

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA,
LAUDED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES IN VOTE-BY-MAIL

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today, April 3, 2000, the 2000 Information Technology Innovation Collection will be formally presented to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. I am proud to let my colleagues know that the Maricopa County (Arizona) Election Department's Vote-By-Mail technology program will become part of the Permanent Research Collection on Information Technology at the Smithsonian in recognition of how Maricopa County is utilizing new information age tools to extend the benefits of technology to voters.

Maricopa County is the fifth largest county in the United States, and is more than 1.4 million voters. In an effort to provide alternative methods of voting to increase voter participation, reduce voter apathy and thwart the stereotype that government is antiquated and inflexible, the Elections Department has devised and implemented a Vote-By-Mail program in which voters are encouraged to request mail-in ballots by phone, mail, Internet, or walk-in. Overall voter participation has increased since 1992 when Vote-By-Mail was first available for all voters, and mail-in ballots have grown to account for a third of the total ballots cast in the last election.

The benefits of the Vote-By-Mail process include ease and convenience, more time to study issues or candidates appearing on the ballot, and relief from time constraint problems on election day such as conflicting job hours or transportation issues. The most evident benefit in past election statistics is the overwhelming increase in voter turnout.

Through the implementation of several new hardware and software technologies, the Maricopa County Elections Department has created a system which allows for the timely, reliable and secure storage and access to voter affidavits, efficient yet stringent and accurate tracking, processing and return of voters' ballots, systematic record-keeping, and a verification system for ballot security which checks the voter's signature as well as insuring that a voter meets the criteria that they maintain their registration throughout the 33-day early voting period which insures confidence in a fraudulent-free voting method.

Nominated by Michael Dell, Chairman and Chief Executive Office of Dell Computer Corporation, in the Government & Non-Profit Organizations category, Maricopa County Election Department's work is part of a collection that includes over 440 of the year's most innovative applications of technology from 38 states and 21 countries.

Karen Osborne, Maricopa County Elections Director; Reynaldo Valenzuela and John Stewart of the staff from the Maricopa County Elec-

tions Department will be attending today's Presentation Ceremony, returning to Phoenix to present the Medal to the Maricopa County Recorder, Helen Purcell, in a special ceremony at the Recorder's Office on Thursday, April 6, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I bring this special recognition to the attention of my colleagues as a tried and true technological means to increase voter participation, and congratulate Maricopa County Recorder Helen Purcell, Elections Director Karen Osborne and their staff for their outstanding work and well-deserved recognition for conducting Vote-By-Mail efficiently, accurately and safely.

OPPOSITION TO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I state my opposition to recent efforts to raise the government-mandated minimum wage. I am convinced that a higher mandated minimum wage would dramatically reduce job opportunities for those who truly need them and stifle the growth of our economy.

Congress raised the minimum wage twice in recent years. It is my belief that employers should have the right to choose when to give employees raises. Several economists have stated that mandating a higher minimum wage will encourage employers to replace people with machines, or move their businesses to countries that do not have a mandated minimum wage. Either way, this will result in fewer jobs for Americans.

If we truly support increased opportunities for teens to get work experience, and for poor men and women to escape unemployment, we must not legislate an even higher minimum wage that prices them out of the job market. Instead, Congress needs to focus our efforts on achieving regulatory reform tax relief and legal reform which will increase the capital available to the business sector for wage increases. Congress must also focus on reducing individual income taxes so that citizens can keep more of their hard-earned money.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY BRADFORD, JR. OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., to Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the spiritual community at large in northern Alabama. His

list of credentials fills many a page. Dr. Bradford has been a moral mentor for Church Street Presbyterian for 36 years.

For almost four decades Dr. Bradford has imparted his wisdom from the pulpit. The community refers to Dr. Bradford as "everybody's pastor" which reflects his selfless service to our entire city.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has given so much of himself for the betterment of others. Aside from his pastoral duties, Dr. Bradford has served as chairman of the board of directors of the Harris Home for six years in addition to numerous other board positions. Bradford's vocal talents have been enjoyed by our community as he has been a narrator for Huntsville museums and the orchestra. He has graciously shared his musical talents also as Chairman of the Department of Music Education at Alabama A&M University and as a music professor at Oakwood College.

I want to offer my best wishes to Dr. Bradford, his wife Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford, their children Dr. Henry Lane Bradford and Andrea Bradford and their grandson, Henry Lane. He has inspired so many to seek truth and to use their talents to serve the community. I congratulate Dr. Bradford on his retirement and wish him a well-deserved rest.

LEHIGH VALLEY HEROES—LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a group of my constituents who do volunteer work helping others in my district. Over 100 volunteers for the Lehigh Valley Hospice will soon receive awards for their service. These volunteers, who come from all areas of eastern Pennsylvania, help to improve the lives of thousands of terminally ill patients in the community.

From assisting with chores to providing respite for patients' families, the acts of these volunteers show the depth of their generosity and compassion. Hospice volunteers provide much needed emotional support during a time of tremendous distress. The volunteers provided care for patients as well as caregivers, and represent a light of hope to the entire community.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Lehigh Valley Hospice, and I applaud the organization's wonderful volunteers for providing a service that aids so many members of the community. Mr. Speaker, all the hospice volunteers are Lehigh Valley Heroes.

HONOREES—LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Marilyn Ackerman, Robert Allwein, Jennifer Baldwin, Edna Balmat, Debbie Barr, Susan Baxter, Jean Behler, Shirley Beiseigel, Irene Bell, Roy Bertelsen, Rosemary Bobersky, Al Braido, Florence Brown,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lisa Brown, Lois Brown, Diane Buchner, Nadenka Butko.

Penn Clissold, Mary Therese Collins, Karen Conners, Jean Cooper, Dorine Cope, Betsy Cunningham, Alice D'Amore, Rosie Deitrick, Marilyn Demaree, Lou Ditro, Jean Dolan, Chester Dombrowski, Helene Dombrowski, Betty Dorwart, Elizabeth Dorwart, Margaret Duell, Doug Dykhouse.

Mary Earley, Adrienne Ehle, Jean Everett, Gerry Filemyr, Gertrude Flicker, Kathleen Foglia, Dorothy Folk, Helen Fox, Susan Fritz.

Lar Garman, Gail Geist, Steve Gendall, Marion Gewartowski, Joyce Gobrecht, Connie Graaf, Lorraine Gyauch, Mary Haas, Jeanne Hagemes, Susan Hamill, David Hankard, Lori Henninger, Jack Helt, Dorothy Hoffman, Jane Holland, Barbara Hydro.

Karen Jacob, Marymae Jansson, Ann Karas, Pat Keinert, Barbara Kelly, Mary Lou Kenney, Becky Korman, Gina Kramer, Sarah Kutz, Shirley Lafaver, Roberta Lambert, Helen Lamparella, Joan Laudenslager, Margaret Liebl, Martha Lopez, Anne Lynch, Wendy Lynn.

Ed Magocs, Jean Magocs, Kathryn Major, Ken Mangano, Helen Maron, Yvette Martinez, Linette Martino, Joan May, Donnal Mayotte, Suzanne McCready, Anne McCullough, Tracey McGee, Susan McGrath, Jean McNamara, Lettie Mearhoff, Kristy Parks Mesh, Sue Micek, Rodney Miller, Carolyn Momm, Joan Moran, Elsie Mory, Valerie Moyer.

Ruth Nigro, Pat Pluchinsky, Angie Pontician, Sylvia Prorok, Frederika Rhodes, Nancy Rich, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Kim Roth, Lillian Rozenburgh.

Laurette Sabolick, Jean Sauder, Carol Saxman, Marion Schaffer, Ann Schuck, Mary Sechler, Jan Seem, Eileen Serow, Elaine Sheninger, Brenda Smith, Sherri Smith, Brenda Stahley, Kathy Sterner, Justine Stoudt, Arlan Strubeck.

Fran Tapper, Mary Thompson, Karen Toole, Dorothy Tramontano, Beverly Van Kuren, Jeaninne Wagner, Frank Walsh, Eleanor Wetherhold, Janet Whitehill, Ann Wilhelm, Anne Yori, Rita Zanders, Susan Zern, Bill Zoshak.

In memoriam—Michael McNamara and Ethel Strubeck.

SALUTE TO THE 1999 LOS ANGELES POLICE RESERVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR, SPECIALIST RESERVE OFFICER ERICA DESMITH

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I salute my constituent, a resident of North Hills, who truly embodies the spirit of national service.

Erica DeSmith, who is assigned to the LAPD Devonshire Area, was selected as the Los Angeles Police Department's Reserve Officer of the Year for 1999 at the annual Reserve Award's Banquet on March 25th. As a Specialist Reserve Police Officer, Erica DeSmith volunteers her time to the Devonshire Area community-policing program four days a week, seven hours a day, and has amassed over 13,000 hours over the past 6 years.

Officer DeSmith is the mainstay of the community-policing program who takes calls from community members who have problems ranging from graffiti to noisy neighbors to speeding on their streets. She handles the in-

quiries that do not need direct police response, thus saving countless valuable hours for police officers to focus on other duties and responsibilities.

Officer DeSmith has established a solid reputation with the sworn officers, civilian employees of Devonshire Area, and the community; and is a person who can be relied on to get the job done. Her commitment to the self-excellence, her leadership qualities, and her ability to motivate her fellow officers and all add up to making her an outstanding public servant. Her tireless efforts and personal interest have contributed significantly toward ensuring the success of community based policing in the Devonshire Area.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the unbridled commitment and dedication of Los Angeles Police Specialist Reserve Officer Erica DeSmith. I also recognize thousands of her fellow officers, both sworn and reserve, who give so much of themselves to ensure the safety of our citizens and community, many times at the expense of their own families. Thank you for a job well done.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, last night in my district in McClain County, Oklahoma, a home was completely destroyed in a methamphetamine lab explosion. The explosion was so intense the toxic waste disposal team could not clean the area for several hours. Every day in Oklahoma, families are exposed to toxic fumes that are disbursed in meth lab explosions. Earlier this month, in Grove, Oklahoma, 26 people were rushed to the emergency room as a result of another meth lab explosion. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation estimates that there are 900 meth labs in Oklahoma, and thousands upon thousands of these illegal meth labs across the country.

The DEA, which funds the clean up of these illegal meth labs, has already run out of funds for this year.

Today, this body has the opportunity to help the people of Oklahoma and thousands of other communities across this country. Representative HUTCHINSON's amendment will use existing Justice Department funds to supply the Drug Enforcement Administration with 15 million dollars to clean up meth labs across the nation.

I urge my colleagues to stand with Representative HUTCHINSON and myself to provide our communities with protection from these dangerous illegal meth labs. Vote "yes" on the Hutchinson amendment.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES AND BERNICE COVELLI UPON THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Charles and Bernice Covelli. They were married fifty years ago last Friday, on March 31, 1950 at the First Christian Church in West Frankfort, Illinois. Charles and Bernice Covelli were both born in West Frankfort, Illinois, which is in my district, and still reside there today. Charles was born to Steve and Mary Covelli and Bernice was born Bernice Stephens to Jack and Lydia Stephens. Together they have one daughter named Debbie Ricci, who is married to Tim Ricci. Debbie and Tim gave Charlie and Bernice two wonderful granddaughters named Chelcee and Lacey.

Charles was the self-employed owner and operator of Covelli's Steve's Place and Italian Restaurant in Royalton, Illinois for fifty years. Charlie also served in the United States Army and now is retired. Bernice was a employee of the Illinois State Board of Education for thirty years and is also now retired. In their retirements, Charlie and Bernice both enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. Charlie, a sports fan, also like attending sporting events and Bernice enjoys reading and discussing politics.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all my colleagues in the House of Representatives in wishing a happy anniversary to Charles and Bernice Covelli. I know that this is a very special time for the Covellis, their family and friends, and I am honored to have this opportunity to commemorate their fiftieth wedding anniversary in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, I voted incorrectly on rollcall vote No. 45, the final passage vote for H.R. 3846. My intention was to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DOROTHY MIREE OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. BUD CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Mrs. Dorothy (Dot) Miree to the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Every year about this time. Mrs. Miree has made an appearance here in Washington with the annual Chamber trip. This year will be her last trip as she is retiring shortly. Over her twelve year career with the Chamber, she has led hundreds of Chamber members to Washington,