

for its commitment and active participation in our political system and for its contributions to our community. I especially want to thank Frank Perrucci, his wife Jean Perrucci, and CCB President Joanne Kosakowski.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
GUAM WATER AND ENVIRON-
MENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC
(WERI)

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) on their twenty-fifth anniversary. WERI is the only regional water research institute dedicated to the needs of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Formally established in June of 1975, WERI has since sought solutions to technical problems associated with the location, production, distribution, and management of freshwater resources—an extremely essential function for the island communities it serves. One of fifty-five water research institutes authorized by Congress in the U.S. through the Water Research Act of 1964, WERI has expanded from a one-person operation in 1975 to a staff today of fifteen people conducting research, training, and information dissemination for Guam and the Western Pacific. They have continually strived to foster and promote research, training, technical assistance, outreach, awareness, information sharing and dissemination.

Partially funded by the federal government, WERI provides a wide array of services to the University of Guam and the people of the Pacific insular region for a fraction of what independent consultants would charge. Their research program covers all the costs for materials, equipment, supplies, computers, audio visual, and field trip expenses required by 17 graduate and 4 undergraduate courses at the University of Guam. In addition, WERI conducts a number of professional training workshops throughout the region each year. During the past three years, their faculty has published over 65 reviewed journal articles, abstracts, and technical reports while carrying on 33 separate funded research and training projects. This is in addition to their regular university teaching and service commitments.

Constructed through a matching federal grant, the WERI analytical laboratory is totally self-sustaining. As the knowledge base created by WERI is actively sought by various government agencies and offices on Guam, it generates a significant portion of its operating expenses. The governor's office, the Guam Legislature, various local commissions, the private sector, the media and the local community constantly rely on WERI's technological expertise. Consequently, the 24th and 25th Guam Legislatures set up two annual special appropriations for them to manage long term water monitoring and data collection on the island. Their reputation is such that the United States Geological Survey continues to rate

WERI as one of the top water institutes among the state and Territorial institute programs.

I extend my congratulations to the individuals who have contributed to the valuable progress and success of WERI. The dedicated people who deserve credit include WERI director, Dr. Galt Siegrist; faculty members Drs. Shahram Khosrowpanah, Leroy Heitz, Gary Denton John Jenson, and Mark Lander; Charles Guard of the research faculty; laboratory manager Harold Wood; laboratory assistants Crispina Herreria and Lucrina Concepcion; staff hydrogeologist John Jocson; and staff members Norma Blas and Dolores Santos.

WERI has made valuable contributions to the people of Guam and the Pacific region. Their work for the past twenty five years, has led to better planning, more efficient allocation and protection of our valuable water resources. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate the faculty and staff of the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific for their excellence and join in celebrating their 25th anniversary.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce a legislative proposal by Vice President GORE that would outlaw the practice of purchasing or selling Social Security numbers.

Last year, a man named Liam Youens was stalking a 21-year old New Hampshire woman named Amy Boyer. Youens reportedly purchased Amy Boyer's Social Security number from an Internet Web site for \$45. Using this information, he was able to track her down, a process that he chillingly detailed on an Internet Web site that he named after his target. Finally, last October; this demented stalker fatally shot Amy Boyer in front of the dental office where she worked. Afterwards, he turned the gun on himself.

This terrible tragedy underscores the fact that while the Social Security number was originally intended to be used only for the purposes of collecting Social Security taxes and administering the program's benefits, it has over the years evolved into a ubiquitous national personal identification number which is subject to misuse and abuse. The unregulated sale and purchase of these numbers is a significant factor in a growing range of illegal activities, including fraud, identity theft, and tragically, stalkings and now, even murders.

Today, if you open up a bank account, apply for a loan, buy insurance, get a credit card, sign up for telephone service or electric or gas utility service, you are almost invariably asked to provide a merchant with your Social Security number. Over the years, this number has become a key to verifying a person's identity. As a result, it has become increasingly clear that there are growing and serious privacy risks are being created by unrestricted commerce in Social Security numbers, and resulting abuses of this number, that require immediate legislative action.

The risks and abuses associated with misuse of the Social Security number are only being magnified by the rapid growth of electronic commerce. Right now, only \$5 billion of the \$860 billion in annual retail sales currently occur over the Internet. But that figure will continue to grow exponentially in the future. So, the question we must ask is how are we going to adjust our laws to deal with this new medium? How will we animate the New Economy with our old values—such as our cherished right to privacy?

Today, the real privacy challenge we are facing isn't Big Brother; it's Big Browser. When it comes to your financial records, there are very few protections against a financial services firm from disclosing every check you've ever written, every credit card charge you've ever made, the medical exam you got before you received insurance. And as you surf the Web, there are no rules in place to prevent various web sites from collecting information about what sites you are viewing and how long you are viewing them. If you buy anything over the Internet, that information can be linked up to other personal identifiers to create disturbingly detailed digital dossiers that can profile your lifestyle, your interests, your hobbies, or your habits. I have sponsored or co-sponsored separate legislation, H.R. 1057, H.R. 3320, H.R. 3321, and H.R. 4380, which are aimed at addressing these broader privacy problems.

But we also know that the Social Security number is an critically important personal identifier that many online and offline businesses wish to obtain about consumers. Consumers who value their family's privacy, however, have a compelling interest in not allowing this number to be used to tie together bits and pieces of information in various databases into an integrated electronic profile of their interests and behavior that can be zapped around the world in a nanosecond to anyone who is willing to pay the price.

If you do a simple Internet search in which you enter the words "Social Security Numbers," you will turn up links to dozens of web sites that offer to provide you, for a fee, with social security numbers for other citizens, or to link a social security number that you might have with a name, address and telephone number. Where are the data-mining firms and private detective agencies that offer these services obtaining these numbers? In all likelihood, they are accessing information from the databases of credit bureaus, financial services companies or other commercial firms.

If someone actually obtains a Social Security number from one of these sites, they have a critically important piece of information that can be used to locate the individual, get access to information about the individual's personal finances, or engage in a variety of illegal activities. By bringing a halt to unregulated commerce in Social Security numbers, the bill I am introducing today will help reduce the incidence of pretexting crimes, identity thefts and other frauds or crimes involving misuse of a person's Social Security number.

We need to take this action now if we are going to fully protect the public's right to privacy by preventing sales of Social Security numbers. That is why I am pleased today to be joining with the Senator from California (Ms. FEINSTEIN) in introducing Vice President GORE's legislative proposal to outlaw this practice. Our bill would make it a civil and

criminal offense for a person to sell or purchase Social Security numbers. Under the bill, the FTC would be given rulemaking authority to restrict the sale of Social Security numbers, determine appropriate exemptions, and to enforce civil compliance with the bill's restrictions. The bill would also authorize the states to enforce compliance, and provide for appropriate criminal penalties.

I look forward to working with the Vice President, who has been a leader in pressing for tougher privacy protections, as well as Senator FEINSTEIN, and my House colleagues to enact this important privacy protection proposal into law.

CONCERN REGARDING THIRTEEN IRANIAN JEWS ON TRIAL

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I express my grave concern regarding the thirteen Iranian Jews currently on trial in Iran.

These individuals were arrested over a year ago for spying on behalf of Israel and the United States. During that time, the suspects were held without access to lawyers or their relatives. There was no credible evidence to support the allegation, much less their continued incarceration while awaiting trial. This treatment is unacceptable.

The trial is now underway, but closed to all individuals who may help exonerate the defendants. The trial judge serves as investigator, prosecutor and judge with no accountability for his actions. The evidence consists of confessions that were coerced and taped by the Iranian government, as well as a few telephone calls to friends and relatives alleged to be members of Israel's secret police. Like the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950's, these individuals have been deemed guilty simply by virtue of their associations. This trial flies in the face of international standards ensuring fair, impartial, and even-handed judicial decisions.

Today, I have joined a number of my colleagues to shine light on this undemocratic process by cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 307. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Administration should condemn the arrest and prosecution of the thirteen Iranian Jews. The resolution reminds Iran that the treatment of these individuals will serve as a benchmark in determining future U.S. and Iranian relations.

I am pleased to see Iran has made progress to moderate its society over the last two years. We need to encourage an open dialog between our people. However, this trial serves as an important reminder that Iran still has a long way to go before it is accepted back into the international community.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES GARRETT YOUNG FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a young scientist, Garrett Young, a 17 year-old homeschooled student from Branchburg. Garrett has achieved success on the state, national, and international levels. He has recently been recognized as a top winner at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) sponsored by Intel Corporation. This is the world's largest pre-college science competition that recognizes the world's brightest high school students coming from 40 countries for their scientific achievements.

At the international level, he took first place in the category of physics at the ISEF. He also won the Glenn T. Seaborg Nobel Prize Visit Award. The Nobel Prize Visit Award was awarded to the top two individual winners at the Fair and whom they believe will be future Nobel Prize Winners. His project was "Isolating Plasma Species Initiating Internal Electrostatic Fields for Plasma Heating," where Garrett found a way to increase the temperature of plasma in an efficient way.

At the national level, he won "Operation Cherry Blossom." This is a trip to Japan that is awarded by the U.S. Army to the top two individual projects of the entire ISEF competition. Garrett was awarded first place by the U.S. Naval Research Labs and the U.S. Air Force. He also received the second place Vacuum Technology Award awarded by the American Vacuum Society.

At the state level, Garrett won the Senior Division ISEF trip. He also received the Space Science Award, presented by NASA for his project studying space science, and the Metric Award given by the U.S. Metric Society for the best use of the metric system. In addition, he was awarded a medallion by Yale University as the most outstanding junior student in Science and Engineering.

All of his specialized contributions to science are a result of his creative ability and meticulous thought. Mr. Young is truly a remarkable student with a prosperous future ahead of him. Today I honor Garrett's extraordinary accomplishments.

FY2001 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, last night the House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Appropriations Bill. I voted in favor of that legislation because I largely support the priorities reflected in the bill by Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member MURTHA and the Defense Appropriations subcommittee.

Today, the Budget Committee is conducting a hearing on my legislation, H.R. 3221, the Corporate Welfare Commission Act. Under the bill, a Commission would be created to root

out unnecessary and wasteful subsidies, and report their recommendations to the House and Senate. Their recommendations would receive expedited floor consideration to ensure that members of Congress were put on record on these wasteful programs.

One program which is often mentioned as one of the most egregious examples of wasteful spending, and which was mentioned today by the witnesses, is the subsidy the government gives to encourage defense mergers. The program was created in 1993 and was intended to save taxpayers billions of dollars by allowing defense contractors to charge the costs of mergers to government contracts. A recent study by the Department of Defense reflects significant cost savings for the government under this program but an independent study by the General Accounting Office could not verify DoD's claims. According to the GAO study, the government spent approximately \$850 million on just the seven largest defense contractor mergers.

I think this program deserves closer scrutiny. While I don't question the nature of these mergers which have to be approved by the Department of Defense; I do question the policy of having the U.S. taxpayers pay at least a portion of the cost for such mergers. I urge the eventual conferees on the Department of Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills to consider a change in this policy.

THE NICARAGUAN "PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 2000"

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Property Protection Act of 2000" with a notable list of co-sponsors. This bill will have the effect of removing the waiver for Nicaragua contained under section 527(g) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995. Under current law, the President may waive mandatory sanctions prescribed to castigate a government that has not resolved outstanding property claims made by American citizens. In the case of Nicaragua, the President has every year since enactment chosen to exercise this waiver.

I have been reluctant to seek this change to our law. It is the inaction of the Nicaraguan government in resolving a number of longstanding property claims by American citizens that compels us to take this action.

The Sandinista regime, which ruled Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990, confiscated the property of thousands of Nicaraguan families and a number of American citizens. That was wrong. The United States Congress has long been on record pressing for the rights of U.S. citizens who were expropriated to be fairly compensated.

The Nicaraguan government points out that it settled over 400 property cases last year. But these numbers do not tell the whole story. In fact, many of these cases involve individuals who have simply given up hope of recovering their properties and resigned themselves to accepting Nicaraguan government bonds worth a fraction of their face value on world bond markets.