

both sides of the need to build stability and security in Asia and beyond.

The U.S.-India Security and Non-Proliferation Dialogue held in New Delhi on September 23–24 was but the latest example of this cooperation, as India continues to make substantial progress in meeting non-proliferation goals. India is also committed to vigorously enforcing stringent export controls on its locally developed know-how and technologies, an issue that the two sides will continue to pursue.

The U.S. and India have held joint military exercises, and others are planned. Following a December 2001, meeting of the U.S.-India Defense Planning Group and the Executive Steering Groups of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the U.S. and India agreed that each of its Navies would jointly patrol the Strait of Malacca to ensure the uninterrupted flow of vital oil supplies. The U.S. and India will hold their first joint air exercise over Indian airspace in almost four decades in October. In Washington, the chief of the U.S. Pacific Air Force Command, General William Begert, described the joint exercise as “a breakthrough.” It has also been announced that Indian Army and Air Force personnel will participate with U.S. forces in exercises in Alaska later this year.

India and the United States have forged an ever-closer partnership in the struggle against international terrorism—a partnership that had actually begun before last September 11. The U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Counter terrorism was established in January 2000. The fifth meeting of the Joint Working Group was held in July in Washington. The past year has been a watershed for the two democracies in confronting the challenge of terrorism. During this period, India and the United States have accomplished much in their counter-terrorism cooperation, including:

Broadening their exchange of information and assessments on the international and regional terrorist situation.

Strengthening intelligence and investigative cooperation.

Signing a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

Launching a bilateral Cyber Security Forum, with a wide-ranging program of action to address cyber terrorism and information security.

Introducing military-to-military cooperation on counter terrorism to supplement the initiatives of the India-U.S. Defense Policy Group in this area.

Working together closely on multilateral initiatives on terrorism, including the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1373.

Initiating dialogue and cooperation in homeland/internal security, terrorist financing, forensic science transportation security and border management.

Taking concrete steps to detect and counter the activities of individual terrorists and organizations of concern to both of our countries.

Accordingly, I urge the Administration and my colleagues to continue to strengthen the U.S.-India ties and to turn the blueprint outlined at the joint meeting between President Bush and Indian Prime Minister last year, into a sturdy and enduring structure that will benefit the people of both of our great nations.

IN RECOGNITION OF A TRUE
TEXAS WWI HERO—LIEUTENANT
MITCHELL H. BROWN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true patriot from my hometown, Rockwall, Texas—the late Mitchell H. Brown. My district, the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, is home to the second largest population of veterans in the State of Texas. Today I would like to single out a great veteran and WWI hero, Mitchell Brown, who was a distinguished Second Lieutenant in the 50th Aero Squadron, Air Service, American Expeditionary Force.

Mitchell left Rockwall in January of 1918 and was dispatched overseas to France, where he attended French artillery school and an aviators instruction center. He studied aerial photography and learned to be proficient in the use of light weaponry. Finally, he attended the Aeronautical section of the Ind Corps school located at Châtillon-Sur-Seine.

After finishing his training, Mitchell was assigned to the 50th Aero Squadron. Mitchell used his field training as he penetrated enemy lines, reporting batteries in action, trucks on the roads, trains, massed troops, fires, and other favorable targets that the artillery might fire upon. He survived many near-death encounters with the enemy. During an aerial reconnaissance mission for the 78th Division near Beffu-et-le-Morthomme, he attacked an enemy balloon, forcing it to the ground, but this drew an attack by three enemy planes in return. The incendiary bullets from the enemy's machine guns set the signal rockets in Mitchell's cockpit afire. Disregarding the flames, he continued to fire his machine gun, destroying one enemy plane and forcing the others to disengage. He quickly put out the flames and then successfully completed the mission and secured information of “great military value”. This was one of his more well known acts of heroism during the war.

Mitchell has always been passionate about his country. He once wrote his wife Lilybel, saying, “It's all very true that war isn't what it's cracked up to be. Lots of times you have a longing for quiet pastures when the odds loom up against you. Personally, I had rather die a dozen times than to have folks say I didn't do my duty.” That statement characterizes so many veterans who put their lives at risk in defense of our country and the principles of freedom upon which America was founded. These veterans, like Mitchell, are true American heroes, and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be adequately repaid.

Mitchell was married before he went overseas and, after the war, returned to Rockwall County to farm and raise three boys with Lilybel. His sons were also in the service of their country, with one son, Lt. Tom Brown, paying the supreme sacrifice on the battlefield. I went through high school with Tom. He, like his father and brothers, loved life and loved this country. He gave it all so that his family—and all of us—could live in safety and peace. God Rest His Soul.

For many years Mr. Mitchell Brown lived, as he said, a “rather quiet life with little to enlarge upon” as a farmer. Such a humble statement

belies the great man he was. He was dedicated to his country, his family, and his community—and he was a good friend of mine. I admired him greatly—and I have never forgotten the greatness I saw in this great WWI aviator who flew the airplanes that were forerunners to today's fast fleet of jets. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of Mitchell H. Brown and all our veterans whose sacrifices enable us to be free today.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND CAREER OF FORMER SPEAKER JACK COLLINS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the commitment of former assemblyman and speaker Jack Collins to his constituents in the third district and to his extended responsibility to all New Jerseyans.

I am proud to speak across partisan lines in praise of Jack Collins because, so often, he reached across party lines to fight for things important to all New Jerseyans. He is the embodiment of the citizen legislator: a working teacher and farmer who also represents the people of his district and his state.

As a career educator, he rose above partisan politics to defend our teachers whether it was fighting for pension enhancements and health benefit improvements or blocking ill considered voucher proposals or tenure threats.

Jack Collins also defended open space retention, farmland preservation, and aid to the developmentally disabled. These are all examples of the greatness of the heart of the man, and his dedication to issues concerning New Jersey.

His career as speaker was marked not just by the legislation he championed, but the house he ran. As the longest serving speaker of the Assembly in New Jersey, Jack Collins was respected by politicians of all persuasions, for his directness, for his honesty and for his convictions.

I am proud to rise today to wish Jack Collins well in his retirement. While he is no longer serving in the Assembly, I am sure that New Jersey has not seen the last of Jack Collins. He has built his life around service to others, whether in the classroom or on the floor of the Assembly, and I am sure that this instinct to serve will keep him active in the political life of New Jersey.

THE “COMMERCIAL SPECTRUM
ENHANCEMENT ACT”

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, I am pleased to join the distinguished Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. TAUZIN, in introducing

the "Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act".

Earlier this year, we significantly changed spectrum auction policy by freeing the FCC's hands with respect to when auctions should be conducted. Now, with this bill, we are making another significant down payment on our Committee's spectrum reform efforts, by eliminating grave inefficiencies in spectrum management which have thwarted spectrum relocation efforts to date.

The commercial wireless industry must have additional spectrum to provide innovative new services and other critical benefits to the American public and to foster economic growth. However, spectrum ideal for next generation wireless services currently is encumbered by the federal government.

We all recognize the need to relocate federal government incumbents to comparable spectrum in order to make way for the commercial wireless industry, but the road to relocating federal government incumbents to comparable spectrum (or alternative facilities) is unpaved and filled with potholes. The "Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act" would pave that road, establishing procedures to ensure a timely, certain, and privately—yet fully—funded relocation of federal incumbents to comparable spectrum (or alternative facilities). Hence, this bill represents a "win-win" for both the government and the commercial wireless industry, not to mention our nation's wireless users.

Under the bill's provisions, when executive branch agencies are required to relocate spectrum operations to a different spectrum band (or to switch to non-spectrum dependent facilities to transmit telecommunications), the agencies will have access to a trust fund from which their relocation costs will be paid. Relocation will be required when spectrum currently occupied by governmental entities is reallocated for commercial use.

If an agency is required to relocate its spectrum operations, the agency must be able to achieve comparable telecommunications capability in the new band (or with the non-spectrum dependent facilities).

Six months before the FCC conducts an auction of spectrum that has been reallocated for commercial use, NTIA (working in conjunction with the affected agency and OME) submits to the FCC a preliminary cost estimate and timeline for relocation.

For an auction of reallocated spectrum to be valid, the net proceeds of the auction must be at least 110 percent of the preliminary costs estimated by NTIA.

The auction proceeds, rather than being placed in the General Fund at Treasury, are deposited in a Spectrum Relocation Fund, from which relocation costs will be paid.

The relocation fund is administered by OMB in consultation with NTIA. OMB determines whether an agency's costs are legitimate and whether the agency's timeline for relocation is appropriate.

The Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees must be notified 30 days before money is transferred from the relocation fund to an agency. Also, the NTIA will be required to file periodic reports to apprise Congress of the progress being made to relocate in a timely and cost-effective manner.

I look forward to working with Mr. TAUZIN, other Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, other interested committees, and the Bush Administration to advance this legislation in a bipartisan fashion.

NURSE LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2002

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act of 2002.

Across the United States, and specifically in my District in Colorado, health care facilities are experiencing a loss of full-time registered nurses. As aging nurses retire, there are not enough persons willing to enter the field to replace them. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing estimates that within the next 10 years, the average age of registered nurses is forecasted to be 45.4 years old, with more than 40 percent of the registered nurse work force expected to be older than 50. Currently, there are more than 126,000 hospital nursing positions that need to be filled. I am deeply concerned about this issue and the care of our elderly, especially in a time when the nation's baby boomers are aging and require increasing health care services.

The Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act establishes a student loan program for nurses and in doing so, it encourages young people to enter and continue in the nursing profession. Since enrollment in entry-level nursing schools continues to decline, this legislation provides an incentive to study, work, and more importantly, stay in the nursing profession. Not only will this enhance patient care, but also it will create a new generation of nurses.

For nurses that stay in a medical facility or approved health care setting for at least three years, their loans can be forgiven up to \$5,000. Additionally, those that work as nurses for five years, are eligible for loan forgiveness up to \$12,000. This is a temporary, five-year program, established during this time of crisis a time when our aging family members, friends and loved ones may not have the care they deserve or require.

I urge my colleagues to support the Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act and aid our nation's health care professionals.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL A. BENAC OF MONTMORENCY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who is a longtime activist in labor, politics, and community service in northern Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel A. Benac of Montmorency County, Michigan.

Dan Benac was born in Alpena, Michigan on June 8, 1922, as one of twelve children of George and Rose Benac. Nearly sixty years

ago he married Geraldine on February 9, 1943 and the couple raised three children: Charlotte, Carolyn, and David. Dan and Geraldine have eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Dan Benac served in the U.S. Army's 103rd Infantry Division from 1942 until receiving an honorable medical discharge as a private in 1943. After serving his country, he then began his career as a skilled tradesman at Besser Manufacturing in Alpena.

Dan then worked at a small manufacturing plant in Walled Lake, Michigan before taking a position with Pontiac Motors in 1948. He tried his hand as an entrepreneur in 1955, when he started and operated two gas stations. During the time he ran these businesses he began an apprenticeship as an electrician and earned the status of a journeyman electrician in 1962.

In 1969, Dan Benac took his skills to Warren, Michigan, where he worked at General Motor's Chevrolet plant. He began his union career in 1948 when he joined the United Auto Workers. While at the Chevrolet plant, Dan accepted the position as a UAW committeeman.

In 1974 Dan Benac took a medical retirement from GM, but as with so many union brothers and sisters, Dan continued his work with the union. In addition to his membership in the UAW, he also joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1956.

In 1983 Dan was named chairman of the UAW Retirees for the Alpena International Council. Dan organizes presentations on a monthly basis for his fellow retirees that range from elected officials to speeches about prescription drugs and Medicare.

Dan was later named chairman of the UAW Region 1-D retirees, serving members from sixty two counties. He continues to serve as chairman of the UAW Region 1-D retirees to this day. He is also a board member of the UAW statewide coordinating committee for the Democratic Party.

In addition to his union activities Dan Benac was instrumental in forming the Montmorency County Democratic Party. He served for many years as chairman of the Montmorency County Democratic Party before resigning from that post recently. While Dan is no longer chairman, he remains active in the Montmorency County Democratic Party.

Dan Benac is a board member of the National Council for Senior Citizens. He is also a member of other organizations including the Shrine Club, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and Masons. He is also chairman of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for Montmorency County.

Mr. Speaker, Dan Benac's activities are amazing for a person of any age but as an eighty year old, his many activities are exceptionally admirable. Dan and Geraldine Benac have been great assets to their family, their fellow workers, and their community and good friends of mine.

Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2002 the Montmorency County Democratic Party will hold a tribute dinner for Dan Benac at the Atlanta, Michigan Senior Center. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting Dan Benac, a great man who has spent his life in service to others.