

Whereas, Mr. Raytis was a publisher in the community for six years.

Whereas, Mr. Raytis received the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award in 2000, and remains active in the community.

Whereas, Mr. Raytis has continuously demonstrated his commitment and love for his family, his community and his country, I am honored to call him a friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Patent and Trademark Office Reauthorization Act," and urge my colleagues to support what will prove to be an important contribution to our high-tech economy.

Briefly, by way of background, the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office are fully-funded through user-fee revenue; the agency receives no stipend from the taxpayers. Since 1992, however, more than \$600 million in PTO funds have been withheld and used for other purposes. This policy results in manpower shortages and inhibits the development of modernization efforts at the agency. With PTO workloads increasing every year, the ultimate losers are the men and women who pay the fees to have their patent and trademark applications processed. Our country suffers as well, since the development and export of intellectual property is crucial to the national economy.

The Patent and Trademark Office Reauthorization Act will protect PTO revenues from diversion to other programs. The bill accomplishes this goal by amending two key provisions of section 42 of the Patent Act, which prescribes the PTO funding mechanism.

First, the requirement in subsection (b) that all agency funds be credited to a special PTO Appropriation Account is deleted; instead, such funds are to be credited to a PTO Account in the Treasury.

Second, the requirement in subsection (c) that subjects agency access to and expenditure of collected fees to appropriations is also deleted. This means that the Commissioner will have the authority to collect all fees and use them for agency operations until expended.

This is a necessary bill for reasons that are known by all who support the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office. I urge my colleagues again to endorse the measure.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL G. WOODS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a dedicated public servant in

my hometown of Norwalk, California. Sergeant Michael G. Woods of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will retire next month after 23 years of service to the citizens of Los Angeles County. It is truly an honor to recognize him today.

Sergeant Woods moved to the United States from England in 1957 and graduated from Glendale High School in 1964. Sergeant Woods joined the United States Navy in 1965 and served in Vietnam from 1966–1967. After being discharged from the service in 1968, he married his wife Jackie and began work for Sears, Roebuck and Co., working at the Glendale and Hollywood stores. Michael and Jackie became the proud parents of two daughters, Lori, born in 1969, and Toni, born in 1973.

Sergeant Woods left Sears in 1978 and joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department that same year beginning in the custody division. In 1979, he received an Associate's degree from Glendale Junior College. During this time, he quickly advanced in the department, was promoted to the Transportation Bureau and then to Field Operations in 1982 serving various stations throughout Los Angeles County. Eventually, he was given the responsibility for conducting background investigations of potential deputy sheriff trainees. Finally in 1996, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Norwalk station. During this time he served as a patrol sergeant and acting watch commander. Sergeant Woods was also active in the department's community relations outreach in areas such as the ride share program, civilian volunteer program, reserve program and special programs to name just a few.

I want to personally express my warmest wishes to Sergeant Michael G. Woods and his family as they embark on the next phase of their life's journey. The people of Los Angeles County and the State of California have been exceptionally well served by his dedication and devout public service.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCK-BOX ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, in this time of unprecedented budget surpluses, the first and most important responsibility Congress has is to protect Social Security and Medicare, and the senior citizens they serve. On February 13th, the House of Representatives took this first step when it overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act of 2001.

I was proud to support this bill, as I did last year. H.R. 2 prevents any other legislation or amendment from dipping into Social Security or Medicare Trust Fund Surpluses. This proposed lockbox would ensure that trust fund surpluses can only be spent on their intended uses of retirement and health care security.

Until we enact Social Security and Medicare reform legislation, which I hope we will do in

this Congress, all trust fund surpluses will be used to pay down the national debt. The money cannot be used for any other programs or spending projects, period. Before we consider tax cuts, we owe our seniors no less than this.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JIM ASLANIDES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas, Representative Aslanides has been named to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Whereas, Representative Aslanides will serve on the Energy and Environment, and Health and Family Services Committees.

Whereas, Representative Aslanides has continuously demonstrated his commitment and love for his family, his community and his country, I am honored to call him a friend.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF RICHARD A. VANDER EYK

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Police Chief Richard A. VanderEyk, who retired from the Pleasant Ridge Police Department on February 2, 2001.

Chief VanderEyk's public service began in March of 1967 when he entered the United States Air Force. After his discharge from the Air Force, Chief VanderEyk was employed as an officer with the Pleasant Ridge Police Department in 1973. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1988 and to Chief in 1991.

Chief VanderEyk earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice and continued to improve his skills through education. He attended the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Criminal Justice Management Institute's New Chiefs School in 1991 and in 1997–1998 the Police Staff and Command School at Eastern Michigan University.

Chief VanderEyk has supported the law enforcement community at every level. Beginning with his membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, then extending to the National Association of Chiefs of Police and the Michigan Association of Police. He also served as treasurer and a member of the executive board for the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police.

Throughout his life, dedication and hard work have been synonymous with this outstanding public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief VanderEyk for his years of public service and in wishing him and his wife, Jacqueline, good health and happiness in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK TEXAS FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF KILLEEN AND BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the First National Bank Texas for 100 years of service to the people of Killeen and Bell County.

Originally known as the First National Bank of Killeen, it was organized with capital stock of \$25,000 on Feb. 27, 1901.

It has provided uninterrupted service to Central Texans through two World Wars, the Great Depression, the construction of Fort Hood, the Cold War, 18 U.S. Presidents and the dawn of a new millennium. The bank also has been a trendsetter: the city's first elevator was located in its lobby in the 1960s and the bank introduced the first automated teller machine to the area in the 1970s. The bank continues to innovate in the areas of retail and Internet banking.

Today, February 27, 2001, the bank, now known as First National Bank Texas, will celebrate its 100th year anniversary with a community-wide celebration.

The bank, the oldest bank in Bell County, has had its ups-and-downs but ultimately it has flourished over the years. It now employs more than 1,100 Texans across the state, with 690 in Bell County. The bank is one of the largest nongovernmental employers in the area. Modern reminders of early bank leaders C.R. Clements and Will Rancier are with us today in the form of the C.R. Clements Boys and Girls Club and Rancier Avenue.

I ask Members to join me in offering congratulations to the First National Bank Texas on a century of growth and service to Central Texas families and businesses.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SSI MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2001

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, many States have decided to increase the amount of money welfare recipients can earn before their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefit is reduced. This strategy produces two very beneficial effects: It rewards and promotes employment and it helps working families escape poverty. Unfortunately, the primary Federal program that helps low-income disabled and elderly Americans has not pursued a similar strategy. In fact, the income exclusions for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program have been frozen in time for nearly thirty years.

In 1972, a general income exclusion (GIE) for SSI was set at \$20 a month, meaning the first \$20 of outside income did not count dollar for dollar against the SSI benefit amount, which is currently \$530 a month for an individual. This GIE is usually applied to Social Security income, which of course is based on

past employment. In addition, an earned income exclusion was also established in 1972 to allow a disregard of the first \$65 a month, plus half of the remaining earnings. Neither of these provisions, which reward past and current work efforts, have been increased in the past three decades. If they had kept pace with inflation over that time period, the GIE would be worth \$80 a month and the earned income exclusion would be set at \$260 a month.

I am introducing the SSI Modernization Act to reduce these work disincentives, as well as to decrease obstacles to saving and pursuing an education. The bill would increase the GIE to \$40 a month and the earned income exclusion to \$130 a month, and then index those amounts to inflation in future years. To encourage individuals to save for their future, the bill also would increase the SSI asset limit from \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple to \$3,000 for an individual and \$4,500 for a couple. Furthermore, the legislation would increase the disregard level for small amounts of income received on an irregular basis, and it would simplify the treatment of educational grants and scholarships under SSI income and asset rules. Finally, the bill would postpone eligibility redeterminations for SSI recipients turning 18 years of age, if they are attending a secondary school and are under the age of 21. This last provision recognizes that applying a work-based eligibility standard (under which adults are considered) is not appropriate for a disabled youth still attending high school.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this effort to update the SSI program and to increase incentives for working, saving and pursuing an education. Having waited almost thirty years to address many of these issues, we cannot afford to wait any longer to reward work and to improve the quality of life for our Nation's disabled and elderly.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING REPRESENTATIVE NANCY HOLLISTER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas, Representative Hollister will serve as vice-chairwoman of the House Energy, and Environment Committee.

Whereas, Representative Hollister has been named to two other committees—Public Utilities, and Retirement and Aging.

Whereas, Representative Hollister has continuously demonstrated her commitment and love for her family, her community and her country, I am honored to call her a friend.

TRIBUTE TO REABER NELL LUCAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, although death is a part of life, often times it becomes difficult to accept. Last week, Ms.

Reaber Lucas, a dear friend of mine, passed away. Ms. Lucas was born on July 4th, 1946 in Amite County, MS to Willie, Sr. and Ora Lee Wesley Harden Lucas, who both preceded her in death.

Reaber graduated from Bettye Mae Jack High School in Morton, MS and attended Milwaukee Area Technical College where she studied Social Work. Later she attended Jackson State University majoring in Accounting. Utilizing her background in Accounting and Social Work, Reaber served as Branch Director, Division of Community Services for the State of Mississippi Department of Human Services, until her retirement in 1997. Reaber thoroughly enjoyed serving as a community activist as an active member of the Hinds County Federation of Democratic Women and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Reaber devoted her life to Christ at an early age, and joined Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Meadville, MS. After the family moved to Morton, MS, she joined Christian Triumph Missionary Baptist Church. While Reaber lived in Milwaukee, WI, she became a member of St. Matthews Methodist Church. After relocating to Jackson, MS, she continued to be faithful to God and became a member of New Hope Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Jerry Young, where she continued to serve until her death.

One of the many attributes Reaber possessed, was her ability to empower and organize. Reaber's energetic work ethic and responsibility to her community was the primary reason for many of the African-American elected officials, myself included, currently representing Jackson, Mississippi. Reaber believed that African-Americans should have a voice and the only way to insure that was to help them exercise their right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, it's only fitting that I recognize Ms. Lucas during Black History Month. Without her assistance, I can't be certain that I would be here today as a Member of Congress. Reaber was an asset to her family, community, city and state. She will be truly missed.

A TRIBUTE TO NASA EMPLOYEES AT MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the NASA employees and contractors at Marshall Space Flight Center for their role in the successful delivery of NASA's Destiny Laboratory Module, the second of the U.S. pressurized modules, to the International Space Station. I am proud to say that the extremely talented men and women of the Boeing Company built Destiny in my district at the Marshall Space Flight Center. This includes the successful design, development, assembly, integration, and testing of Destiny, as well as its delivery to Kennedy Space Center in November 1998.

The Destiny Laboratory, the long-awaited centerpiece of the Space Station, will allow the United States and its international partners to perform fundamental science experiments