

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires federal agencies' electronic and information technology (IT) to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. It specifically requires that when federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they ensure that it is accessible, unless it would pose an undue burden to do so.

But the regulations do not apply to the legislative and judicial branches, state and local governments, or the private sector. If we truly are a government of, for and by the people, then every American must have access to it. Today, the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and the Congressional Internet Caucus teamed up with the American Foundation for the Blind, HIR, Microsoft, Adobe and Freedom Scientific to demonstrate how easy it is to comply with Section 508 in making websites accessible.

Today's "Congressional Web Accessibility Day" educated Members' staff and the American public on Section 508 and the importance of making government accessible. Through one-on-one sessions with HIR web experts and hands-on, interactive learning, this event was an important first step toward making government accessible.

Web accessibility is not just for the 54 million individuals with disabilities or for the millions of elderly Americans with diminished vision, hearing and other senses, but for any one of us who might one day need this technology. It also provides more options for a typical user who may prefer text over fancy graphics. With 68 million American adults using government agency websites, this typical user is evolving into a powerful "e-citizen."

I hope that today's event marks the beginning of some exciting, new changes in Congress.

The time has come for us to make our websites accessible to our growing e-citizenry. The progress has begun in the federal agencies, and now Congress needs to follow suit.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX. Prior to the enactment of Title IX, educational and career opportunities were extremely limited for women. In 1971, less than 300,000 girls participated in high school sports compared to 3.6 million male athletes the same year. Today, this number has risen to over 2.4 million female athletes. Women have continued to demonstrate that, when given the opportunity, they, too, are fully qualified to be successful participants in athletics and education.

In the past 30 years, women have gained numerous other advantages from the passage of this historic legislation. Scholarships provided to women in increased numbers since passage of Title IX have opened doors that were otherwise closed to women. In 1971, only 18% of women finished four years of college; today more female students than male successfully complete a four-year college edu-

cation and go on to obtain a Master's degree. It is because of historic Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded schools, that women have been able to overcome these barriers.

While much has been accomplished since the enactment of this legislation, much still remains to be done. We need to be vigilant in our enforcement of Title IX and provide the funding needed to help our schools fully comply with the law. We need to fight for the passage of legislation that will ensure equality for women once they enter the workforce. Although today the majority of students are women, as is the majority of the U.S. population, women face continued inequalities in the workplace. In my home state of Michigan where pay inequity is at its worst, women make just 67 cents for every dollar men earn. This is inexcusable, and it has to stop. We should view Title IX not as a completed effort, but as a first step in ensuring equality for women.

With the passage of Title IX, our Nation declared that it is in our best interest to allow all men and women an equal chance to excel in any field or activity to which they commit themselves. It was pledged that all individuals should be given the same opportunities to realize their potential throughout their education and professional lives. We need to work harder to ensure that no American suffers discrimination on the basis of gender. We cannot rest until all women, all Americans, receive the opportunities they deserve. In my 26 years in Congress, I have committed myself to working toward the ideals of justice and equality for women, and I will continue to make this effort among my top priorities.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United States Army Special Forces and honor a great American hero and "Father of the Green Berets," Colonel Aaron Bank.

Perhaps more than ever, our generation appreciates the unique and vital mission of the U.S. Special Forces. They are the elite, unconventional warfare arm of the United States military and our Nation is at a place in history where our greatest threat is from the unpredictable foes they are trained to fight.

In a time when many of us have fears and doubts about the vulnerability of our Nation to future attacks, we can continue to have hope in the shield provided to us by the Special Forces. In valor, courage, and fidelity, the Special Forces are the world's finest fighting force and I am thankful that they are in the business of protecting the United States of America and its citizens.

Due to the covert nature of many of their missions, both the measure of their sacrifice and their contribution to freedom here and abroad may never be known. However, today, I hope all Americans will join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary and thanking them for giving more to this country than could ever be repaid and perhaps, could ever be measured.

I wish to especially extend my appreciation to Colonel Aaron Bank, the founder and first commander of the Special Forces. As an operative in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II, he led his team on missions to hunt down high-ranking Nazi leaders, search for missing allied prisoners in Indochina and lead a counter-intelligence cell in Germany. It was clear there was a place for such operations using highly trained unconventional forces. So, when the OSS was disbanded after World War II, Colonel Bank began working to convince the U.S. Army to adopt a permanent unconventional warfare force. After tireless efforts, the U.S. Army launched its first Special Forces unit, the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) with Colonel Bank, appropriately, as its first commander.

Since then, the U.S. Army Special Forces has spawned special operations units from the other military branches such as the Navy SEALs, Air Force Combat Controllers, and the Marines' Force Recon. We have Colonel Bank to thank for emphasizing the strategic and tactical importance of such units, which he modeled in designing, implementing and commanding the Army's first Special Forces unit.

In passing H. Con. Res. 364, Congress not only recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Special Forces, but also acknowledges the invaluable contribution of a great American and outstanding soldier, Colonel Aaron Bank. At age ninety-nine, he is a living legend and I consider it an honor and privilege to participate in recognizing both his contribution and the legacy of his vision and foresight, the United States Special Forces.

My most sincere gratitude goes out to Colonel Bank and his fellow Green Berets as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSOURI OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ON 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of The Missouri Officers Association, which represents over 900 Federal, State, and local police officers.

I would like to honor this organization in this, their 70th year, for their charitable work and dedication to scholarship and community. The primary focus of the officer's association is to provide low cost training to police agencies across the State of Missouri. Another very notable deed is the provision of an immediate \$1000 death benefit to families of fallen officers.

Beyond their efforts in the law enforcement community, the association organizes two scholarship programs. The first is a yearly college scholarship that awards \$1000 to five Missouri students and the second is an essay contest for eighth grade students, which awards six students cash awards totaling \$1200.

The philanthropic work of this organization also extends to the community through a variety of donations to groups such as Concern of Police Survivors, Ronald McDonald House,

Special Olympics, The Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial, The National Law Enforcement Memorial, The Missouri Police Chiefs Foundation and many others.

The law enforcement community is of paramount importance to our cities, our states and our Nation. This organization represents some of Missouri's finest members of the law enforcement community and is worthy of the esteem of this body. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the great work of The Missouri Officers Association on their 70th anniversary.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DEZIE WOODS-JONES, PERALTA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR EXTER-
NAL AFFAIRS, FORMER CITY
COUNCILWOMAN AND VICE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OAK-
LAND

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dezie Woods-Jones for her 40 extraordinary years of educational leadership and public service to the City of Oakland. She will retire on July 14, 2002 from her position as Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs for the Peralta Community College District, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in education and community activism.

Dezie Woods-Jones has served the community as a committed activist, working diligently on behalf of the underprivileged, the underserved, the disenfranchised, youth, and for women's rights.

Born in Ruston, Louisiana, and raised in Fresno and Oakland, California, Dezie Woods-Jones began her civic involvement as a high school student, serving as president of the Fresno Youth Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement, she also worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Black Conference Planning Committee (BCPC), and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Hayward.

In 1968, Dezie Woods-Jones accepted her first position with Peralta Community College District, as Director of the Community Outreach Center in North Oakland. Before being promoted to Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, she held a number of management positions in the District, including Director of Governmental Affairs, where she served as the District's lobbyist for almost eight years. She also served as an instructor, and she still considers herself first and foremost an educator and teacher.

In 1991, Dezie Woods-Jones was elected to the Oakland City Council, and she served as the city's Vice Mayor from 1996–1997. She was also the first woman to run for mayor of the city of Oakland. During her tenure on the council, she served as chair of the Council's Rules Committee, and as a member of the Finance and Legislation Committee and the Public Safety/Health and Human Services Committee.

A dedicated advocate for women's rights, Dezie Woods-Jones was a founding member of the pioneering organization Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), and has served as the organization's statewide president for over 30 years.

Dezie Woods-Jones was named one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's Enews in 2002, and she received a nomination as one of the "Bay Area's 10 Most Influential Leaders," in City Flight Magazine in 2001. She was also included in "Women of Courage," a book published by Nestle, Inc. that featured stories of 35 women from across the country. She is a frequent guest on Bay Area radio and television shows, and has been invited as a guest speaker in South Korea, West Africa, South America, and Mexico.

She has held membership in over 50 community, state, and national organizations, chaired over 20 commissions, committees and boards, received hundreds of awards and recognitions, and has been appointed to special task force projects by the governor of California and several Oakland mayors.

I am honored to congratulate Dezie Woods-Jones on all of her remarkable accomplishments. Her tireless dedication to education and her community have touched the lives of countless Oakland residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday June 17th, Tuesday June 18th, and Wednesday June 19th, I missed rollcall votes 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235 and 236 due to my previously scheduled surgery being conducted in Alabama. If I had been present I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes.

2ND LT. WILLIAM WOLBER, ONE OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities that abound for all Americans are the products of sacrifice on the part of so many. Often at far distant places in the world and under great stress.

There are literally tens of thousands of stories, so many of which involve what it is widely acknowledged to be "The Greatest Generation." One such story, that of Army Air Force Second Lieutenant William Wolber, is of heroic dimensions. It was relayed to me by a mutual friend and neighbor, Fred Carville of New Hartford, New York. Here it is, in the words of Mr. Carville:

Second Lieutenant William Wolber served in the Army Air Force during World War II. He was a bombardier serving in the 8th Air Force, 466th Bomb Group, which flew the B-24 Liberators out of England.

On one mission into Germany there were 12 planes in the formation flying in three flights of four planes each. Wolber's plane

was flying in formation as plane three of the first flight. The standard procedure was for all planes of the mission to follow the lead plane of the first throughout the entire mission. Radio silence was of the utmost importance.

On this particular mission planes one and two of the first flight were downed by enemy flak. Plane three (the one Bill was in) then took on the role of "the lead plane" for the return flight to England. All remaining planes were now taking their lead from plane three. However, Bill's plane, number three of the first flight, (for some reason) did not have a navigator on board during this particular mission.

Second Lieutenant William Wolber, bombardier, assumed the role of navigator. He evaluated the situation, looked at the navigator's maps and equipment. Based on target information Wolber determined a heading for the return flight and passed the bearing he had calculated on to the pilots to follow.

According to Bill's recollection, it was a very overcast day and the entire return flight was over cloud cover. There were no visual observations to aid in determining the correct return flight path. Bill continued to estimate the progress of the flight using the maps, heading, air speed, etc. All of the remaining planes of the mission continued to follow the lead of his plane.

At one point Bill told the pilot "we should be over the field, drop down through the cloud cover." The pilot dropped down through the cloud cover and lo and behold there was the field as Wolber had calculated. All remaining planes of the mission landed without incident. Bill continued his role as bombardier and flew 32 missions.

I have thanked Carville for sharing that story with me. Because it says so much about the character and courage of a fellow American, I want to share it with you, my colleagues in the House of Representatives. But I want to add a postscript.

I, like Mr. Carville, have been a friend and neighbor of Bill Wolber for years and yet never learned of that eventful mission in enemy territory during a peak period in a great world war until just recently. I wasn't surprised. You see, Bill Wolber is one of the finest, most decent, patriotic citizens I have ever had the privilege of meeting and getting to know.

Bill Wolber is a quiet, unassuming guy who, I suspect, was always a giver, one who did things for others whenever the opportunity was there because it was "the right thing" to do. I'll bet deserved recognition never crossed his mind. I know he doesn't talk much about helping others, he just does it. And that is why he and his contemporaries like him have earned the accolade "The Greatest Generation."

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS CLAIMS PROMPT PAY- MENT ACT OF 2002

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's doctors and hospitals face funding challenges. Today, to help address these challenges, I introduced the Health Benefits Claims Prompt Payment Act of 2002.

We have heard a lot about the need to stop the declining payments from Medicare, especially since the proportion of patients on Medicare continues to grow. Further, doctors and