

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL
AMERICANS: REV. DR. EVELYN
R. JOHN

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as the nation of Guyana celebrates its 35th Independence Anniversary, I would like to salute an outstanding Guyanese American, Rev. Dr. Evelyn R. John as a Point of Light for all Americans.

Rev. Dr. Evelyn John was born and raised in Georgetown Guyana. All through her childhood she was exposed to a Christian upbringing, and in her adulthood she joined the Guyana Unity Church. After several years as a Truth Teacher, she was ordained a Minister in 1980.

Rev. Dr. Evelyn John migrated to the United States in 1983 and on February 12, 1984, she founded the New Life Center of Truth in the Flatbush Brooklyn Community, with an initial membership of about sixty members. Today the "New Life Center for Truth" serves over five hundred active members and approximately three hundred non-registrants.

She also caters to a cross section of youths in the Youth Group and Sunday School, in the form of guidance counseling and self development which provides incentives for the pursuance of higher learning. Over the past several years, she has traveled to seminars overseas, namely India, Antigua and Peru where she made vocal presentations.

It has always been her desire to serve. Hers is evident in her untiring devotion to people and their spiritual needs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Rev. Dr. Evelyn R. John as a Point of Light for all Americans.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT RECIPIENTS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize three of New York's outstanding young students, Bruce Russo, Paul Lapreziosa, and Gregory Smith. These young men have received the Eagle Scout honor from their peers in recognition of their achievements.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

The Eagle Scout award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor

skills; they must earn a minimum of 23 merit badges as well as contribute at least 100 man-hours toward a community oriented service project.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Bruce, Paul, and Gregory and bring the attention of Congress to these successful young men on their respective days of recognition. Congratulations to you and your families.

PATENT REEXAMINATION EN- HANCEMENT ACT OF 2001—H.R. 2231

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, the high-technology industries based in Silicon Valley need effective patent protection for their inventions. Patents, in particular, are integral components of the valuation and structure of many companies, whether they are startups trying to attract venture capital or other funding, or established companies.

The value of these rights, however, is dependent on the patents being valid and enforceable. What we recognize is that an invalid patent—a patent that either should never have been issued or which confers protection beyond what is entitled—can cause significant damage not only to individual companies but to competitors. Those individuals who rely on their patent and discover a defect, or those who face the threat of litigation on the basis of a patent that is invalid each have a substantial interest in having a mechanism to "fix" the problem with the patent.

This is why I am calling for an enhancement of our patent reexamination system. The patent reexamination system was designed to be an efficient and fair procedure for reviewing the validity of patents when there is a substantial reason to call that validity into question. It was set up originally as an "ex parte" process that only the patent office and the patent owner could use. Congress tried to expand that system to allow more participation for third parties in 1999 in the American Inventors Protection Act. Unfortunately, these efforts fell short in making reexamination the system it should be.

I believe a modest set of changes to the law will further our goal of providing a cost-effective and fair procedure for reviewing patent validity. Some of the changes have already been addressed in legislation introduced by Chairman Howard Coble and supported unanimously by the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property. Those bills, H.R. 1866 and H.R. 1886 address specific concerns with the AIPA inter partes system.

The additional changes that I believe must be made address two general concerns.

First, I am proposing to expand the grounds upon which one may initiate a patent reexamination. Under current law, reexaminations may be based only on patents or printed publications. In a number of fast-moving technologies, such as business methods and software, there is often a substantial body of information that is not formally published or found in patents, so that other information is not considered when making the determination to issue a patent. The Patent and Trademark Office has demonstrated its competence when evaluating other aspects of patentability beyond defects based on prior patents or printed publications available for review. I am proposing that we allow parties to start a reexamination proceeding on the basis of evidence, for example, an

Second, I believe the original sanctions that would apply to parties who initiate reexamination procedures were too onerous. The instant the Patent Office issues its order to consider the matter, under the present system, the party requesting the reexamination is barred from going to court. For this reason, I am proposing to adjust the bar, the estoppel as it's called, until there is a final determination and that final determination would bar those parties who unsuccessfully participate in this reexamination procedure. Thus, a third party who participates in a reexamination procedure would, under my bill, at the conclusion of that proceeding be barred (estopped) from challenging the patent in any other judicial or PTO proceeding. Any issue actually raised or that could have been raised based on the evidence presented by that party and before the Patent Office will still be barred under my amendments. Thus, the adjustments to the law are fairly minor but, I think, fairly important as to the timing of the estoppel. These changes make the process fair and also perceived as fair.

Let me emphasize that the legislation I am offering is not designed to preclude or substitute for the possibility of litigation over important and valuable patents. It also will not make reexamination a substitute for situations where complex factual or legal issues must be resolved to reach a conclusion on validity of the patent. Instead, the legislation makes important but carefully measured enhancements to the system without undermining either the current structure of the process or its balance.

Indeed, this bill would ensure that the reexamination procedure retains important safeguards to prevent third parties from using the procedure to harass patent owners who hold valid patents. First, as noted, the estoppel imposed on unsuccessful challengers should prevent frivolous challenges. Those who challenge the patent in the PTO will not be able to challenge the patent later in a court on validity issues. Second, the PTO will still be required in every proceeding to first make an independent finding that there is a substantial question of patentability before it will start the proceeding. This is an essential component of the structure of the current law and any future system. Third, under the proposed system, no discovery or hearings will be allowed—meaning that a third party will not be able to conduct proceedings that will place the patent owner in a compromised situation.

In short, the legislation removes some of the shortcomings of the current inter partes system, and should present a viable and beneficial option for addressing the validity of some patents without the necessity of costly and complex litigation in a court.

Finally, I am honored that Chairman Howard Coble has agreed to be the principle co-sponsor of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT DALE E. BUCKINGHAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Dale E. Buckingham upon his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham has served our nation with honor and distinction for over 30 years, and his performance throughout his career has been characterized by the highest standards of professional ethics and commitment to the military. He grew up in Lowville, New York, and graduated from Lowville Academy and Central School in 1970. He entered the Air Force in 1971 and attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham was assigned to the 4642 Air Defense Squadron (SAGE) at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, in 1972.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham's record of service is outstanding. In 1976, he was selected to be a recruiter with the 2543rd USAF Recruiting Squadron where he was named rookie recruiter of the year. In the following year he received the gold bald eagle signifying top recruiter and recruiting excellence. In 1983, Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham was assigned to Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. While there, he served with the 1st Combat Evaluation Squadron and Strategic Air Command Bombing and Navigation Division.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham, in 1987, was selected for the Defense Attache System being posted at the American Consulate in Hong Kong. Two years later he was reassigned to the American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey, as the Operations Coordinator. Following the completion of his tour in Ankara, Turkey, he was then assigned to Whiteman AFB, Missouri, and the 509th Bomb Wing. At Whiteman, he served as the base's chief of information management responsible for over 100 information managers. Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham was then assigned as the superintendent of the information systems flight in the Communications Squadron. In March 1998, he developed and established the First Term Airmen Center to help ease the transition for young airmen moving to Whiteman. He became the Command Chief Master Sergeant in March of 1999.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham is married to the former Christina Kay Rockey of

Hiawatha, Kansas, and they have two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham and his wife, Christina, all the best. We thank them for over 30 years of service to the United States of America.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL
AMERICANS: REV. DR. HENRY A.
CHAN

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as the nation of Guyana celebrates its 35th Independence Anniversary, I would like to salute an outstanding Guyanese American, Rev. Dr. Henry A. Chan as a Point of Light for all Americans.

The Rev. Dr. Henry A. Chan was born in Guyana in 1946 at Golden Grove, East Bank Demera to Ruby and Clarence Chan. While growing up at Pin Schoon Ord, he attended primary schools on the West Bank of Demerara and obtained his secondary education at Queen's College in Georgetown, Guyana.

At the age of thirteen, Dr. Chan felt the call to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church and was tutored in his teenage years by then Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop of Guyana, the Most Reverence Dr. Alan John Knight.

On completion of his studies at Queen's College in 1964, Dr. Chan was directed by Archbishop Knight to work for some years in order to obtain experience in the world before going on to Codrington College in Barbados and afterwards, to Durham University in England.

In 1967, instead, Dr. Chan came to the United States of America to further his studies in Engineering and Computer Science. He felt that the priestly vocation might have been a boyhood fantasy. But God had endowed Dr. Chan with many gifts and a broad knowledge during his Queens College years. He enrolled initially as a student in the Electronics Technology program at RCA Institutes.

During the ensuing years, Dr. Chan discovered that he had a hobby—collecting academic degrees. His degrees include Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Science (State University of New York, 1978); Master of Business Administration in Management (Dowling College, 1980); Doctor of Public Administration (Nova Southeastern University, 1981); Doctor of Ministry (University of the South, 1987); Master of Sacred Theology in Spiritual Direction (General Theological Seminary, 1990) and Doctor of Philosophy in Pastoral Psychology (Graduate Theological Foundation, 1994). He is also a 1982 graduate of the Mercer School of Theology in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, New York.

During the years 1969–1982, Dr. Chan held many positions in data processing, including systems analysis, project management, and long-range planning.

Dr. Chan is married to Jean Flora Chan, and they have three children, Anthony, Andre and Natasha. Dr. and Mrs. Chan became proud grandparents for the first time when Anthony and his wife Gloria, were blessed with a son, Justin on May 24, 2001.

Events in his life led Dr. Chan to test his vocation to the ordained ministry in the Episcopal (Anglican) Church. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1982 and to the Priesthood in 1983 in the Diocese of Long Island, where he has served up to this day. Dr. Chan has been at St. Peter's Church, Rosedale from January 1, 1988 to the present. He came to St. Peter's Church at a time when one of the considerations for the future of this Church was to close its doors because of the small size of the membership and financial giving. Under his pastoral leadership, however, St. Peter's is a thriving Church today with a membership of about 150 families from all parts of the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the United States of America. Furthermore, the Church is debt-free. During the past thirteen years, the buildings and ground have been restored and the people can tell from this that God is present in Rosedale and surrounding communities.

Each year in January and August when Dr. Chan has a break from his parish duties at St. Peter's Church, he travels to Guyana at his own expense, to render assistance to the Diocese of Guyana where there is an acute shortage of clergy. Dr. Chan eagerly looks forward to serving the Church in Guyana on these occasions, pastorally and spiritually, for Guyanese are hungry for growth in their relationship with God. But in parishes where there are no full-time priests, they are like sheep without a shepherd.

In addition to the demands on his time as priest and pastor at St. Peter's Church, Dr. Chan serves as a volunteer mediator with the Queens Mediation Network, Community Mediation Services, from which he received his training.

Dr. Chan feels blessed by God in his ministry as a priest and pastor and he has only one burning desire, that is, that in whatever he does, to God be the glory.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Rev. Dr. Henry A. Chan as a Point of Light for all Americans.

MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
TEAM WINS STATE TITLE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Midland and West Texas in congratulating the Midland High School baseball team in their great victory in the Class 5A state championship title. Their June 9th victory over Austin High is an accomplishment that is truly deserving of recognition and praise.

The Midland High baseball program has been built upon a solid foundation of hard work, dedication and sportsmanship. The Bulldogs have shown what today's youth can accomplish when teamwork and determination are applied. They will forever hold a place of honor in the pages of Texas athletics.

It is with great pride that I recognize the members of the Midland High School baseball team and their coach Barry Russell for this accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the administration and fans that carried them through victory's final inning. Thanks to their