

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE STERNE, A
GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bobbie Sterne, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her outstanding community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

Mrs. Sterne grew up in Moran, Ohio, and currently resides in North Avondale. She graduated from Akron City Hospital School of Nursing and attended both the University of Akron and the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, the late Dr. Eugene Sterne, have two daughters. During World War II, she served at the rank of first lieutenant with the 25th General Hospital Unit in Europe.

Mrs. Sterne has made a difference in the community of Cincinnati—particularly through her 25 years of service as an elected official. She served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1971 to 1985 and then from 1987 to 1998 and in 1976, she became the first woman mayor of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Sterne has received numerous awards and honors, including the Citizen's committee on Youth's Most Valuable Citizen Award; Council of Jewish Women Hannah G. Solomon Award; Ohio Woman of the Year; Inquirer Woman of the Year; Ohio Woman Hall of Fame; YMCA's Career Women of Achievement; the Salvation Army's "Other" Award; the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame; the Lighthouse Youth Services Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award; and the Alcoholism Council Tracy Bissell Memorial Award, among others.

Mrs. Sterne still actively serves the community on numerous boards, including the Charter Committee; Government Relations Committee of the Community Chest; Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Woman Sports Association Board; the Ohio United Way Board; the Hamilton County Department of Human Services Planning Committee; the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; the Fountain Square Fund Restoration Committee; and Chair of the Emergency Service Coalition.

Mrs. Sterne's commitment to community service was instilled at an early age. In her family, one was brought up to "leave the world a better place than you found it." Mrs. Sterne has certainly succeeded in doing so in our community. Cincinnati is grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment.

REGARDING SAN ANTONIO INS
OFFICE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great team of public servants in San Antonio, Texas, at the San Antonio District Office of the Immigration and Naturaliza-

tion (INS) Service, who were the recipients of three separate national awards for excellence bestowed by INS this year.

Each year, the Commissioner of INS confers national awards for excellence honoring employees for their outstanding performance.

The employees of the Citizenship/Naturalization Unit were honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Immigration Services for reducing the waiting times for all citizenship/naturalization applications and for demonstrating an overall commitment to quality.

The same unit was honored with Vice President GORE's "Hammer Award" in June of last year for their innovative program to reach out to military applicants who often face transfer overseas or a deadline to reach citizenship before re-enlistment. Getting the waiting time for applications down is a minor miracle. The wait for those wishing to process documents with the INS has been 18 months or more for the past few years.

Port Director Ramon T. Juarez was honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Border Facilitation, for his outstanding efforts in managing the Laredo Port of Entry. The Port reduced the waiting time for applicants for admission to 20 minutes or less.

San Antonio Investigative Assistant Jerome Bass was honored as Employee of the Year in the Administrative/Technological category. His peers say Bass has an "unselfish attitude and willingness to lend a hand." His dedication to the job brought him national attention.

These three awards are indicative of the dedication of the 432 employees in the San Antonio office. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for providing the best in government services.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of William J. Brown, former Ohio Attorney General, who passed away last week. He was a man who had the ability to bring true integrity and a human quality to politics.

Born as a natural leader, Brown perfected the ability to get his point across in as little time as possible and still maintain context that was regarded as "true genius". He had the natural ability to motivate those around him with his focus and drive. Although he always had his heart and his mind focused on his goals, he refused to give in to the negativity of his work and kept the working environment free from strain and strife.

William Brown had strong feelings and was dedicated to "Ending the Political Pollution in Ohio". It was through this issue that Brown was able to embrace the environment, soon after the first Earth Day was held in 1970. His career was colorful, successful and he was known for having strong views and the ability to back them up. Brown was a talented agent for public service. He selflessly gave of his time and support to many issues and was a strong supporter of team work.

It is with a heavy heart that I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in remembering William J. Brown. His memory will truly endure in the hearts of all that he was able to touch.

HONORING MICHAEL F. MARKO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fire-fighting legend, Michael F. Marko, who was honored by family and friends on January 4 as he celebrated his retirement as assistant fire chief for the 30th Space Wing that is located in my congressional district.

Michael Marko faithfully served the 30th Space Wing for 33 years. He participated in and commanded the safe mitigation of more than 12,800 fire emergencies during his years of service. Michael has also been an integral member of the Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F-116 since 1971 and has been instrumental in working for the rights union members now enjoy. In honor of his many years of service to the union, Michael was awarded by his colleagues a lifetime membership. Through his actions, he saved numerous lives and billions of dollars in Defense Department assets. Michael also personally supervised the launch of countless Delta, Titan, and Peacekeeping rockets, enhancing America's national security. We have Michael Marko to thank for ensuring a permanent American presence in space that will continue to grow in this new century.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as any complete accounting of Michael's accomplishments would be, it would not do justice to the long lasting and immeasurable contributions he has made to the 30th Space Wing. I am truly honored to represent Mr. Marko in Washington. I send my most heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the 30th Space Wing, the community of Vandenberg, and the people of Santa Barbara County for his hard work and dedicated service. I know that Michael's leadership will be missed by the 30th Space Wing of Santa Barbara County.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MECHEM,
JR., A GREAT LIVING CIN-
CINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Mechem, Jr., a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected for this honor because of his outstanding business accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, community service, civic accomplishments and contributions that have increased the quality of life in Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

Mr. Mechem grew up in Nelsonville, Ohio, and currently lives in Clifton with his wife, Marilyn. They have three children. A graduate of Miami University and Yale Law School, Mr. Mechem has had a most distinguished career, bringing business and entertainment to the Greater Cincinnati area. Mr. Mechem likes to say he has enjoyed four careers: as a partner

at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister; as CEO of Taft Broadcasting; as commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association; and in his own words, "life after that"—which includes serving as Chairman of the Board at Convergys and as the personal business adviser to golf legend Arnold Palmer.

For more than 40 years, Mr. Mechem has focused on bringing entertainment opportunities to the Cincinnati area. As he puts it, he "was motivated . . . to do things that made this community a fun place to live in." Mr. Mechem was instrumental in bringing the Cincinnati Bengals franchise to town; spearheading the vision and construction of Kings Island; and helping to provide the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra a new home at Riverbend by donating the site adjacent to Coney Island. Nationally, Mr. Mechem worked tirelessly for five years with the PGA to lead a national resurgence of interest in the game.

In the business community, Mr. Mechem served Cincinnati as President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce in 1977 and Co-Chaired the Chamber's Blue Chip Campaign from 1979–86. His other leadership roles include: National Chairman, Miami University Goals for Enrichment Campaign; President, Family Service; Co-Chair, Cincinnati Business Committee; and Founder/President of the Greater Cincinnati Sports & Events Commission. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board at Convergys, Mr. Mechem also serves on the Board of Directors at Mead Corp., Ohio National Life Insurance, Arnold Palmer Golf Co., The J.M. Smucker Co. and Myers Y. Cooper Company.

All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion and service to community.

REGARDING ALBERTO GALVAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the lifetime of service of Alberto Galvan, the district manager for the Brownsville-Harlingen area for the Social Security Administration (SSA). Alberto has served the Federal Government for 35 years, retiring just last month.

A son of South Texas, born in Harlingen, Alberto was in the United States Air Force (USAF) prior to his service to the Federal Government. In the Air Force, he attended USAF Russian Language School and served in electronic intelligence during his duty in Japan. That would have been impressive duty in those days, our forward listening post to spy on the communists in the Soviet Union.

This man who loves his country began working for the Social Security Administration in 1970, where he has worked ever since, winning the SSA Commissioner's Citation, the SSA Regional Commissioner's Citation (twice), and the Outstanding Officer Award (four times).

Aside from his many awards, Mr. Galvan has a great deal of contact with my Brownsville district office. As all of you know, the success of our district offices rises and falls on the relationship they have with individuals within the SSA. Thanks to Alberto Galvan, and the wonderful people in my district office, that relationship is strong indeed. The SSA man-

ages the nation's social insurance program, consisting of retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs; so, the ties that bind our interests are quite strong.

I want to thank Alberto today for being a really nice man and always being responsive to our inquiries. He takes calls from my office himself and has been largely responsible for training my staff members who deal with Social Security issues. He oversees all of Cameron and Willacy counties in the lower Rio Grande Valley but is primarily responsible for the Brownsville area up to Rancho Viejo, Texas.

Since he left the Air Force, Alberto has found another way to put the Russian he learned there to good use. Today, he is the only Russian translator in the Dallas Region of the SSA and is often sent documents to translate, usually birth certificates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this outstanding patriot who has made a career serving our great country, first in uniform, and for the last 30 years, administering the Federal social insurance program in South Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. This legislation provides an additional \$2 billion a year for ten years to reach full funding of IDEA by 2010.

In 1972, two landmark cases, *PARC v. State of Pennsylvania* and *Mills v. Board of Education* found that children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to an education under the 14th amendment. In response to these cases, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, the predecessor of today's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to assist state and local governments in meeting their responsibility to these children by agreeing to pay up to 40 percent of the cost of educating children with disabilities. However, to date, the federal government has never contributed more than 12.6 percent. States and school districts make up the difference.

For instance, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) currently spends approximately \$891 million to educate 81,000 disabled students. While the district receives approximately \$500 million from the state and \$42 million from the federal government for that purpose, it must tap into funds intended for other education programs to make up the \$300 million shortfall. School districts all across the nation face similar dilemmas. Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to put us on a course for full funding by 2010.

As we move into the 21st Century, we must make critical decisions about the priorities of this nation. In countries like Japan and China, education is a top priority, above even defense. This year alone, the U.S. Department of Defense will ask for \$11 billion in new spending and according to OMBs most recent estimates, we can expect an \$80 billion budget surplus for FY 2000. Surely we can spare an

additional \$2 billion a year to ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REGULATORY INFORMATION ACT OF 2000

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the "Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000," a bill to aid Congress in analyzing Federal regulations and to ensure the public's understanding of the legal effect of agency guidance documents. To accomplish the former, the bill requires an analytic report to Congress by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on selected important agency proposed and final rules. To accomplish the latter, the bill requires the agencies to include a notice of nonbinding effect on each agency guidance document without any general applicability or future effect.

On May 22, 1997, Representative SUE KELLY introduced H.R. 1704, the "Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis Creation Act." On March 11, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held a hearing on this bill. Rep. KELLY testified at the hearing that the analytic function will "help Congress deal with an increasingly complex and burdensome regulatory system. It will give Congress the resources it needs to oversee the regulations that the Executive Branch issues on a regular basis and facilitate use of the Congressional Review Act." She also stated that it "would provide a second opinion" of the agency's analysis of the impact of a rule. On March 13, 1998, the House Committee on the Judiciary reported an amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part I). On June 3, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee reported a further amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part II). There was no further action on the bill during 1998 and 1999.

The "Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000" is introduced to respond to some criticisms of the earlier bill, especially about the creation of a new Congressional agency. Instead, the "Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000" places the analytical function within GAO, which, since March 1996, has been charged with certain related functions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

Congress has delegated to the agencies the responsibility of writing regulations. However, regulations need to be carefully analyzed before they are issued. Under the CRA, Congress has the responsibility to review regulations and ensure that they achieve their goals in the most efficient and effective way. But, Congress has been unable to fully carry out its responsibility because it has neither all of the information it needs to carefully evaluate regulations nor sufficient staff for this function. Under my bill, GAO will be tasked with reviewing agency cost-benefit analyses and alternative approaches to the agencies' chosen regulatory alternatives.