

FICA tax with no net income tax liability, and over half of them, 15 million Americans, pay a net FICA tax even adjusted for the earned income tax credit which they receive; 15 million Americans that the governor from Texas cannot see apparently because they are poor. They are the janitors; they are the men and women who pick up at restaurants; they are people working hard every day to support families on incomes of \$10,000 or \$15,000 and they do not get a penny. But 43 percent of George Bush's tax benefits go to the top 1 percent of Americans; and that is more than he spends on health, Medicare, education and the military.

Last night, Governor Bush told us that only \$223 billion goes to the richest 1 percent. He is right, if we only look at the income tax. But if we look at the estate tax, we see another \$500 billion going to the wealthiest 1 to 1½ percent of Americans. So we look at the estate tax and the income tax combined and we see roughly \$700 billion going to the wealthiest Americans.

But Mr. Bush cannot see half a trillion dollars in tax reduction, cannot notice it and denies that it exists because, after all, it is estate tax relief for the very wealthiest Americans. He cannot see 15 million poor Americans. He cannot see half a trillion dollars going to the wealthy. I think we could only describe this as fuzzy fiscal facts; and we need instead, as our President, someone who will provide tax relief to working Americans and preserve our fiscal responsibility.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN TOM BLILEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, before I get on with the business at hand, I would like to make some comments about the hour or so that we have just heard of facts that just simply do not bear up under the reality of what has happened in Texas in the last few years.

Since 1995, Texas has led the country in reducing the release of disposal of toxic pollution and has led it by 43 million pounds of reduction.

Since 1994, industrial air emissions in Texas have fallen by 11 percent. The EPA says that that is the fact. Under legislation signed by Governor Bush, Texas became the third State in the Nation to require pollution reductions and permits from grandfathered utilities, utilities that would not have had to meet these new standards. Governor Bush said they would have to meet these new standards. Under that plan, they will reduce nitrogen oxide pollution by 50 percent and sulfur dioxide emissions by 25 percent by 2003. Governor Bush has been praised for his

leadership in requiring air pollution reductions from these utilities, and the record is clear on that.

The Wall Street Journal in September of this year said that no one in the Clinton administration has been willing to face this issue separately.

I think what we see happening on the floor is a willingness to distort the facts. We see a willingness to talk about an America that Americans would not want to see happen in our country in terms of the kinds of solutions that have been proposed, but even those solutions, the gentleman from California talking to the gentleman from Oregon a minute ago, talking about electric cars, said that all this could be done today. Well, if it could have been done today, why has it not been done for the last 8 years? That was maybe the greatest condemnation of the point they were trying to make that was made on the floor today, but that is not the purpose of our order here tonight.

The purpose of the order tonight is to talk about the 5 decades of service of the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the oldest committee in the House, a committee that has such jurisdiction that approximately half of all the legislation that comes to the House comes through the Committee on Commerce, a committee for the last 6 years that has been chaired by the gentleman from Virginia (TOM BLILEY).

□ 1845

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) began his political career, as others will talk about in a few minutes, when he was elected to the city council in Richmond, Virginia. He served as vice mayor, he served as mayor, and then in 1980, 20 years ago, he was elected to the Congress. He was elected in 1980.

He had steered Richmond through some of its greatest challenges as the schools were desegregated, despite the unpopularity of the measures that were taken at the time. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) as the mayor said that "This job will be done," and stepped forward and carried the load of seeing that that happened in his city.

As chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) led the drive to enact mammography quality standards, assuring the safety, accuracy, and overall quality of mammogram services for women.

As chairman, he led the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which has unleashed many of the innovative forces and gains in efficiency that are driving our economy forward today. He spearheaded enactment of securities litigation reform, and a host of other reforms that my colleagues will talk about.

They will also talk about their pride in being able to serve with him, a person who served 3 years in the Navy and left the Navy as a lieutenant; a person who the National Journal in a front

page feature called "Mr. Smooth" because of the way he gets his job done.

We will talk about his family: his wonderful wife, Mary Virginia, his two children, his grandchildren; about his commitment in his whole political career to always be sure that Sunday was reserved for family, a commitment that my wife has pointed out to me is something that I should emulate, and the absolute dedication of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) to preserving that time for church and family.

He has done a great job. He has made many friends. His leadership will be missed on our committee. I do not know how his teammate on the tennis court will deal with that, or whether they have made plans about their continued competition. But I am glad to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding to me.

Before I talk about the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), I want to commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for his comments regarding the previous hour. Much of that rhetoric was reckless, and it was obviously designed to trash George Bush of Texas, and I thank the gentleman for responding to that.

Mr. Speaker, I met the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) primarily through tennis. Mr. Speaker, as we know, many Members of Congress or most Members of Congress who are involved in recreation do so in golf. Hunting and fishing would come next. My friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), is a good basketball player in his own right.

I see my friends, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), and we enjoy tennis. I met the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) on the tennis court. What struck me initially was his James River-Virginia dialect. My staffers will say to me when I leave work in the evening, "Take Cah," meaning to take care. That is the way the gentleman from Virginia says it. They emulate him almost precisely accurately.

As Members may know, before he came to the Congress, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) was an embalmer, a funeral home operator. When I first came to the Congress, my mayor back home is an embalmer, a funeral home operator, and the gentleman from Virginia knew him as mayor.

He came to me one day and in his James River dialect, he says, "How do you get along with your mayuh?" I said, "I get along fine with my mayor." He said, "Well, if you have any trouble with him, I will talk to him mayor to mayor, gravedigger to gravedigger."

I did not have to call him in because my mayor and I did get along very well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the turf battles that go on up here between the prestigious Committee on Commerce members here who have flanked me on either end here and the Committee on the Judiciary here on which I served. We have had turf battles when the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) was chairman, and when the Republicans became the majority party in 1994, I said, "Finally we will get rid of these turf battles."

Mr. Speaker, it must be the water they drink over there in the Committee on Commerce, because the turf battles would continue. Someone said to me, how I would respond to the turf battles. I said, "Have the Committee on Commerce people keep their grubby paws off the Committee on the Judiciary issues and it will be resolved." But we will hear more about that later.

Mr. Speaker, finally, in closing, I want to say that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), and the gentleman from Missouri has already said it very accurately, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), a former Democrat converted to Republican; the gentleman from Virginia, mayor; the gentleman from Virginia, Congressman; the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Chairman, and has served very well, following the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), who also served as a very able chairman; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), tennis player; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), a sailor, and in fact, maybe sailor par excellence. I am told his sailing skills have been refined to almost a sophisticated element now.

My staffers refer to him as the distinguished Virginia gentleman. I say to him tonight, to the distinguished Virginia gentleman, we will miss him here. Best wishes to him and Mary Virginia, the two children, and the grandchildren.

I want to commend my friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for having taken out this special order in honor of his chairman and our friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly grateful to be joined by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

In spite of his totally erroneous perception of what happens in our conflict between the two committees, we all know who is truly at fault. The gentleman is outnumbered here today in a significant way, Mr. Chairman. He is a great friend of our chairman and he appreciates us.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I see the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) has already gotten into the gentleman's head, when the gentleman from Missouri calls my charges erroneous.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, in spite of the great accent that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) after all those years on the tennis court has

managed to be able to emulate from our great chairman, the gentleman from Virginia, I saw a video the other night. I do not know that I ever saw a more accurate performance of the chairman than that of the great member of our committee, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY). It was an odd combination of a Bostonian reserve and southern charm when he had that bow tie on and was talking about our chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I over the last 20 years have come to know the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) very well. Yes, we do share several things in common. He is Irish Catholic, as am I. Mary Virginia, his wife, is Irish Catholic. What are the odds of two Irish Catholics being in Richmond? I think it is pretty slight.

So his good fortune on this planet has obviously been marked by that greatest of all achievements in his life, his marriage to Mary Virginia, and the family which they created.

I know that he in his public life is animated by the values that his mother and father instilled in him. I know that he tries every day in our committee to ensure that those principles are in fact fulfilled. I know that those values are animated by the Jesuit education which he was able to obtain at Georgetown University, the same Jesuit education which I have.

As we know, the Jesuits can educate in a way in which liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans can both be proud. That is the greatness of the Jesuit tradition. I appreciate that.

If there were two incidents that come to mind when I think of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), they are these.

When Richmond was under a desegregation order in the 1970s, it would be almost impossible to find a more difficult situation in a more difficult State to effectuate the desegregation of a school system.

If I was going to pick one person who could preside over the delicate job of implementing a desegregation order in a southern city, I would pick the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), because I am sure that then, as we all know now, he is the one person who, with fairness and honesty, can deal with all sides in a deliberation. We know that the Richmond story turned out to be a success, a model.

In my own career, I think that while less sensitive, from the perspective of the 1990s in this Congress, when history looks back, they will say that the most important piece of legislation which passed was the 1996 Telecommunications Act. It was not just one piece of legislation, it was 20 pieces of legislation in one. It dealt with every aspect of telecommunications, computer, Internet, satellite, cable, in our country. It rewrote all the laws.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) presided over that in the Committee on Commerce on this House floor and in the conference committee with the Senate. The bill is not perfect, we all know that. Nothing is. But a lot of times when people are doing comparisons, they let the perfect be the enemy of the very good. This is a very good bill.

By the year 2000, we have something which stands in testament to the success of that bill. We call it today the NASDAQ. The NASDAQ is nothing more now than the compilation of all the companies that have been the product of that 1996 Telecommunications Act, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) stand at the front of the line of those who deserve the credit for that becoming a new blueprint for our country.

The rest of the world has not caught up. It is difficult to change laws in a way that creates a competitive climate that allows for any entrepreneur or any company to believe that if they can raise the money and they have a good idea, that they can successfully compete in a modern telecommunications environment.

That is why we right now are number one looking over our shoulder at number two, three, and four in the world in all of these areas. It is not that we are number one necessarily in every area, but in totality we clearly are the world leader.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) was the principal author of that piece of legislation. I stand in admiration for his great contribution to the only on that issue. I mention it because it stands first among all, but it does not mean that there were not dozens of others that we could go down the litany and talk about here this evening.

It is only to serve as an example of the type of historic leadership which he has given in his hometown and here in Washington throughout his lifetime, and again, as I say, always animated by the values of his parents, his wife, Mary Virginia, and the Jesuits.

As he leaves, this place, having been enriched by his presence, will be able to I think congratulate him on a successful career of historic proportions, and know that we will not see his like again.

I thank the gentleman for holding this special order.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for taking the time to come tonight. I also mention that we have a number of members of our committee and Members of Congress, Members from Virginia, who have left for the RECORD the comments they want to insert in the RECORD tonight from both sides of the aisle, and certainly I am grateful for the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) taking his time to be here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight

and Investigations of the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for reserving this special order.

I rise to pay special tribute to my friend and colleague and leader of our committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), our chairman.

There is not a finer committee in the Congress than the Committee on Commerce. I wish my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), was still here for me to rib him, because he knows in fact that it is the best committee in the Congress for a lot of reasons: the jurisdiction, whether it be health care, trade, commerce, telecommunications, you name it, it comes under the authority of our committee.

If we look at the legislation that passes through here in the House on a weekly basis, really about one-third to 40 percent of the major bills that pass through this Congress originate in the Committee on Commerce.

It is a terrific committee to serve on. We have wonderful Members. We have terrific staff, hard-working. We have had a wonderful leader in the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) the last 6 years.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate when I was first placed on the Committee on Commerce to serve under then ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). He was always fair, and he has always been fair, certainly in his 6 years as he led this committee in so many ways that will impact all of America for many years to come.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) is a straight shooter. Yes, we knew when we were in his doghouse, but there was always a way to get out. He wanted an answer, he usually had the votes, and if you were straight up with him, your reputation stayed honest and strong, and he was able and willing to help you on a whole host of issues as legislation moved through the Congress.

I am only sorry tonight that the hour is late. We are all trying to get home, back to our districts. Congress will not be in session tomorrow. I have had the wonderful opportunity of serving with him also on the tennis court, opponent, as well as partner. He plays on the court just as hard as he plays in committee. This Congress would be far better off to have more gentlemen like the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

There is not a day that he has not been able to go home or he has not been able to have his head high in the issues that he helped lead knowing he has done the right thing. His impact will be felt not only on this body, but across the country for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for reserv-

ing this special hour for a really very special guy, a real gentleman in every respect of the word. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for all he has done for us taking the time and also for the great leadership he has shown on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and congratulate him on the legislation that was passed this week to deal with a significant problem of public safety that we have seen develop over the issues of tires and automobile safety in the last few months. I appreciate the gentleman's great leadership on this, bringing this bill to the floor and having it overwhelmingly adopted here on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), my good friend, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, a person who is knowledgeable in the intricacies of the many things we deal with in the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), for yielding to me. Let me thank the gentleman for leading us in this special order.

Before I begin my contribution to it, I wanted to thank the gentleman also for taking a few minutes to respond to the hour that preceded it, because America was treated with some incredible, I think, manipulations of the truth. The truth of the matter is that in the States of Texas and Louisiana, men and women are working every day, not only to produce the energy that America needs, but to process it in the plants that are required to refine it, make fuel oil for the homes of the Northeast, for Massachusetts and for Michigan and for other States across the colder regions of our country, to make the gasoline that powers our cars and the diesel that powers the trucks that deliver the products across this country even in this dot-com age, and to make the jet fuel that powers the jets, not only across our country but around the world.

It is States like Texas and Louisiana that are making the contributions. I am not sure Americans are aware of it, but the last refinery in America was built in my home district in Louisiana 20 years ago. We have not had a refinery built since then. In fact, 36 refineries closed during that period, and America is dependent not only on oil and gas more and more from places that are very unstable like the Middle East, but more and more on refined products produced in other countries.

When the price goes up in the Northeast and the Members who appeared on this floor complain about Texas and Governor Bush and our policy on promoting independence in production and supplies for this country, I hope they remember that the prices are not set in Texas any more. They are being set

somewhere in the Middle East and somewhere in councils that we do not control.

Then when short supplies arrive in the wintertime, it could well be that we have had an anti-energy policy in this country for the last years of this administration that has not, in fact, licensed a new refinery for America, and that has shut down areas to production and development.

It ought to be opened up, if we are going to be an independent and free and stable economy and if our people are going to be warm in the winter and if our cars are going to be powered and our jet planes are going to continue to fly. There is another story. I hope one day we get to tell it all about why this administration has put this country into such jeopardy now as we face another energy crisis; 58 percent dependent on foreigners to supply us with the fuel we need.

And when the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was started in 1975, we were a mere 36 percent dependent. Think how much more vulnerable we are today with fewer refineries and more foreign oil dependence. That has been the story of this administration and why I hope the next administration under George Bush will change it.

But I came tonight to honor the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). I came tonight to join my colleagues on the Committee on Commerce, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), my friend from the Committee on the Judiciary, to remind this House what a contribution the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has made to this institution and what an incredible personal contribution he has made to this body in the person, the man that he is.

The gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY), as my colleagues know, has chaired what I consider to be the most important committee in this Congress, the Committee on Commerce, formerly the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and hopefully Committee on Energy and Commerce again next year is the oldest committee of this House. As my colleagues know commerce and interstate commerce was one of the first assignments given to the national government when this country was started, and the Committee on Commerce represents jurisdiction over the commerce of the country, and that includes an incredible array of items, including telecommunications, indeed, and transportation and environmental issues and health care issues, and issues dealing with such complex combinations as to how to make sure our health care system stays solvent and how to make sure Medicaid is available to the poor and needy of our society, how to make sure that prescription drugs hopefully will be available to our seniors.

It is an incredible mix of jurisdictions as we debate matters as complicated as this awful tire recall. And I want to commend the gentleman from

Missouri (Mr. UPTON), my friend who just appeared, for his incredible work in finding out what went wrong over these years with that horrible mess in auto safety and how expeditiously our committee produced a bill for this floor to consider and for the Senate to consider, and it is now on the way to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I think that effort alone tells a story about the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) chairs this incredible important committee, and he literally is the leader under whom we have worked for these past years to develop, not only hearings like we produced on the Firestone tire recall, but the legislation that followed it.

I do not know if my colleagues remember, but there was another recall in 1978 with Firestone 500 tires. Following that, there were hearings; but there was no legislation. This year, in 3 short weeks, the Congress and under the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the Committee on Commerce produced the most significant reform of tire and auto safety in 30 years.

And that has been the history of his leadership: telecommunications reform, the first rewrite of the Telecommunications Act since 1934; financial securities modernization, the first real modernization of our Securities Act in years and decades; the Food and Drug Modernization Act, to make sure that Americans have safe and quality drugs and pharmaceuticals in our country.

The work he has done in safe drinking water to make sure that Americans have good safe water to drink. The last hearing he chaired today was on safe water, not only here in America, but the global concerns of safe water and the pollution of global water supplies that are critical as nations and ethnic groups are fighting now around the world over water supplies, and people are dying because of the lack of good potable water and clean and healthy sanitary conditions.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has led those efforts for the last 6 years, and he has produced remarkable legislation from our committee that has literally broken up the monopolies in this country in telecommunications and transportation. He has been a huge, literally a "trustbuster" in this Nation. He has done more to back off unnecessary Federal regulations in many areas of our economy and to open it up to consumer choice and competition. That has been the history of his tenure as chairman of our Committee on Commerce.

I want to tell my colleagues something about him personally that my colleagues may not know. He spent his 20 years here in Congress also dedicated to women and children's issues. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has been a leader in adoptive services and making sure that adoption was a real and viable option for chil-

dren in America, and to make sure not only here in this country but around the world that adoption was available to kids and to parents who wanted to love them.

He has been a stalwart defender of adoptive services all of these years and a promoter of that as a means of protecting and preserving young life in America and around the world. And he has been a real champion for mammography services to make sure, in fact, that mammograms were available to poor people, and that women could, in fact, get the benefits of health care and early warnings of breast cancer and other diseases. He has been a champion of women health issues. I am not sure if Members really know of his extraordinary service in this area.

Lest we forget, for 20 years he has served on NATO's parliamentary assembly, the assembly of NATO countries, the parliamentarians who try to keep the strength and the unity and the bonds that have held NATO together and been important not only in winning but preserving world peace. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) now serves as president of that body and will serve through the month of November until his retirement from the Congress. But he leaves us as we end this session to go back to Richmond, Virginia, a place where his career started, where he began serving the people of America on the city council and later on as mayor.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) talked about his incredible service to our Nation and to Richmond during those awful days when our Nation was coming to grips with the horror and the history of segregation and bigotry in our country. He came to grips with it and dealt with it in a humane and positive and effective way that was a model for other country communities across America. I hope we remember him and his service for that great effort.

Finally, I want to talk about the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) the man, the father, the grandfather, the husband, the man who has always been the gentleman from Virginia.

We get into some awful fights around here. We get into some bitter arguments sometime, and we forget to remind ourselves that all of us come here representing people back home, and all of us come here with a mandate to speak for those people back home. We sometimes forget our own humanity. We forget to remember to treat each other as human beings and as gentlemen and ladies in this body; and incivility sometimes reigns, but it never reigns under the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) on the Committee on Commerce.

The gentleman reminded us all to be gentlemen and ladies. He reminded us all to differ and to argue and disagree but to do so agreeably, and to remember we all have indeed a special honor to be in this body representing this great Nation, and that honor means

that we ought to respect one another as much as we respect this institution.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) was truly a man of the House, a man this Nation can be proud of, a man our Committee on Commerce is certainly proud of and a leader and a chairman we are going to miss a great deal. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), on behalf of all the Members of the Committee on Commerce we miss you, bon voyage, happy sailing, great tennis games. And remember the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) still can be beat. There is a way to do it. Come around and we will have some great games together and some great times.

To the gentleman and your family, we want to wish the gentleman the best in retirement and the best that our Nation has to offer, a true servant of the American people, the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) for joining this special order and all he does to make our committee work, the way it works under the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). Mr. Speaker, three Virginians decided to leave the Congress this year, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), his good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Bateman), who last month we stood here on the floor in memorial remarks about the gentleman, we remembered his life and his great service, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PICKETT), who left a statement today, planned to be here today, but because of what appears to be the cowardly attack on our ship, the U.S.S. *Cole*, went back to his district, where that ship is based, to be with the families of the sailors who were on that destroyer as it was attacked in a terrorist manner today.

And my colleagues know, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Bateman), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PICKETT) all have served with the NATO parliament. And as the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) just mentioned, a group that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) was chosen to be the president of this year, the president of the parliament organization of all of the NATO countries, maybe that in and of itself should suggest the esteem that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has held not only here on the floor of the Congress, not only here in the halls of the Congress, not only here in the Nation's capital, but in the capitals of our allies, in Europe, as he is now leading that organization, and will continue to lead it until the November meeting of parliamentarians from the NATO countries, and has brought honor to the United States in the way that he has led that group of parliamentarians.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments during the watch of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) while on the Committee on Commerce,

if I can mention them: the telecommunications reform, financial services modernization, FDA reform, modernizing securities law, securities litigation reform, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Internet tax freedom, Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act, the Child On-line Protection Act, Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Improving the Food Quality Act, the Open Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act, also known as ORBIT, the Balanced Budget Act, Medicare part B and Medicaid and Kids Care were refined and improved through the work of the Committee on Commerce, the necessary improvements on our efforts to balance the budget and the effects that it had on Medicare.

□ 1915

Legislation that, maybe, made a difference for availability of mammography. Biomaterials Access Assurance Act, the Health Insurance Act, the Health Insurance Portability Act, the Assistive Suicide Restriction Act, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, the Year 2000 Readiness and Responsibility Act, the list goes on, the Wireless Communication and Public Safety Act, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act, the Chemical Safety Information Act, the Clean Air Act and its amendments, the Animal Drug Availability Act, the Electronic Signature Act.

The breadth of what the Committee on Commerce deals with as well as the accomplishments in these many areas I think create a sense of just how big a job the job of the chairman of the Committee on Commerce is, and the accomplishments suggest how well that job has been done.

Another area I want to mention as we draw to conclusion here is the chairman's efforts on behalf of adoption. The Blileys' children, Tom and Mary Virginia's children were adopted. He is a leader on adoption issues in the House of Representatives. He testifies before other committees. He testified just this year before the Committee on Ways and Means and in favor of adoption legislation.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) said "I have been blessed", and when he gave his testimony, "I have been blessed by my experiences with adoption. So now I am doing what I can to help thousands of innocent children find a mom and a dad." He added that mom and dad are the greatest titles in the world.

He led efforts to increase adoption counseling and to make the adoption tax credit permanent, and increased the cap for that tax credit from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) is a man who has cared about the issues we deal with. He has cared about the jurisdiction of his committee, the efforts that that committee needed to make to see that the United States was at the forefront in com-

merce, the efforts that we need to see that Medicare works properly, the efforts that we need to make to see that we have safety in transportation and in commerce, that we have security over the Internet and in the changes in telecommunications.

The gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) has done a tremendous job, a job that people in this Congress will remember and talk about for a long time. While people all over America may not talk about the legislation that has been passed for a long time, they will benefit from the legislation that has been passed and the leadership that has been shown for years to come, for decades to come, as we enter this new century, a century with limitless opportunity and a century that really defies the old definition of what was possible.

The Committee on Commerce under the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has been at the forefront of making it possible for us to be the incredibly competitive society that we are in America today.

Mr. Speaker, it would be easy to overlook many of the accomplishments in this life and career. I am glad we had a chance to share some of those tonight. Others will be shared in the official RECORD of the proceedings today. But I am glad that we were able to be here, Members of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman COBLE), and others who have submitted their remarks from many committees and from both parties, both parties here on the floor tonight, remembering the great work, the great leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TOM BLILEY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, It would be easy to overlook many of the accomplishments of his life and career—I'd like to share some of the highlights of a lifetime of accomplishment. TOM BLILEY represents the Seventh Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the United States House of Representatives. The Seventh District includes the western part of the City of Richmond as well as sections of Albemarle, Chesterfield, and Henrico Counties; it includes all of Culpeper, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Louisa, Madison, Orange, and Powhatan Counties.

TOM BLILEY began his political career in 1968 when he was first elected to the City Council of Richmond, Virginia. He served as Vice-Mayor from 1968 to 1970, and then as Mayor from 1970 to 1977. He was first elected to Congress in 1980 and has been elected to each succeeding Congress. As a former President of Joseph W. Bliley Funeral Homes, he gained important business experience that has shaped his attitude towards problems facing small business owners.

In Washington, Mr. BLILEY is serving his third term as Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, the oldest committee in the House. As Chairman, he is an ex officio member of the five Commerce Committee subcommittees: Telecommunications, Trade,

and Consumer Protection; Finance and Hazardous Materials; Health and Environment; Energy and Power; and Oversight and Investigation.

As Mr. BLILEY plans the committee agenda and schedule hearings and legislation for the 106th Congress, he follows the same, time-tested principles that have made his committee one of the most constructive and successful in Congress: Promoting free and fair markets, standing up for consumer choice and common sense safeguards for our health and the environment, keeping an eye on the federal bureaucracy.

In the 105th Congress, Mr. BLILEY was instrumental in the enactment of the Food and Drug Administration and Modernization Act. New treatments will be available sooner for the seriously ill while expanding access to safe and effective drugs, devices, and food because of Mr. BLILEY's efforts. Electronic commerce is the newest, fastest growing form of interstate and foreign commerce. Mr. BLILEY was a leader in the enactment of a new law setting a three-year moratorium on certain taxes for Internet access or consumer purchases made via the Internet.

Mr. BLILEY also led the drive to enact the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1998. This legislation will assure the safety, accuracy, and overall quality of mammography services for women. This bill will help save lives by ensuring for the first time that all patients are directly notified of their mammogram results in terms they can understand.

In the 104th Congress, Mr. BLILEY broke up bigger monopolies than President Theodore Roosevelt. He tore up more federal regulations over American businesses than President Reagan. Mr. BLILEY led passage of the Telecommunications Act and opened a trillion-dollar a year industry to fair, free, and open trade. He gave Americans peace-of-mind about the chemicals in the foods we eat, and about the purity of the water we drink when he successfully led bipartisan efforts to enact Food Safety and Safe Drinking Water legislation into law.

Mr. BLILEY also spearheaded enactment of Securities Litigation Reform, part of the "Contract with America." When President Clinton vetoed that measure, Mr. BLILEY led the House in the first—and only—successful veto override of the Clinton Presidency. Under Mr. BLILEY's leadership, the most comprehensive overhaul of the nation's securities laws in more than 60 years was achieved upon enactment of the Capital Markets legislation.

Since his first election to Congress, Mr. BLILEY has been recognized by many organizations for his work. He has served in various roles with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—from November 1994–October 1998, he was Chairman of the Economic Committee, in November 1998, he became one of the four Vice Presidents; and, with the resignation of its President in May 2000, Mr. BLILEY became the Acting President and will serve in this capacity until November 2000. His commitment to balancing the federal budget has earned him the National Watchdog of the Treasury's "Golden Bulldog Award" every year since 1981. He has been named a "Guardian of Small Business" by the National Federation of Independent Business. The Louisville Courier Journal called him "the most powerful Virginian since Harry Byrd" and the National Journal, in a front page feature, called him "Mr. Smooth."