterioration of our nation's schools.

During the 106th Congress, I authored H.R. 415 and I co-sponsored H.R. 1660, H.R. 1960, H.R. 3874, and H.R. 4094. Each of these bills, if the majority party permitted them to be considered, would have facilitated school construction—an issue that can no longer be overlooked by the federal government.

H.R. 415, my Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act, will encourage new school and classroom construction through the creation of a new class of tax-exempt bonds. These bonds are similar to the Qualified Zone Academy bonds created in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 for the purpose of school renovation. My bill focuses on using these new bonds specifically for the construction of new classrooms and schools, and to assist overcrowded, high growth rate schools that are struggling to adequately house their students.

H.R. 415 will assist Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with limited financial resources to combat major overcrowding problems due to increasing enrollment. The program provides interest-free capital to LEAs by giving a tax credit to the financial institution in the amount equal to the interest that would otherwise be paid. The local school district is then required to repay only the principal amount borrowed. The Secretary of Education will be responsible for direct distribution of the bond program to the LEAs, avoiding any state bureaucracy in funding decisions or program administration.

Let's examine the facts about the conditions of our schools. Between 2000 and 2010, the average national increase of public high school students is 10%, with an expected increase of 15% in my home state of California. This year, 53 million children will enter public and private elementary and secondary schools in the United States. By 2020, the Department of Education estimates that about 55 million children will be enrolled in our nation's schools, with this number increasing to 60 million by 2030.

In California alone, the Department of Education projects that elementary and secondary school enrollment will increase by 4.6% over the next 10 years. This ranks 12th among states with the largest expected increases. On a more local level, Orange County has already experienced a 30.9% increase in the enrollment of elementary and secondary school students from 1990–1998.

The bottom line here is that we have a growing population of students, and we do not have the infrastructure in place to properly accommodate all of them. These are frightening statistics for the future of our nation. It is our responsibility to our children to take action on this matter immediately. We wouldn't think of sending our men and women in the armed services into a battle without the best training they can be supplied. Why are we sending our children into this global economy and competitive world with less than the best preparation? This is indeed an issue of national security for the United States.