

As Dunlop recounts, for instance, in the mid 1990s, the EPA, run by former Gore aide Carol Browner, tried to prevent the state of Virginia from making the federal government clean up one of the worst toxic waste sites in the country. Avtex fibers. The plant had been kept open thanks to Colin Powell and the Bush administration because it was producing valuable products for the federal government. That's understandable.

What was wrong was the effort by the Clinton Administration to avoid making the party responsible for the pollution, namely Uncle Sam, from paying for the cleanup. "Can you imagine," as Dunlop notes, "if the guilty party had been a major corporation?"

EPA ultimately paid a huge fine to Virginia in the Avtex case but only after a legal struggle. Today, Browner brazenly takes credit for having cleaned up the site.

The government as a polluter is a vital issue all by itself. But in an election where trust, character, and taking responsibility have become part of the debate, it may be especially important.

Wasn't it Al Gore who was led an exhaustive review of everything the federal bureaucracy does, the ill-starred "re-inventing government" crusade? How does Gore square this effort and mission, and his vaunted attention to detail, with the fact that he apparently paid little attention to the polluting activities and policies of governmental itself?

Here we see the intersection of something Al Gore claims to revere, namely clean air and water, with the place where he and Bill Clinton have had the most direct control, the federal executive branch. And instead of a record to be proud of, the story of EPA in the 1990s is one of political vendettas, bad science, and "the buck stops over there."

I'm no Jim Lehrer or Larry King, but if I were, I know that I would point this out. It isn't a nit-picking question, and it isn't a personal attack—instead it goes to policy and the future. And it would sure be interesting what Al Gore has to say.

*Mr. Kasten served Wisconsin in the House of Representatives (1975-81) and U.S. Senate (1981-93) and is an advisor to the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution.*

#### HONORING RON HASKINS

##### HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 28, 2000*

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress draws to a close, I would like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Mr. Ron Haskins, the Staff Director of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. Much to my regret, Ron will be leaving the Subcommittee at the end of the year. I know he will be sorely missed by this Member, and by the many other Members and staff who have had the opportunity to work with him during his time on Capitol Hill.

Over the years, Ron has been a key asset on the Ways and Means Committee. As a member of the Human Resources Subcommittee, I have had the honor of working closely with Ron on some of the major social policy issues affecting our country. His in-depth understanding of the issues, combined with his keen ability to digest the diverse perspectives of Committee Members, have allowed him to help identify areas of compromise and agreement on difficult issues.

As the Subcommittee's new Staff Director in 1995, Ron immediately employed his strong grasp of the nation's welfare system by working with then-Chairman CLAY SHAW, and other Members of the Committee, to craft the 1996 Welfare Reform Act—the most significant change in social policy in this country in the last 60 years. Thanks to Ron's tireless efforts, millions of American families are breaking a cycle of dependency and are working and gaining independence in our nation's economy.

As Ron moves on to other opportunities in his life, I join my colleagues in thanking Ron for his service to the Committee and to the country, for his good counsel, and for his energetic presence. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### SUPPORT FOR LIBERTY DAY CELEBRATION IN KANSAS

##### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 28, 2000*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the celebration of Liberty Day in my home state of Kansas.

Liberty Day is a non-partisan statewide celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. It is celebrated annually on March 16th, the birthday of James Madison, the "father of our Constitution." On this day, and throughout the year, elected and previously elected officials volunteer their time to speak to students about how our country was established, how our system of government operates, what it means to be an American, and what our rights and responsibilities are as citizens of this great country. This year, Liberty Day was observed in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Wyoming. In Kansas, March 16, 2000, was proclaimed as Liberty Day by Governor Bill Graves, who urged all Kansans to join in the observance.

On October 10th of this year, I was pleased to join with my colleagues in voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 376, expressing the sense of Congress regarding support of the recognition of a Liberty Day. This resolution was approved by a voice vote of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress, it has been my honor to have the opportunity to distribute hundreds of copies of the Constitution to constituents who have visited my office, Kansans who have attended my regularly-scheduled community office hours in the Third District, and secondary school teachers, study group leaders, and ministers who have contacted me asking for copies of the Constitution for distribution. I welcome this opportunity to share with you my support for this worthy endeavor, which will bring the living words of our Constitution closer to the minds and hearts of Kansans who, as I do, revere its meaning in our lives today.

#### HONORING GIL CORONADO

##### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 28, 2000*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I honor the achievements of a fellow Texan who has been serving as a key appointee in the Clinton Administration for the past six years. Gil Coronado is one of San Antonio's favorite sons, and is currently serving as the ninth Director of the Selective Service System. He is also the first Hispanic Director in the Agency's 60-year history.

Since his nomination by President Clinton and Senate confirmation in October 1994, Director Coronado has been leading this small but vital Federal agency into the 21st Century with unprecedented modernization and innovation, through the institution of on-line registration and registration by telephone. Nearly three-quarters of a million men have registered on-line to date.

More than half of all registrations today are electronic and the ratio of electronic registrations vs. paper registrations increases monthly, making it faster and easier for America's young men to comply with the registration requirement. These improvements also make it less costly to administer, something for which this body has a great appreciation.

Gil Coronado's influence as Director extends beyond Texas and Washington, D.C. Through his tireless advocacy in encouraging state and local government support of the Federal registration program, the number of states enacting laws that directly support the Military Selective Service Act has risen from 18 to 28 since 1994. This year two states—Oklahoma and Delaware—became the first states to link Selective Service registration with application for state drivers' licenses.

Gil Coronado is dedicated to making sure that our nation's young men are reminded about their civic and legal obligation to register.

Gil Coronado is a tremendous role model. He was born in Corpus Christi and grew up in the barrios of San Antonio. Orphaned at the age of five, his youthful years sometimes found him on the wrong side of the law. He dropped out of high school and was a member of Hispanic gangs. But he soon followed a more productive path in life, leading to great personal achievement and dedicated public service.

He enlisted in the military when he was only 16 by being more patriotic than honest about his age, earned a GED diploma, a college degree, and devoted a total of 30 years to a distinguished Air Force career, retiring as a Colonel with over 35 awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. A long-time crusader for Hispanic issues, he advocated creating National Hispanic Heritage Month, designated by the Congress in 1988.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the service and accomplishments of one of its most effective appointees, Selective Service System Director Gil Coronado. His selfless contributions to our great nation, from his years as a very young airman to the approaching conclusion of his current assignment as the longest serving SSS Director since General Lewis B. Hershey, are inspirational to us all. In every respect, Gil Coronado

is a patriot, a good friend, and a great American.

A TRIBUTE HONORING MR. JOSEPH ACOSTA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 28, 2000*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special American citizen, Mr. Joseph Acosta of San Gabriel California who celebrates his 90th Birthday today. Mr. Acosta is the quintessential example of a devoted American family man, who has led an exemplary life of service to God, family and country, and who is deserving of our highest commendation and gratitude.

Joe Acosta is a simple man, a quiet man, a man of great character. Born on October 28, 1910 in Sonora, Mexico, he moved at the tender age of three, along with his beloved parents Joseph and Teresa Acosta, and his siblings to the United States, where the family settled in Tucson, Arizona.

Like many new immigrant families working the great agricultural fields of the southwest, Joe had to leave school early in life in order to help the family survive. He took upon his shoulders the hard and grueling work, without complaint, in order that he and his seven brothers and sisters could have a better opportunity to seek the American dream.

Perhaps his greatest achievement, but certainly most fortuitous happenstance was meeting, courting and marrying the lovely and charming Cecelia Palomares, scion of one of California's proud pioneer families. United in Holy Matrimony on September 26, 1936, Joe and Cecelia Acosta recently celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary, a milestone reached by few couples. Together they raised a fine family consisting of two sons, Robert and Vincent Acosta, and a daughter Patricia Acosta Williams. They enjoy six grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren, with two more on the way!

Attaining American citizenship in 1937, Joe Acosta was part of the "Greatest Generation" that contributed to the triumph of freedom over tyranny during World War II. While he did not serve in the military, he worked sixteen-hour days in the rubber industry to provide materiel for the war effort. Later, the great skills he exhibited in his work brought his company profits exceeding seventy thousand dollars per month that helped usher in a period of unprecedented prosperity for the United States and created the great middle class of Americans.

Through their courage, effort and devotion, Joe and Cecelia, Acosta achieved the American dream for their family. They are proud homeowners and citizens of San Gabriel, California, and devoted parishioners of San Gabriel Mission Catholic Church. Along with the multitudes of simple, quiet unsung heroes, who contributed so enormously to the collective greatness of American society, Joe Acosta has done his part. In the warm embrace of his loving family, he has earned the pleasures of a long retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to Joseph Acosta, faithful servant of God, honorable citizen of the United States, proud and devoted husband

and father. From the hallowed halls of Congress we say to you Joe, "Well Done! God bless you and your family. And God bless America!"

COMMENDING THE BROOKLYN CENTER, MINNESOTA LIONS CLUB FOR 46 YEARS OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITY NEEDS

**HON. JIM RAMSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 28, 2000*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute a remarkable organization in my district which has been working hard for nearly half a century to raise badly needed resources to fund countless community efforts and held people in need.

For 46 years, the Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Lions Club has always been there to help with a wide variety of critical needs. There are no words to adequately convey my admiration and thanks for all that the Brooklyn Center Lions have accomplished through their inspiring public service.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like the Brooklyn Center Lions Club which keep our country strong. As a fellow Lion, I want to salute the Brooklyn Center Lions who quietly volunteer their time, energy and talent to meet pressing demands in their community. I also applaud the Brooklyn Center Rotary Club for honoring the Brooklyn Center Lions last week.

Mr. Speaker, the great city of Brooklyn Center is greater because of the many important contributions of the Brooklyn Center Lions over the last four decades. The Lions live by the motto "We Serve," and the Brooklyn Center Lions personify community service.

In 1999 alone, Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center Lions donated \$30,203 to the city to provide extra special help wherever and whenever needed. Over the years, the size and scope of the Lions' generosity paints a vivid picture of public service. Through the years, the Lions have donated \$160,000 to the city, \$125,000 to the schools and \$110,000 to youth sports.

Since I was first elected to Congress, I have made expanded opportunities for people with disabilities one of my highest priorities. The Lions of Brooklyn Center share that passion and know that our nation is underutilizing a very talented and hard-working population by not offering more people with disabilities the opportunity to contribute. That's why the Brooklyn Center Lions built ramps for people in wheelchairs so they can lead more independent, fulfilling lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Lions Club in Brooklyn Center each and every year comes through with funds to get civic projects off the ground. The Lions Club lifts spirits by supporting the hometown Earle Brown Days, concerts, special festivals and the Park and Recreation Department's annual Halloween party.

The Brooklyn Center Lions have donated money for a training tower for the Brooklyn Center Fire Department, bikes for the Brooklyn Center Police Department's bike patrol, fitness equipment for police officers and the picnic shelter in Lions Park.

Mr. Speaker, the needs of children are always foremost in the minds of Brooklyn Cen-

ter Lions Club members. Memories will last a lifetime for all the elementary school students who were able to travel to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum because of the generosity of the Lions. The club gives to the Brooklyn Center Charitable Foundation to help children get coats, gloves and school supplies.

Clubs like the Lions of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, are the lifeblood of our communities. That is literally the case with the Lions of Brooklyn Center when they support events like the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life." The Brooklyn Center Lions for almost half a century have rung bells with the Salvation Army, gathered food for the hungry and helped clean up the city parks.

Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center Lions truly represent the best in public service, and I am very proud to represent them in Congress. The Brooklyn Center Lions are a model for the nation and a great community resource.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the tremendous public service performed by the Brooklyn Center Lions for 46 years! Thank you, Lions, for all you have done and will continue to do in the years ahead.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4942, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of section 1012 of the Launching Our Communities Access to Local Television Act of 2000, title X of the Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies appropriations conference report. Section 1012 provides for independent testing of terrestrial technologies in the 12 GHz band. My support for this section is conditioned on the understanding that this provision will not add any delay to any current FCC proceeding.

The Satellite Home Viewer's Improvement Act ("SHVIA"), which we passed a year ago, required the FCC to act on applications to provide local television service in unserved and underserved areas. We gave the FCC one year to make its determinations regarding these applications, which at that time had already been pending before the FCC for nearly one year. I am highly aware of the need for local television and broadband services that can be provided by new terrestrial wireless technologies. The deadline for FCC action under SHVIA is fast approaching and I expect the FCC to act on the applications by November 29, 2000 as required. The residents of my rural district have waited too long for service that matches that which is available in our nation's more populated area.

VICTIMS OF TERRORISM CLAIMS

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, October 28, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, following enactment of the Justice for Victims of Terrorism