

even extended to thunder storms, as she pointed out that "... if you can see enough blue sky to make a sailor a pair of pants, then you know the storm is clearing up." Consistent with her philosophy, no matter how hard it was raining, she was always able to see a patch of blue sky, even when no one else could see it. Importantly, she has shared this philosophy with the children she taught in school, and with her own family.

Jessie's life spanned most of the twentieth century. She saw both Halley's Comet and Mark Twain in 1910, waved goodbye to relatives as they sailed for France in World War I, manned a coastal watch tower in World War II, and watched Americans walk on the moon. The Great Depression had a great impact on the family and on their views about investments and savings.

She has dedicated her life to her family, and imbued them with a strong devotion to each other, a love of learning and education, and a strong sense of patriotism. And it should be noted that she loves all her grandchildren, even though some of them have joined the Democratic Party.

Jessie continues to enjoy life and looks forward to the family celebration on November 5th. The family will also remember to vote on that date, but the most important event of the day for them will be "Nana Jessie's" 100th birthday.

PETER V. BARRETT, MD
MARTHA B. BELL

STATEMENT ON SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2002, I submitted a statement during the meeting of conferees for H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act. During this session, House conferees approved a burdensome electricity title that could do irreparable harm to how rural Missourians receive power. Because this portion of the energy bill could have a significantly negative impact on rural America, let me take this means to share my statement with all members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Set forth text as follows:

I want to thank the leaders of the energy bill conference for holding this important meeting today. Although I have been appointed a conferee to this energy legislation because of its provisions related to the military, I come before you today to share my support for rural electric cooperatives and to express profound concerns about the possible inclusion of an onerous electricity title in the final energy bill.

Since the beginning months of the 107th Congress, Members from the House and Senate in both political parties have worked to draft energy legislation that is good for our Nation. In 2000, both presidential candidates developed plans for our future energy needs, and President Bush asked Congress to craft comprehensive energy policy legislation. We have done that. Each chamber has approved two distinct versions of an energy bill, and there are good and bad aspects to each of them. That is why we are here today and have been meeting in conference to iron out the differences between our respective bills.

As someone who is privileged to represent rural Missouri in the United States Congress, I am particularly mindful of rural American interests, including the electric

cooperatives that power nearly all of the Fourth Congressional District. The version of the energy bill approved by the Senate includes a title dedicated to electricity. The Senate electricity provisions, which are supported by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, recognize the unique role electric cooperatives play in providing electric power to folks who live throughout the countryside.

The House-passed version of the energy bill does not include an electricity title. In fact, the House has been unable to develop a sufficient consensus to approve an electric utility restructuring bill during the 107th Congress. Such a measure failed to pass the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee or the Energy and Commerce Committee. That is a good thing for rural electricity consumers because the House bill would not acknowledge the special private business characteristics and the unique demographics of electric cooperatives and their customers.

It has come to my attention that during the last meeting of the energy bill conference, members discussed several aspects of the House electricity reform bill. I am concerned that some members who have been long-time advocates of stringent House electricity legislation are attempting to use this conference committee to advocate their bill as the "House position" on electricity, even though the House has repeatedly been unable to find general agreement on this matter. Such action would be devastating to electric cooperatives and to the customers they serve.

Electric cooperatives have a long and distinguished history in our country. They provide private ownership to consumers of their electric utility and operate at cost. This type of ownership has been very successful in rural Missouri where population densities and revenues are low. It has also immunized electric cooperatives from the price gouging, market manipulation, and corporate malfeasance activities that have emerged in the electricity industry over the past year.

Any electricity provision approved by the conferees must carefully address the unique interests of rural America. If conferees proceed with approving the House Energy and Commerce Committee's electricity restructuring proposal as part of this energy bill, it will cause great heartburn for those of us who represent rural America. Although I have not made a determination on how I will vote on a final energy work product, the inclusion of this burdensome provision will make me think twice about supporting it. More importantly, it will lead to higher rates for rural Americans who rely on electric cooperatives for their energy needs.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—GRACE HART O'BOYLE

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others. I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize Mrs. Grace Hart O'Boyle of Bethlehem. Mrs. O'Boyle is a

prime example of someone who has devoted her life to the betterment of our communities.

Mrs. O'Boyle served the Bethlehem City Schools as a teacher at Northeast Junior High and was an active participant in the city's summer school program for many decades. Despite commitments to Brownie troops and other youth organizations, Mrs. O'Boyle found time to raise a family and her strong commitment to education and the community is reflected in her own children's education-based careers.

While most would relax in their retirement, Mrs. O'Boyle saw her retirement only as an opportunity to help her community. She continued to substitute teach and was a member of Bethlehem's Professional Woman's Association, American Association of University Women, and served with various other Organizations.

Mrs. O'Boyle is marked by her humbleness and devotion, which she exhibited on her 80th birthday. Instead of accepting the flowers and gifts that usually mark such an occasion, Mrs. O'Boyle established a Scholarship fund to help bright, dedicated students at her local parish school.

Mrs. O'Boyle stands out as an example of the effect one person can have upon their community and for this she is a Lehigh Valley Hero in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH RAFFERTY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of my friend and brother in the labor movement, Mr. Joseph Rafferty. Mr. Rafferty has been honored by our fellow Philadelphians by receiving the 2002 Laborers' Local Union 332 Outstanding Labor Leader Award. He has earned that honor by providing guidance and direction to Steamfitters' Local 420, the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trade Council as well as other trade councils, the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, and the entire Pennsylvania community.

In 1964, Mr. Rafferty entered Steamfitters' Local 420 for a five-year apprentice program. He went on to serve as the Assistant Business Manager, Business Agent, and is now the elected Business Manager. Under Mr. Rafferty's leadership, Local 420 actively aids the community by repairing and replacing piping, boilers, and refrigeration units for non-profit agencies. Local 420 has helped organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House, the Variety Club Camp, and the Scanlon Playground Ice Skating Rink.

Married to Frances, Joe's family includes his son Tom, his daughter Michele Quinn and his stepdaughters Eleanor and Aimee Troise. Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty have four grandchildren: Peter, Jake, Casey Leigh, and Chelsea. I am quite sure Joe's entire family is very proud of his numerous accomplishments.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to community has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I

ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Rafferty for his lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF THE STATEWIDE
HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (SHCC), an organization whose efforts have contributed to the increased prosperity and achievement of Hispanics throughout the State. New Jersey's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be holding its 12th Annual Convention Expo and Career Fair at the Newark Airport Marriott in Newark, New Jersey, on October 11, 2002.

The Hispanic market represents the fastest growing demographic sector in the United States. The SHCC has contributed to this growth by forming new partnerships in Latin America, bringing products and jobs back to New Jersey, and creating further economic development and business opportunities throughout our region.

The general business community, government agencies and Hispanic entrepreneurs have all benefited from the many innovative events and networking opportunities of the SHCC.

At the Career Fair, the SHCC provides participating organizations with the chance to meet college students, professionals, and inner city residents to identify them for internships, full-time jobs, and career opportunities. SHCC considers employment to be an important factor in economic development of our communities and acts as a link between employers and career seekers.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey for its contributions to the economic development and empowerment of the Hispanic community throughout New Jersey.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE
PARTY JUDICIAL FAIRNESS ACT

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation to help private parties seek justice against the Federal Government. The Private Party Judicial Fairness Act allows for pre-judgment interest to accrue in cases where it is now prohibited. Interest will be paid from the date the action is filed in the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Upon receipt of a judgment against the United States, this legislation will allow private parties to receive the proper proceeds. It also will create an incentive for the government to process these suits at a reasonable pace.

Under current law, a narrow group of suits against the United States are ineligible for pre-judgment interest.

The lack of pre-judgment interest available in these cases encourages government lawyers to delay the ultimate resolution of the cases. Some of these cases have been pending before the Court for ten or more years. And even if the private parties win their cases and are awarded judgments, it is usually far less than what they deserve.

It is time to aid this small class of claimants and create an incentive for the prompt administration of justice.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
THE RETIREMENT OF TECH-
NICAL SERGEANT ALAN MONTE
DE RAMOS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, TSgt Alan Monte de Ramos is retiring from the United States Air Force after 21 years of service; and

Whereas, TSgt Alan Monte de Ramos married Cheryl in 1989 and they have a daughter, Rachel and a son Kyle; and

Whereas, TSgt Alan Monte de Ramos has received many recognitions including, the Air Force Commendation Medal First Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Force Achievement Medal; and

Whereas, TSgt Alan Monte de Ramos is to be commended for serving his country with professionalism, dedication, passion, and integrity;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating TSgt Alan Monte de Ramos' retirement from the United States Air Force.

RECOGNIZING DAVID GREEN, JR.,
FOR HIS FUNDRAISING BIKE
RIDE ACROSS AMERICA

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the selfless deeds of David Green, Jr., of Macon, GA. During this past summer, David spent six weeks riding his bicycle across our great nation from Seattle, Washington to Savannah, Georgia in order to raise money for the Methodist Home for Children and Youth's new Intergenerational Activity Center in Macon, GA.

With today's endless media stories depicting our nation's youth in a negative light, it is refreshing to see the giving attitude of this young man. To date, David has raised over \$63,000 in gifts and pledges toward the new "Teen Center." The mission of the Methodist Home for Children and Youth is to provide a redemptive ministry in South Georgia of healing and nurturing to children, youth and their families in the most appropriate setting, enabling them to grow and become more productive in society. His selfless act will help provide opportunities for young individuals for many years to come.

David's record of community service is well established. His years of giving back include

work with the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, as well as the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. While in high school, David also served as a member of Students Against Drunk Driving as well as a member of Teen Advisors, pledging each year not to drink alcohol or smoke. A distinguished Boy Scout, he obtained scouting's highest honor, the rank of eagle. He has recently graduated from Stratford Academy in Macon, GA, and is currently attending the University of the South in Seawane, Tennessee, where he is a member of the Boys Varsity Soccer Team.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that David Green, Jr., will continue his service to others as he moves toward a higher education. It is comforting to know that tomorrow's leaders are already positively affecting our nation. I am truly proud to represent such an individual from the eighth district of Georgia. Today it is my pleasure to commend David for his ongoing efforts to better society.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOUIE FISHER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Bouie Fisher, recipient of the 2002 Laborers' Local Union 332 Outstanding Community Leader Award. It is a privilege to recognize a person whose commitment to family and community has enriched the lives of countless individuals.

Mr. Fisher received his first union work permit with Laborers' Local #332 when he began his construction career at the age of 17 in 1944. In both construction and amateur boxing, Mr. Fisher became a mentor and supporter of his coworkers. His success in professional boxing and in labor was propelled by the belief that any good fighter is only as good as the people around him and that a strong team can make the difference between success and failure. Even after leaving the labor field, Bouie Fisher demonstrated loyalty to Local #332 by helping on picket lines and remaining available to assist the labor movement.

Mr. Fisher built a record of 13-5 fighting. The strength and support he received and imparted came largely from his wife of 55 years, Peggy, five daughters, three sons, and twelve grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bouie Fisher is a model citizen. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Fisher for his lifetime of service and dedication to Laborers' Local #332 and Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

HONORING RICHARD A. BOIARDO,
M.D.

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard A. Boiardo, for his dedicated efforts in service to New Jersey through