

sense changes in our national policy today, in order to curtail the drug crises of tomorrow. I applaud the recent changes regarding methamphetamine and the sale of pseudo-ephedrine, and I will support future efforts to strengthen these policies.

HONORING BOBBIE HOUSEHOLDER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding citizen of East Tennessee, Mrs. Bobbie Householder. She has recently been given the 2001 Pride of Tennessee Award, an award presented annually to a person with a history of dedication to the community of Blount County.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better person this could be awarded to than Bobbie Householder. She worked for the Blount County Chamber of Commerce for 33 years, but her service to the people in her community did not end there. Since her retirement, Bobbie has served as President of the Friends of the Library. In addition, she is also a member of the Keep Blount Beautiful Board and a member of the Blount County Bicentennial Committee, just to name a few. I commend Mrs. Householder for her dedication and tireless work for the community in Blount County. This County would be a better place if there were more people like Bobbie Householder.

Mr. Speaker, I have included a copy of a story that ran in the Daily Times that honors Mrs. Householder and would like to call it to the attention of my fellow colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From The Daily Times, Dec. 5, 2000]

BOBBIE HOUSEHOLDER'S WORK AS VOLUNTEER
IS UNEQUALED IN BLOUNT

No one individual's life is as entwined in the history of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce as that of Barbara Ann "Bobbie" Householder and few, if any, have been as involved in the community.

As most of you know, Bobbie is the recipient of the 2001 Pride of Tennessee Award presented annually by Blount County Executive Bill Crisp to someone who has a history of community involvement and always has been willing to work for a better place for all of us to live and work. Bobbie and husband Glen, married for 53 years, have three offspring. Glenda Eastridge is a teacher at Lanier Elementary; Alan, the outdoors man, works at Southern Safari in Asheville, N.C., has hiked the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Mountain to Sea Trail from Newfound Gap to the Outer Banks in North Carolina, as well as across England; and Gary, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who lives in Louisville, KY. They have four grandchildren, Cindy and Brain Householder in Louisville and Jeff and Amy Eastridge in Alcoa. A native of Knoxville, Bobbie moved to Blount County in 1952, went by the Blount County Chamber of Commerce/United Way office a few days to help them out and retired after 33 years with the chamber.

For many years the chamber staff consisted of the executive director, bookkeeper, and Bobbie who was the jack of all trade, doing office responsibilities plus coordinating chamber projects. For 25 years she was responsible for the United Way cam-

paigns, just part of her responsibilities. In the end the "umbrella" administrative office included the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, Blount County Industrial Board, Chamber Foundation, and the Smoky Mountain Visitors Bureau. She served as vice president of all except the industrial board. Bobbie worked with five executives, Bob Lamb, Wilson Borden, Ken Faulkner, Jim Caldwell and then almost 18 years with Bill Dunavant. During that time she worked with 34 chamber presidents from J.P. Huddleson in 1961 through the first part of the term of Brad Sayles in 1994.

When she began work, the office was in Maryville Municipal Building, then it moved to come out on a Thursday. Then, on Sunday, I read an article about "how the officers involved had been affected by this," McConnell said. "I called the sheriff Sunday afternoon and told him about our idea. He jumped on it. He said he never wanted to cover another case like the one in Townsend." Sheriff James L. Berrong took the "safe place" idea to Attorney General Mike Flynn. A week later, more than a dozen people sat down to talk about changing the idea into reality. Those at the meeting included: State Sen. Bill Clabough; Representative-elect Doug Overbey; Blount County Health Department director and former pediatrician Dr. Ken Marmon; June Love of the Blount County Department of Children's Services; Lynnelle Hammett and Barbara Collins of Child and Family Services; Adina Chumley, public information officer for the sheriff's department and the adoptive mother of two; Knox County District Attorney Randy Nichols; Smid of Hope Resource Center; Flynn, the father of a son and daughter; Berrong, the father of a son and daughter; McConnell and Yount.

SAVING BABIES, MOTHERS

Nichols agree to write the first draft of the proposed legislation using laws from other states as examples. Clabough has agreed to introduce a Secret Safe Place law for Tennessee when the legislature convenes in January. "I can't imagine a valid reason it would not pass," McConnell said. The group discussed the pros and cons of making it possible for a mother to surrender her baby without being identified and without fear of being prosecuted. McConnell and Yount shared the facts and figures they gathered last spring with additional information they collected in the fall.

Alabama was apparently the first to start working on legislation making a "Secret Safe Place for Newborns" possible. The idea was sparked there by a reporter "Jody Brooks" after she covered two cases of babies abandoned and later found dead. Texas was the first state to actually pass legislation to protect mothers who surrender their babies from prosecution and provide them with a way to remain anonymous. The law was passed there after 13 dead babies were discovered in just over a year.

McConnell and Yount have also spoken with Terry Little, director of the emergency room at Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile, Ala., where Little accepted the first baby surrendered after the legislation passed. Little told the Maryville women since the law provides surrender at hospitals, even the cleaning staff has been trained in how to handle those situations.

Yount said Blount Memorial Hospital has been contacted and will be represented in future meetings about the program.

McConnell said they also discussed how to help frightened young girls unable to get to a hospital without asking someone to drive them. A private hot line is proposed which would allow someone to call and report the location where a baby would be left, allowing an officer to pick up the newborn.

Yount said babies being surrendered must be unharmed and released within 72 hours of birth. However, she said there is a period in which the mother may change her mind and reclaim her child. The mother is also asked to provide a family medical history since many diseases are hereditary, but she is not required to do so.

INFANT NEEDS IMPORTANT

She said babies in Mobile go immediately to adoptive parents to allow them to bond with someone as soon as possible.

Marmon said bonding is important to every child's well-being and must be considered carefully as the Tennessee law is being written.

Flynn said it might be possible to have couples seeking adoption qualified as foster parents so the baby could be placed with them immediately while the necessary paperwork is done to legally end the parental rights of the birth mother and father.

McConnell said in some states, those in the adoption community have expressed concern over the possibility of "unstable adoptions" of abandoned babies. "I don't see it affecting traditional adoptions," McConnell said. "Which is worse" an adoption that might not work out or a dead baby? Our concern is the rights of each child."

Some were concerned the law might relieve young women of responsibility for their actions, but McConnell and Yount said they believe caring for a baby by giving it up for adoption is a responsible option already available.

Others were concerned the new law might cause an epidemic of newborns being surrendered. However, there have only been five surrendered newborns in Alabama since the law took effect in 1996. More importantly, there have been no babies found abandoned and dead in Alabama or Texas since the laws were passed in the two states. "This is a tiny target group the law will affect," McConnell said. "Most pregnancies are found out by someone. It's those few who manage to keep it a secret throughout the pregnancy who may abandon the baby when it's born. "Babies shouldn't be hidden in sheds or dumpsters or under a bed, somewhere they will die."

MOTHERS ARE ANONYMOUS

Yount stresses the importance of allowing the mother surrendering a baby to remain anonymous. "This is a major issue," McConnell said.

She explained there is a fine line parents try to walk, to pressure their children to live up to their expectations as far as behavior but let them know they can come to a parent if they make an even a serious mistake. She said young girls who abandon their babies most often come from good families where they believe an illegitimate child would create an insurmountable problem. "We believe so fully in this program, we'll do whatever is necessary to get it going as soon as possible," McConnell said.

She helped establish and coordinated Homecoming '86 for Blount County, including a parade and an all-day celebration in Greenbelt Park, coordinated the dedication of the Fort Craig spring monument, as well as the Adopt A School program, Leadership Blount, and Keep Blount Beautiful. Bobbie was responsible for staffing the Smoky Mountain Visitors Bureau visitors center, advertising in national magazines, represented the organization at travel shows and worked with area tourism groups, kept the visitors centers supplied with brochures, and coordinated the Weekend in the Smokies which was sponsored by the chamber.

She was responsible for the Dogwood Arts Festival from its organization in 1979 through its first festival in 1980, an event

sponsored by the Blount Chamber Foundation. She was responsible for starting Dogwood Drives in 1983 and others that followed with the exception of the East Maryville, added since she retired, and the Teacher Mini-grant program. The last five years or so her title was Vice President of Community Development for the Chamber and she worked with all programs involving many community activities as well as other organizations.

While working, Bobbie spent many extra hours on the job because of her devotion to the community. And since retirement she has continued to be active. She has served as President of the Friends of the Library, a member of the Keep Blount Beautiful Board, member of the Blount County Bicentennial Committee and was responsible for a parade for an all-day celebration. She is currently serving as treasurer of Blount County Education Foundation and prior to that served two years as secretary for the Foundation. For four years she has served as chair of Day of Caring for United Way and presently serves as Communications Coordinator for the Holston Conference United Methodist Women. She is a member of Broadway Methodist Church.

She is serving as co-chairman of the Blount County Millennium Committee with activities coordinated with community organizations with a different focus on each month. Members of the committee designed an official Blount County flag which is available for sale in the county executive's office. The Adopt A School sponsors have purchased a flag for their school. This flag is really visible at the Blount County Justice Center.

Along with Bryan Cable, she leads a hike in the Smokies for the Dogwood Arts Festival. Previous winners include 2000—Tutt S. Bradford, 1999—Carmian "Connie" Davis, 1998—Stanley B. "Skeeter" Shields, 1997—Judson B. Murphy, 1996—Garland DeLozier, 1995—Stone Carr, 1994—Dean Stone, and 1993—Elsie Burrell.

The Volunteer State didn't get its nickname by accident. Its volunteers accomplish much of the work needed in communities across the state. Certainly none has done more than Bobbie who continued her volunteer efforts throughout major illness and surgery from which she has recovered.

Our hats are off to Bobbie and her outstanding example of volunteer work in Blount County, building a better community!

Our voice.

On Pride of Tennessee.

DEREGULATION CALLED BLOW TO MINORITIES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice concern about the increasingly insurmountable barriers that minorities and women in the telecommunications and broadcast marketplace are experiencing since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Recent studies have shown that since deregulation, minority- and women-owned companies have had a more difficult time getting financing for starting new ventures and expanding, and when they have received financing, it is often on less favorable terms than comparable majority run businesses. Adverse trends in the courts and in Congress have had a negative

impact on small minority owned communication companies. It is imperative that Congress, the courts, the F.C.C. and the Bush administration help ensure that minority and women owned communications enterprises have equal opportunities in their abilities to compete in the marketplace. The following New York Times article is an excellent summary of this crisis.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 12, 2000]

DEREGULATION CALLED BLOW TO MINORITIES

(By Stephen Labaton)

Washington, Dec. 11.—The 1996 landmark law that was warmly embraced by the Clinton administration and many Republicans as a way to begin deregulating the nation's telecommunications industry has had the unintended effect of raising substantial new barriers for companies controlled by minorities and women, new independent studies commissioned by the federal government have found.

The studies show that the wave of consolidation in the broadcast, telephone and cable industries prompted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 had created "nearly insurmountable obstacles" to those seeking to enter those industries and to thrive.

They also found that in general over the last 50 years, companies controlled by minorities and women have been far less likely to win government licenses for telephone service and radio or television stations, even if they are qualified to run those operations. In recent years, the studies found, the 1996 law in combination with changes in tax law and affirmative action rules, had made the problems for small businesses particularly acute.

"Today small firms face barriers erected by deregulation and consolidation in both wireless and broadcast," one of the studies said. "Minorities and women confront those same barriers; and yet those obstacles stand high atop a persistent legacy of discrimination in the capital markets, industry, advertising and community—and prior F.C.C. policies, which worsened the effects of discrimination."

"The barriers to entry have been raised so high that, left standing, they appear virtually insurmountable," the study concluded. "Minority, women and small-business ownership in these industries is diminishing at such an alarming rate that many we spoke with felt we had passed the point of no return."

While it has long been known that minorities and women face difficulties in a wide range of industries, the five studies to be released on Tuesday by the Federal Communications Commission conclude that barriers imposed by both the government and the marketplace have taken a particular toll in telecommunications and the so-called new economy companies, where the lifeblood is the government license to use a part of the airways.

"These studies confirm that small minority and women-owned businesses are encountering significant difficulties in participating in the new economy," said William E. Kennard, chairman of the F.C.C. "With consolidation in the past few years it's clear that it's become harder for any business that is small to participate as an owner of infrastructure, whether it is cable systems or whether it is phones or broadcasting. But this is still a vitally important part of our economy, and we have to make sure that we are creating opportunity for small minority- and women-owned businesses."

In his more than seven years as the agency's general counsel and then its chairman, Mr. Kennard, the first African-American to

head the F.C.C., has struggled against a hostile Republican Congress and a lukewarm administration in trying to find new opportunities for minorities and women. An earlier study he commissioned showed minority broadcasters often cannot command the same advertising revenues as other broadcasters."

Mr. Kennard said he had hoped that the studies would provide a blue-print for a Gore administration to take new steps on behalf of small companies. He also acknowledged that the prospect of a Bush administration may significantly diminish the impact of the studies on future policy makers.

Regulators and courts have long described the spectrum as a public trust that needs to be managed in the best interests of the public, but the studies conclude that minorities and women have had a difficult time for the last half-century and that it still remains especially difficult for them to win licenses and get financing for their ventures on a footing comparable to their rivals.

In one study, entitled "Whose Spectrum Is It Anyway?" researchers found that the 1996 law, following other adverse trends in the courts and in Congress, had been particularly hard on those small companies.

In 1995 Congress eliminated a tax program intended to encourage investment in small, minority- and women-owned telecommunication companies. Around the same time, the United States Supreme Court and other federal courts began to hand down a series of decisions that made it significantly more difficult for the federal government to carry out affirmative action programs and take steps to assist minority businesses.

The studies concluded that in the area of broadcasting, ownership can have a deep impact on programming, and that the lack of diversity among owners could lead to less diverse kinds of programs. Minority-owned radio stations, for example, were far more likely to choose a programming format that appeals particularly to a minority audience, and were more likely to have greater racial diversity of on-air talent.

The studies show that minority- and women-owned companies have had a more difficult time getting financing for starting new ventures and expanding, and when they have received financing, it is often on less favorable terms than comparable businesses run by white men.

The F.C.C. had earlier encouraged small businesses by permitting them to bid in license auctions and make payments in installments. But after some businesses defaulted on those loans, the rules were changed.

On Tuesday the agency will begin what many expect will be the largest auction in its history, for licenses to operate mobile telephones, and all winners will have to make their payments upfront.

The studies also show that officials at the F.C.C. have been inconsistent in their application of equal opportunity guidelines, and that the agency "often failed in its role of public trustee of the broadcast and wireless spectrum by not properly taking into account the effect of its programs on small, minority- and women-owned businesses."

The studies, which are expected to be made public by the F.C.C. on Tuesday, were conducted by KPMG; Ernst & Young; the Ivy Planning Group, a consulting group based in Rockville, Md.; and researchers from Santa Clara University and the University of Washington.