

in the family, divorce, job loss, unexpected medical expenses and other events can all contribute financial hardships. Our family farmers are facing low commodity prices and other unavoidable situations, and their farms should be protected. Small businesses should be provided with the ability to get out of bankruptcy quickly. We all want to enable these groups to find relief in filing for bankruptcy, while ensuring that all consumers are protected. Mr. Speaker, I believe that H.R. 333 accomplishes these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

MARCH CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Frederick Brewington, Attorney and community activist in Hempstead as Citizen of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for March 2001.

When there is an issue the public is concerned about, you can bet Frederick is there, fighting against injustices, and seeking the truth. Our community is better because Frederick is with us.

A graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, Frederick opened his personal practice in Hempstead over 13 years ago. His law firm handles civil and voting rights, employment discrimination, constitutional law, and fair housing cases.

In addition to his practice, Frederick also finds time to teach Federal Pretrial Litigation and Trial Practice at Touro College in Huntington. A much-sought after public speaker, Frederick has addressed the Nassau Bar Association on numerous occasions, taught at the Practising Law Institute, and conducted many media interviews.

Frederick stands out from the crowd because of his commitment to all elements of community activism. Well-fought legal battles are only part of his contribution to Nassau. He is an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, where he serves as a Trustee, and he is a certified Lay Preacher.

He has proven that a community is what you make of it. He has lived on Long Island, in Albany, and in Massachusetts. Frederick has been honored by all three communities, and has a long list of titles, awards of recognition, and certificates of appreciation from each.

Every so often you come across someone who is so actively, so immersed in his or her community, that you have to stop and wonder how he or she does it. Frederick is one of those people.

Frederick and his wife, Adrienne, who is pastor of United Methodist Church of Westbury, reside in Freeport.

AIDS CRISIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the AIDS death toll now stands at a staggering 21,800,000.

Sheer numbers tell us that AIDS is one of the most pressing humanitarian issues that faces the international community. From Africa, to Bangladesh, to back home in Michigan, AIDS is crippling the human condition. It is our responsibility to do all that we can to thwart this deadly pandemic.

Internationally, we should take a leadership role in combating AIDS. Of the 36 million people infected by the HIV virus today, 25 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. That is why the World Bank AIDS Trust Fund needs the full \$150 million to fund its efforts to assist those countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa. I urge President Bush to continue to support President Clinton's initiative that made the patent laws over HIV/AIDS drugs in sub-Saharan Africa less stringent. This will allow African AIDS patients to more easily get their hands on the medicine which they so desperately need. In promoting education and prevention abroad, we are taking fundamental steps to battling this crisis at home which knows no borders, age, or race.

AIDS is also hitting us hard at home. More than 700,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States since 1981, and as many as 900,000 Americans may be infected with HIV. In Michigan, Detroit hospitals are having a hard time providing quality HIV/AIDS care because of the costs involved. Nationwide, we need to ensure that hospitals have the proper resources to provide AIDS patients with the quality care they deserve. Half of all new HIV infections are estimated to occur between the ages of 13–24. We need to ensure that our young people have the knowledge and counseling necessary to prevent and battle this disease.

Concrete steps need to be taken to battle this overwhelming problem. The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program needs at least \$300 million this year to continue to do its job. It is the only Federal program that helps our cities and States address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is in need of \$10 million dollars to develop and implement a grassroots HIV/AIDS prevention media campaign for minorities. Every dollar we spend on prevention saves many lives and dollars in the long run.

It is crucial that we are not only reactive in this situation, but strongly proactive as well. I hope that all of my colleagues will do the right things, and support funding for AIDS prevention and increasing access to medication for our worldwide community. We need adequate resources to deal with this terrible crisis at home and abroad. Millions of lives are at stake.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH CHARITABLE GIVING

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the celebration of Women's History month, I rise to inform my colleagues and their constituents about a unique program, Dress for Success, designed to provide low-income women with appropriate dress clothing for job interviews.

Dress for Success is a non-profit organization that helps low-income women to make the transition into the workforce. To assist in this transition, Dress for Success provides each of its clients with one business suit when they receive an interview and a second suit when they secure job placement. Most of these women are referred by organizations such as domestic violence shelters, job training programs, and programs for incarcerated women. To date, Dress for Success has provided suits to over 50,000 women.

"Clean Your Closet Week" is its annual major business suit drive, and it is being observed during the period of March 17th—March 24th. This year "Clean Your Closet Week" will be celebrated in over 50 cities in the United States. One of the drop off points may be in or near your district. I encourage you to inform your constituents about this worthy and important event so that more women can be aided with re-entry into the work force. To find the Dress for Success site nearest you, please visit their web site at www.dressforsuccess.org.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to explore how this program works to provide appropriate business attire to women, and how it acts to improve their self-esteem. This program promotes charitable giving to individuals in needs of assistance. We all aspire to dress for success, therefore, we should endeavor to help those who are less fortunate to realize their goals to look and feel their best.

HONORING ELDRED CLIFFORD SCHROEDER

HON. GARY MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the heroic deeds of Eldred Clifford Schroeder, a distinguished World War II veteran.

In February of 1943, at the height of World War II, 24-year-old Eldred Clifford Schroeder was drafted into the United States Army, where he was assigned to the 786th Bombardment Squadron in the European theater of operations. He climbed the ranks to become a Technical Sergeant and served as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator.

After flying 22 successful combat missions, Schroeder and his crew were shot down over France. Fortunately, the French underground rescued him and returned him to England where his leg was treated for shrapnel wounds. He resumed flying, but on his 26th combat mission, he was again shot down over France. This time, German troops found Schroeder, and he was taken as a prisoner of war. He was imprisoned at Stalag Luft One, in Barth, Germany, until the camp was liberated nine months later by the Russian Army in May of 1945.

Mr. Schroeder, a distinguished veteran, died in 1968 without receiving the numerous medals and honors he earned. His World War II experience reads like a Hollywood movie, but the bravery he demonstrated in the face of danger was real. Today, I am honored to celebrate the contributions he made to help win the war in Europe, and privileged to present these tokens of a grateful nation to the family of a true American hero.

On behalf of the United States Army, I proudly present the Schroeder family an Air Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, a Purple Heart, a POW Medal, an American Campaign Medal, a European, African, Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal, and Honorable Service Lapel Pin, WWII.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this 107th Congress join me in posthumously recognizing a member of our Greatest Generation, Eldred Clifford Schroeder.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REPEAL PUHCA

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to help America's energy consumers by repealing an outdated law that serves as a barrier to competition for increased supply and transmission in today's troubled energy marketplace. This bill, which is identical to legislation introduced by Chairman TAUZIN in the last Congress and very similar to legislation approved by the Senate Banking Committee in the last Congress, would repeal a New Deal Law, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA).

I am pleased to be joined by Representative TOWNS, Representative STEARNS and Chairman TAUZIN in introducing this important bipartisan legislation. I will be working closely with these members as we seek to bring an end to this outdated policy which has outlived its usefulness and purpose. Chairman TAUZIN has been the author of this legislation in the past and I am proud to take his mantle forward. In addition, Representative STEARNS and TOWNS have long been involved in the fight to repeal PUHCA and I look forward to working with them and having their leadership on this effort.

This legislation is a bipartisan initiative. The current Republican and previous Democratic Administrations have called for the repeal of PUHCA. Further, the bill would implement the recommendations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) made in 1995 following an extensive study by the SEC of the effects of this outdated law on the energy markets.

Mr. Speaker, one of the factors that has contributed to the current California energy crisis and will stand in the way of any permanent solution is the structural and financial restraints imposed under PUHCA. PUHCA unnecessarily restricts the flow of capital into the troubled California market, which is inhibiting the development of new generation and transmission capacity. Repeal of PUHCA would eliminate these artificial structural and financial barriers and could contribute to the alleviation of California's energy problem and the Western regional energy problem.

PUHCA is a law that has long outlived its usefulness. It imposes unnecessary costs on consumers and directly undermines the intent of recently enacted federal and state policies designed to bring more competition and capital to America's energy market.

PUHCA was enacted in 1935 to address abuses arising out of pyramid corporate structures at a time when electric utility regulation was just starting at both the federal and state

level. PUHCA's primary purpose was to simplify complex holding company structures and to limit inappropriate business practices. This purpose was accomplished in the 1950's and the SEC has recommended to Congress that PUHCA be repealed since 1981.

Today, a significant number of electric and gas utility holding companies are required by PUHCA to operate under arbitrary rules that preclude them from investing in areas of need, developing new technologies and services, and competing in open markets. Other utility companies are exempt from PUHCA's restrictions, but must operate primarily within one state in order to maintain their exemptions. Our nation's gas and electric utility companies, therefore, must operate principally within certain geographic "boxes." This stifles innovation, hinders competition, and creates market power problems in the regional electricity markets which conflicts directly with FERC's efforts to open the country's wholesale markets and transmission lines.

PUHCA also delays or, in some cases, prevents registered companies from offering new products and services to their consumers. As a barrier to entry for gas and electric utilities in all states, PUHCA limits investment and growth opportunities on a nationwide basis in the gas and electric industries. PUHCA also unnecessarily restricts the flow of capital into all states thereby inhibiting the development of new transmission and generation capacity. PUHCA stands in the way of the efforts by our nation's utility industry to serve consumers in a more competitive manner.

The counterproductive restricts that PUHCA places on the natural gas and electric power industries are based on historical assumptions that are no longer valid. The factors that existed when PUHCA was enacted in 1935 no longer exist today. Federal and state laws at that time were inadequate to protect consumers and investors 66 years ago. Today, federal and state regulations have become much more comprehensive and sensitive to market conditions. PUHCA, however, remains an economic drag on America's energy industry.

Mr. Speaker, I first became aware of PUHCA's outdated restrictions when I served as an aide to Senator Lott on the Telecommunications Act of 1996. At the time, we were trying to modernize the Communications Act of 1934, another command and control New Deal legislation like PUHCA. PUHCA had to be amended to allow competition in our telecommunications industry. Today, we need to repeal the 1935 Act and replace it with one that makes sense in today's energy and capital markets.

There exists no reason to retain this outdated regulation. The ability of State commissions to regulate holding company systems and, together with the development of regulation under the Federal Power Act of 1935 and the Natural Gas Act of 1938, have eliminated the regulatory "gaps" that existed in 1935 with respect to wholesale transactions in interstate commerce. The expanded ability of State commissions and the FERC to regulate inter-affiliate transactions have further rendered the 1935 Act unnecessary. In addition, important market power issues will continue to be reviewed by FERC, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.

This legislation would reform the regulation of utility holding companies by repealing the

uplicative SEC-related provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, while assuring that the SEC retains all of its non-PUHCA jurisdiction of securities and securities markets in order to protect investors. The bill would put gas and electric power companies on an equal competitive footing, allowing them to take advantage of market opportunities that benefit consumers, investors and utility companies.

Registered companies will continue to be subject to the same government regulation intended to protect consumers and investors as that to which other industry participants are subject. SEC authority under the Securities Act, Exchange Act, Investment Advisers Act, and Trust Indenture Act will all remain in place. The State securities commissions will also have available to them the various State Blue-Sky laws. The bill will assure FERC access to those books, records, accounts, and other documents of holding companies, their affiliates and subsidiaries, which are relevant to costs incurred by a public utility company and which are necessary for the protection of consumers with respect to rates.

In the new environment confronting the utility industry, PUHCA has become nothing more than a bottleneck that constrains the ability of our nation's natural gas and electric power industries to serve consumers. PUHCA is an anachronism that burdens utility systems with costs and restrictions that impair their competitiveness and prevent them from adapting to the new and more competitive environment. PUHCA is no longer a solution because the problems of the 1930's have been replaced by effective state and federal legislation and by the realities of today's marketplace. Simply put, America no longer can afford the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. It is time for Congress to act on the recommendations of the SEC and to enact this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF THE DODECANESIAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND CANADA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Federation of the Dodecanesian Society of America and Canada. The Dodecanesian Islands include the twelve Aegean islands of ancient Greece ringing Asia Minor. The goal of the Federation is to salute the islands' struggle to remain Greek through years of occupation and their ultimate triumph 50 years ago when the twelve islands united with modern Greece. The Federation will celebrate their 50-year independence on Saturday, March 11, 2001.

The Dodecanesian Islands most certainly have a remarkable history that dates back to ancient times. The epic and legendary story of the Dodecanesian Islands is truly one of captivating heroics. The chain of islands, which include the island of Rhodes whose great colossus was one of the seven wonders of the world, are where Hippocrates, the father of Medicine, called home and began his first scientific investigation of disease and the organs of the body.