

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWSUIT
ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK: SEP-
TEMBER 30—OCTOBER 4, 2002

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, MDCALA, and to congratulate them on their efforts to raise public awareness about frivolous litigation and the need for personal responsibility during the recent Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week.

MDCALA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, legal watchdog organization dedicated to improving the civil justice system. Over the last 7 years, MDCALA has worked to educate Marylanders about the cost of frivolous litigation. With more than 10,000 supporters statewide, MDCALA emphasizes the negative consequences that lawsuit abuse has on the public.

Maryland is home to many large corporations and family businesses. Yet, the constant fear of lawsuits threatens the economic vitality of our State. Small businesses simply cannot afford one frivolous lawsuit. In order to compensate for potential legal bills, businesses are forced to raise prices to protect their bottom line. Lawsuit abuse, therefore, results in higher prices, increased medical expenses and loss of business growth.

As a former member of the Maryland General Assembly, I worked hard to reform our legal system at the State level. During my tenure in Congress, I have supported efforts with respect to product liability reform, securities litigation reform, and reform of the federal Superfund program. More importantly, I sponsored legislation that has helped reduce, in my view, frivolous class action lawsuits brought against mortgage brokers.

Legal reform is a very complex issue. The legal system must function to provide justice to every American. This does not mean, however, that the status quo is necessarily perfect. When lawsuits and the courts are used in excess or to the detriment of innocent parties, the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible.

For their efforts, let me acknowledge MDCALA Chairman, the Honorable Phillip D. Bissett; Board of Directors—Joseph Brown, Jack Doll, Janna Naylor, Vikki Nelson, Gary Prince, the Honorable Joseph Sachs, Dr. Michael Saylor, and the Honorable Michael Wagner; and Executive Director Nancy H. Hill.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I remind our citizens that frivolous lawsuits—nationwide—clog our courts and prevent access to legitimate litigation. We must work together to implement common sense reform in order to restore fairness and justice to our legal system. I commend these citizens, and all involved in this worthwhile effort, for their dedication and commitment to public awareness on the serious issues associated with lawsuit abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes

No. 442, No. 443 and No. 444. If present I would have voted "yea."

**I SALUTE TAIWAN ON ITS
NATIONAL DAY**

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the leaders of Taiwan on their forthcoming National Day. In the last 2 years, President Chen Shui-bian has accomplished a great deal for Taiwan.

In these 2 years, Taiwan has continued to reduce its trade surplus with us and maintained its healthy economic growth. Internally, Taiwan's process of democratization is continuing and has drawn wide praise from Western press.

On Taiwan's National Day, we should recognize Taiwan for what it is—a prosperous democracy, worthy of respect and admiration. I have enjoyed working with Ambassador C.J. Chen and his staff. They have kept me informed of the developments in Taiwan. They are exemplary diplomats.

Happy Birthday to Taiwan.

**TRIBUTE TO SAN FRANCISCO
NETWORK MINISTRIES**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor San Francisco Network Ministries on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Since its founding in 1972, this group has had a significant impact on the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco, a neighborhood that 25,000 call home and a neighborhood that has been No. 1 in homicides, assaults, drug use, and incidence of HIV.

The mission of SFNM is a true reflection of who they are and of their significance in the Tenderloin: "San Francisco Network ministries is devoted to the people of the Tenderloin neighborhood with whom they work cooperatively for the empowerment of all, proclaiming good news for the poor and seeking liberty for those who are oppressed. SFNM believes that everyone has been given gifts for the common good, and they seek to draw out and affirm those gifts through personal, face-to-face ministry."

The work of Network Ministries' focuses on serving the multicultural population of the Tenderloin neighborhood as well as 6,000 frail elderly persons and 4,000 children. Programs include a computer training center, construction of and services to low income apartments, SafeHouse for women leaving prostitution, memorial services for the poor and homeless, a residential hotel ministry, an AIDS Resource Center, and a support program for volunteers in pastoral care among the frail elderly.

Network Ministries has always drawn together partners and entered into coalitions to work on specific issues of importance to the people of the Tenderloin and other poor people. This approach enables the organization to

be a leader in bringing compassionate, effective service to those who need it. It has fostered and/or created other agencies, serving as a role model for those who believe that you can get a lot more done when you don't focus on who gets the credit.

Mr. Speaker, San Francisco Network Ministries is an inspiration to its partners, to the community it serves, and to all of us who care about our fellow human beings. I am proud to honor the work they have been doing for 30 years, important work that will continue to have an impact on the lives they touch. And, I am particularly honored to be the long-time friend of the Rev. Glenda Hope who, with her late husband Scott Hope, founded this exemplary organization.

**TRIBUTE TO RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES OF CENTRAL
NEW YORK**

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York. I am proud to say this "home-away-from-home" located in the heart of my district, has opened its doors to thousands of families who have found themselves in need of medical care.

When a child is ill, parents and family members should have the ability to focus on the task-at-hand, returning the child to full health. The Ronald McDonald House provides a strong support system, affording families a safe haven and a meal on the table while they are working through difficult times.

I commend the Central New York chapter of the Ronald McDonald House as they celebrate 20 years of unconditional love and assistance. The work that you do will have a lasting effect on the children from our country and throughout the world. The lives that you touch will hopefully inspire others to follow your lead in assisting those who are working through difficult situations. The cycle of support that you have developed, will definitely live on forever.

Thank you, and congratulations.

**HONORING PAUL HEIDEN, FINANCE
DIRECTOR OF ROLLS-ROYCE**

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as the House meets tonight in Washington, the Board of Directors of Rolls-Royce North America, whose largest manufacturing facility is located in my district in Indianapolis, is meeting at its corporate headquarters in northern Virginia.

Rolls-Royce is one of our most distinguished corporate citizens, and one of the largest private-sector employers in Indiana; it employs more than 8,000 workers and produces more than \$2.4 billion in North American sales annually. A global company with a British heritage and a major American presence, Rolls-Royce can attribute much of its

success in the United States to Paul Heiden, the Finance Director of Rolls-Royce, plc.

As the Chief Financial Officer for Rolls-Royce, Mr. Heiden was personally involved with, and strongly supportive of, major capital investment in the United States industrial base. Most significant among those investments are the facilities in Mount Vernon, OH; Park City, UT; Oakland, CA; and Indianapolis. He has fostered trans-Atlantic trade and co-operation on defense and commercial aerospace programs, including engine development for the Joint Strike Fighter, and engines for regional jet aircraft. He was directly involved in the Rolls-Royce North American ventures as a member of the Board of Directors of Rolls-Royce North America Holdings, Inc, and in that role contributed immensely to the economic health of many American communities, including my own.

At year's end, Mr. Heiden will leave his post with Rolls-Royce. He will be sorely missed. At a time when our nation is most acutely aware of our good fortune in the trans-Atlantic partnership between the United States and the United Kingdom, I am reminded that it is the talent and determination of people like Paul Heiden that make this partnership so vibrant.

On behalf of the people of central Indiana, I wish him every good fortune in his future endeavors.

JOE SKEEN FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5427, a bill to designate the Federal Building in Roswell, New Mexico, the "Joe Skeen Federal Building." As we regretfully acknowledge, the gentleman from New Mexico will be retiring at the conclusion of the 107th Congress. JOE SKEEN, a Roswell native, has served his New Mexico constituents and his country admirably over the past 20 years. This legislation is a fitting tribute to commemorate JOE's achievements and service.

As a Members of Congress, we often work with colleagues from different parts of the country and from across the aisle. It has been a great privilege to have worked with JOE SKEEN. Since his first election in 1980, he has served on the Appropriations Committee, chairing the Subcommittee on Agriculture and currently, the Subcommittee on the Interior. JOE has always been a true gentleman and a straight shooter. When dealing with JOE, I always know JOE will give me a fair hearing on an issue and try to accommodate me when he could and politely said "no" when he couldn't. I could also always depend on JOE telling me a good story to underscore the point he was making.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of working with the gentlemen from New Mexico to further the progress of Parkinson's Disease research in America. In 1999, along with my colleagues—Mr. EVANS, Mr. MARK UDALL, TOM UDALL, and Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SKEEN and I—formed the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease.

Mr. SKEEN has been a true leader in the fight against Parkinson's Disease. The Work-

ing Group has sought to increase awareness among Members of Congress on Parkinson's related issues. Most importantly, the Working Group has advocated for accelerated and increased funding for Parkinson's research in the hopes that we soon find the cure for what leading scientists call the most curable neurological disorder.

We have had some significant success—since the start of the caucus, the National Institutes of Health's spending on Parkinson's has increased by 28 percent—a 43 million dollar increase over FY 2000. And we have Mr. SKEEN, in great part, to thank for this.

JOE also was critical in helping to secure a funding increase for the Department of Defense's Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Research Program. The FY 2002 bill contained \$17 million in funding for the program, a \$2 million increase over FY 2001. This environmental research not only strives to improve the treatment of neurological diseases, but also aims to identify the causes of the disease and prevent them.

We will carry on the fight to cure Parkinson's, in part, inspired by the legacy of the great JOE SKEEN.

In closing, I have so appreciated JOE's wit and his great sense of commitment to important issues such as Parkinson's Disease, and his overall commitment to public service.

I fully support this bill to honor my esteemed friend and colleague JOE SKEEN for all of his legislative accomplishments as his service in Congress. I hope JOE enjoys his retirement, it is well deserved!

JOE SKEEN is a true national treasure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, last night, October 7, 2002, President Bush made a major policy speech on Iraq in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. At the President's request, I attended the speech with him. Consequently, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes:

H.R. 3340—To allow certain catch-up contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan to be made by participants age 50 or over.

H.R. 5531—To facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan.

H. Res. 468—Transatlantic Security and NATO Enhancement Resolution of 2002.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these bills.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support the underlying objective of the bill, to expand the Amber Alert system nationwide and to improve the National Coordination of Amber

Alert Communications to help save the lives of kidnapped children. Unfortunately, a wide range of troubling provisions were added by the House Judiciary Committee. For example, this bill would include a provision to expand the type of homicide that can be punished by the death penalty. It would also increase mandatory sentencing, thus further eliminating judicial discretion and potentially leading to unfair punishments.

By bringing this bill to the floor in the form of a suspension bill, the opportunity for amendment and discussion of these controversial provisions has been hindered. I therefore withhold my support for H.R. 5422.

HONORING CITY COUNCILMAN PHILIP CAMPBELL, SR.

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to City Councilman Philip Campbell, Sr. one of my fellow public servants in Warner Robins, Georgia who died recently in a tragic accident.

Philip's service to the city began on August 2, 1965 as City Gas Inspector. After twenty-five years in that capacity, he retired and ran for public office where he proudly served for nine years. Phillip was known for his compassion and his dedication to the citizens of Warner Robins. During his tenure as city councilman, he fought to re-instate the senior citizen's homestead exemption tax and was always an advocate for the needs of city employees.

If he wasn't at City Hall or volunteering at Southside Baptist Church, you could always find Philip Campbell down at the local baseball diamond. Anyone who grow up in Warner Robins and played ball probably had Philip as a coach at some point. He loved teaching the kids how to play, and if one child didn't have a ride to practice, Philip would give him a ride. His generosity to the community was second only to his love for his family. A dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Philip's legacy will continue impacting the citizens of Warner Robins for years to come.

There isn't a finer man I could have the honor of recognizing on the House floor, and want to extend my deepest sympathy and respect to the family of Philip Campbell. My wife Julianne and I join with his family in mourning the loss of this honorable individual.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443 and 444, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."