

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, on March 22, 2000, I was unavoidably detained, causing me to miss roll call votes 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 58, "nay" on rollcall vote 59, "yea" on rollcall vote 60, "yea" on rollcall vote 61, "nay" on rollcall vote 62, and "yea" on rollcall vote 63.

LIFE UNIVERSITY RUNNING
EAGLES—NAIA CHAMPIONS, AGAIN**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration I recognize the Life University Running Eagles Men's Basketball Team from Marietta, Georgia. On Monday, March 20, 2000, the NAIA Division I Defending Champion Running Eagles defeated Georgetown College (KY) to win a second NAIA Championship in as many years. This marked the first time in nearly a decade an NAIA team had won back-to-back titles. This was also the third time in four years Life University had captured the NAIA Championship.

Excellence has become the hallmark of Life University sports; but the school excels also in academic pursuits. Life University was founded in 1974 as Life Chiropractic College, and achieved university status in 1997. It has a 26-year history of producing graduates, from a wide variety of degree programs, with the study of Chiropractic remaining its primary focus.

For their achievements, I want to congratulate all of the members of the Men's Running Eagles team, their Coach Roger Kaiser, and the President and Founder of Life University, Dr. Sid E. Williams.

HONORING THE CHAMPION JACKSON COUNTY LADY BLUE DEVILS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding season of the Jackson County Lady Blue Devils basketball team, which recently captured the 2000 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AA Girls Basketball Tournament championship.

This is the high school's first championship season since winning the small school tournament way back in 1973. Last year the team lost in the tournament final and used that experience to win this year's tournament.

At 29-7, this year's Lady Blue Devils team displayed a tenacious will to win. This championship season will forever be remembered

by each of those talented players who proved that hard work and dedication pay rich dividends.

Members of the championship team are Heather Davidson, Joanna Chaffin, Becca Focer, Jessica Smith, Sarah Jane Breidert, Andrea Davidson, Emily Lane, Lacy Sircy, Ashley Hopkins, Deanna Apple, Alyssa Bowman, Jennifer Harris, and managers Faith Henshaw, Stephanie Clayton and Lucy Anderson. Head coach Jim Brown and assistant coaches Kevin Bray and Barbara Brown, with the support of principal Herbert Leftwich, did a magnificent job preparing the team for this year's stellar season.

Jackson County is proud of its Lady Blue Devils, and I congratulate each of these young ladies for a job well done.

RURAL HEALTH CARE
PROTECTION ACT OF 2000**HON. MATT SALMON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Rural Health Care Protection Act of 2000. Among other things, the bill mandates that Medicare+Choice enrollees cannot be held liable by contracted or non-contracted providers for any claims that are unpaid by a Medicare+Choice plan. It also allows the insurance commissioner of a state to apply to the Secretary of HHS for reimbursement for all valid, unpaid provider claims. And, the legislation establishes HCFA as a creditor for Medicare+Choice Amos that go bankrupt.

The need for this legislation is clear. In Arizona, Premier HMO recently announced it was insolvent. Roughly 20,000 seniors have left Premier to return to traditional Medicare (which provides no prescription drug benefit) or have enrolled in an alternative Medicare HMO. Unfortunately, nine Arizona counties no longer have an HMO option. We need to make sure that Medicare+Choice enrollees are not held responsible when bankrupt HMOs fail to pay providers' claims.

Under current law, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has the discretion, but is not required, to provide direct reimbursement to health care providers when an HMO fails to make payments for providers' claims. Quite often HCFA makes payments only where Medicare+Choice HMOs continue to operate. If an HMO becomes insolvent, doctors, hospitals, and others are often left unpaid for services already rendered.

In 1997 Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act which included a provision to expand choices for Medicare beneficiaries through the new Medicare+Choice program. It was anticipated that the program would lead to a wider variety of health plan choices for beneficiaries in all areas of the country—particularly in rural counties. Unfortunately, there was never a plan to deal with organizations who could not maintain financial solvency. And HCFA has not recognized the need to protect Medicare beneficiaries from defunct health plans—even though they are the financing arm for Medicare.

Even worse, HCFA's regulations have added to the problem by making it more difficult for HMOs and other like organizations to

enter the Medicare Choice program. They make it tough to get in the program and do little for beneficiaries once the HMOs leave. As of last year, there were only 262 health plans across the Nation that participated in the Medicare+Choice program, 84 less than 1998. According to the American Association of Health Plans, nearly 700,000 beneficiaries have had their Medicare+Choice coverage disrupted since the program's inception.

Seniors shouldn't be left holding the bag when health plans go bankrupt. The Rural Health Care Protection Act would ensure that the government fulfills its promise to those seniors who have chosen to participate in the Medicare+Choice program. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION
JEFFERSON POST 141 2ND SQUAD
CHAPLAIN, HOWARD PHILLIPS**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the American Legion, Jefferson Post 141, from Mt. Vernon, Illinois and their Squad Chaplain, Mr. Howard Phillips.

For 27 years, Mr. Phillips has been the Squad Chaplain. He has presided over 800 military funerals for our veterans. He never asks for any compensation for his time or services. I wanted to tell him that he makes this soldier very proud. Thank you Howard.

CONGRATULATING JANIE
PFEFFERKORN, OF SIKESTON,
MISSOURI ON HER RECOGNITION
BY THE "DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET"**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday March 25, 2000, Janie Pfefferkorn is being honored by the Sikeston, Missouri "Daughters of Sunset" at their 16th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Janie who is being recognized on this day for her community involvement.

Janie was the valedictorian of her senior class at Chafee High School in Chafee, Missouri. She attended Central Methodist College and Southeast Missouri State University. She is the co-founder of the 1996 Christian block Party which evolved into the Mission Missouri. Today Janie is the executive director of Mission Missouri.

Janie is currently affiliated with the Missouri School for the blind Board of Directors, Bootheel Healthy start, Breast Cancer support Group, Sikeston Middle School, the Diabetes Foundation-Missouri Delta Hospital Advisory Board, the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce President's roundtable, and the Ministerial Alliance and inter-Agency Council of Scott County.

Janie also has been active in lifelong faith-based learning, receiving training as a Precept Inductive Bible Study Teacher and Group Leader and completing workshops on church

growth, discipline training, outreach, administration, new membership integration. Janie also trained in family learning for parents of children with disabilities and has facilitated and participated in support group settings to address addictive behaviors and dysfunctional relationships.

Janie is married to Dr. David Pfefferkorn. They are the proud parents of four beautiful girls, Molly, Corrie Jo, Abby and Maggie, and the proud grandparents of twins girls, Bylie and Kylie.

Congratulations, Janie, on your recognition by the "Daughters of Sunset." Your lifelong dedication your community of Sikeston, Missouri is an inspiration to us all.

MEXICO BEACH PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my Florida colleague Representative JOE SCARBOROUGH, I am introducing legislation that is intended to correct a boundary mistake made on a map in the Department of Interior's 1988 Report to Congress: Coastal Barrier Resources System. The map was subsequently adopted by Congress in the 1990 Coastal Barrier Improvement Act.

The St. Joe Company owns 45 acres east of the City of Mexico Beach, Florida. In 1988, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the "Service") proposed certain additions and modifications to the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). This proposal was accompanied by maps which depicted the existing boundaries of the CBRS as well as the proposed additions and modifications. However, while the maps expressly reported to show the existing CBRS boundaries, at least one of them instead contained a boundary line that erroneously included about 45 acres of St. Joe property. Because the boundary was unintentionally misdrawn neither the property owner nor Congress was given notice of this action. In 1990, Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act. The CBRS maps adopted by Congress with the 1990 Act included the erroneous boundary line from the Service's proposed map.

Several years after the Mexico Beach property was mistakenly included in the CBRS, St. Joe representatives discovered the mistake while examining maps at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Last year, representatives of St. Joe met with Department of Interior and Service officials to discuss the mistake. As a result of those discussions a letter was written to the Company from the Acting Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Gary Frazier, acknowledging that a boundary mistake had been made and stating that the Service would not object to legislation to correct the mistake. Specifically, Mr. Frazier stated:

The Service recognizes that in the 1988 Report to Congress the inclusion of the property in question was not identified as a boundary change for this unit, either in the accompanying map or text of the Report. Regrettably, this meant that neither the property owner nor Congress was provided with adequate notice of the boundary change re-

flected in the revised map for P-31. Therefore, because of this error in the Report and the equities associated with this specific situation, the Service would not oppose future legislative action to remove the 45 acres owned by the St. Joe Company from the System.

The St. Joe Company has taken the proper steps in approaching the Department of Interior and the Service about this problem. Representative SCARBOROUGH and I are taking the next step in this process by introducing legislation to correct this mistake. It has been over ten years since Congress enacted the legislation which adopted the new map misdrawing the boundary of the Mexico Beach property. Therefore, I urge the House to act expeditiously on this legislation.

SOUTHWIRE COMPANY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it all started with one man's dream of bringing electricity to rural Georgia. Roy Richards, Sr. wanted to supply his mother and grandmother with electricity, and from that dream, he founded Southwire Company in Carrollton, Georgia, exactly 50 years ago. On March 23, 1950, Southwire started cranking out wire with 12 employees. Two years later, the company had shipped 5 million pounds of wire and had doubled its plant size. Southwire has continued to grow, and has become a world leader in the manufacture of wire and cable.

In 1992 Southwire opened the D.B. "Pete" Cofer Technology Center. For the past five years, the center has witnessed development of the next generation of power cables—superconductors. A trio of 30-meter cables now provides power to three of the company's manufacturing plants. Southwire continues on its path of quality assurance and will remain a giant in the world of wire and cable.

I salute Southwire Company on its 50th Anniversary, and I am proud to count it as an outstanding employer, business, and community citizen in the 7th Congressional District of Georgia.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF JOHN ED MILLER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of John Ed Miller, who is retiring from BellSouth on March 31 after working more than 30 years with the company. John Ed has not only had a distinguished career with BellSouth, but he has also been an outstanding civic leader in the Middle Tennessee area.

John Ed began his long telephone career with BellSouth soon after his graduation from Vanderbilt University in 1966. He progressed through a number of assignments in the Nashville and Birmingham offices before assuming his present position as BellSouth's corporate

and external affairs vice president for Tennessee.

John Ed has also taken an active role in his Middle Tennessee community. He serves and has served on numerous civic boards and organizations, demonstrating his concern and love for Middle Tennessee. His tireless dedication to these organizations has truly made Middle Tennessee a better place to live.

His leadership and vision at BellSouth will be sorely missed. I congratulate John Ed Miller on his outstanding career and wish him well in his retirement.

OIL PRICE REDUCTION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3822) to reduce, suspend, or terminate any assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to each country determined by the President to be engaged in oil price fixing to the detriment of the United States economy, and for other purposes:

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, it is well known that, for close to a year, countries from the OPEC cartel and other oil-producing countries have conspired to steal from Americans by artificially inflating the price of oil. It has had a dramatic effect on the life of every American and threatens the state of our economy. It takes more to fill our gas tanks, it is more costly to fly, and even grocery prices have risen significantly. For example, we pay an extra \$10 every time we go to a gas station to fill our tanks. This year, increased gas and oil prices will cost the average family an alarming \$700. In my home state of Arizona, higher gas prices will cost the Paradise Valley Union School District up to \$60,000 more to bus kids to and from school this year.

Unfortunately, the President's response has been tepid at best. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson recently admitted, "it is obvious that the federal government was not prepared. We were caught napping. We got complacent." The Administration, which seems to have no problem attacking American companies they suspect of being a monopoly, refuses to use its current legal arsenal to sanction foreign countries that collude in monopolistic alliances to fleece the American people.

Last year, I requested that Congress look into OPEC's price fixing scheme. And last night, Congress took a small step towards helping American consumers by passing H.R. 3822, which encourages the President to use his current authority to stop OPEC from inflating gas prices. But, I believe we can, indeed we must, do more.

First and foremost we should have included a mechanism in this legislation to penalize countries for gouging our constituents. Secondly, we should have repealed the 4.3 cent gas tax that President Clinton and Vice-President GORE included in their tax increase package of 1993. And finally, we should have examined cost effective ways to increase domestic oil production.