

As his friends and family gather to celebrate Mike's illustrious career, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's most talented citizen leaders.

Mike was born and raised in Sacramento. He earned a Fire Science Certificate and a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration/Political Science. For the past three decades, Mike has worked for the City of Sacramento Fire Department as a Firefighter, and Apparatus Operator, and the last nineteen years, as a Fire Captain. In addition, Mike is also a highly qualified Hazardous Materials Specialist and he often lends his expertise as a B shift Captain at Station 21. Throughout his career, Mike has remained one of the most cherished and well-respected members of the City of Sacramento Fire Department.

Mike began his union career as City Director in 1972. After two years in that post, Mike was elected City Vice President for the first time in 1974. In addition, Mike has performed the duties and responsibilities of the Political Action Committee Treasurer for the past twenty-two years. Mike has been an indispensable member of the Local 522 Executive Board for the past thirty years. All in all, Mike has steadfastly represented the members of the Sacramento Fire Department with great honor and dignity for the past three decades.

In addition to his contributions to the Local 522, Mike has also offered his valuable contributions, to a number of statewide organizations. Mike has served on numerous statewide committees through California Professional Firefighters. In the past, Mike has also been a delegate to the Sacramento County Central Democratic Committee.

Staying true to his unyielding commitment to represent the interests of firefighters, Mike is looking to remain active in the cause in his retirement years. Currently, Mike is a member of the California Firefighters Joint Apprentice Committee Board. Furthermore, Mike remains a delegate to the Sacramento Central Labor Council, a member of the Industrial Relations Association of Northern California and sits on the Regional Fire Task Force. In particular, Mike continues to serve the members of the fire service community through his support for the passage of Measure F, a change to the City of Sacramento Charter to improve the health insurance provided to its retired employees. Mike's commitment to serving his community is truly an example to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike Johnson's friends and family gather for his retirement dinner, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his contributions. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Mike Johnson continued success in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT G.
McGRUDER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor Robert G. McGruder. Through grace,

intelligence and character he fought for fair reporting and justice in the news industry. He was the quiet authority amid the frantic newspaper offices in which he worked for almost 40 years.

Robert G. McGruder's fighting spirit surfaced early on when he overcame childhood battles with polio and poverty. He became interested in journalism while attending Kent State University when friends encouraged him to write for the school's paper. His reporting aspirations were not deterred by the setbacks of growing up in a segregated society. He learned to gain strength from overcoming obstacles. He demonstrated that racial barriers can be broken. Through this strong willed optimism, Robert G. McGruder became the first African American to hold various positions at the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Detroit Free Press.

He worked as a reporter for the Plain Dealer before becoming city editor in 1978 and managing editor in 1981. In 1986, Neal Shine, the longtime Free Press managing editor and publisher, finally succeeded after a decade of trying to hire McGruder. McGruder spent 16 years as the chief editor of the Free Press where he guided award-winning news coverage. Beyond Detroit, he served as president of the Associated Press Managing Editors, judged Pulitzer Prize entries five times, and served on the board of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

His pursuit of excellence and monumental work in the cause of diversity made him one of the newspaper industry's giants. He cared for colleagues, always making time to talk and listen. He urged the industry to hire more black, latino, Asian, gay and lesbian employees. He was a mentor to those he worked with, many of whom went on to hold important positions at newspapers across the country. In 2001, he received the John S. Knight Gold Medal, the highest award within Knight Ridder, which owns the Free Press. Upon receiving the award, he reminded company officials and friends that he represented change and that he stands for diversity.

We ask our colleagues to rise to honor the accomplishments of this truly remarkable individual.

Robert G. McGruder stood for what was best about the news industry. I hope his integrity, honesty and deep commitment to fair and accurate reporting will remain an example to all.

REINSTATE SUPERFUND TAX

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration has broken promise after promise in their attempt to destroy our country's most basic environmental laws. These broken promises and bad decisions are not hurting big corporate contributors. Instead, they will hurt those families who are working to put food on their table.

In particular, President Bush's recent decision not to reinstate the Superfund tax will ensure that the cost for cleaning up polluted communities will be paid by taxpayers instead of those who made the mess.

President Bush's decision is no better than another worthless tax break for the rich. By failing to reinstate the Superfund tax, President Bush is saying that he believes that families fighting to make ends meet should foot the bill while polluting industries profit.

Polluters should pay to clean up their messes, not profit from destroying the environment and their neighbor's health. How can we in good conscience allow corporations to profit without making them pay to clean up their pollution?

I am hopeful that this chamber will address this issue in the near future before families have to pay one more cent for a mess that they didn't make.

TRIBUTE TO PUBLIC SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATORS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. April 14–20 is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, and in the Second District of Kentucky as well as throughout the Nation, dedicated public safety dispatchers provide a vital service to our communities.

Public safety telecommunicators answer calls every day for emergency rescue services. These are the people who ensure that police forces, firefighters, and ambulances are dispatched in emergency and law enforcement situations.

In light of the horrific terrorist attacks on our Nation last year, we especially should honor the invaluable contribution made by public safety communications personnel. Their selfless ongoing service was certainly highlighted on September 11, and continues today as these men and women still deal with the repercussions.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the emergency response dispatchers in Kentucky's Second District for the critical role they play in my community every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI DAY
OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Israeli Day of Independence.

The State of Israel officially came into existence, with the end of the British Mandate on May 14, 1948. Israel's Independence Day is celebrated annually, according to the Hebrew calendar, on 5 Iyar. With the establishment of the State of Israel on that day in 1948, Jewish independence was restored. The Israeli day of independence is a celebration of the renewal of the Jewish state in the Land of Israel, the birthplace of the Jewish people. In this land, the Jewish people began to develop its distinctive religion and culture some 4,000 years ago, and there it has preserved an unbroken physical presence.

On this day of independence for Israel we must recognize that a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Israel and its neighbors will only be possible when Israelis and Palestinians recognize their mutual interests and take substantive steps to demonstrate their commitment to a solution. All parties must realize that the only vision for a long-term solution is for two states—Israel, Palestine—to live side by side in security and in peace. That will require hard choices and leadership by Israelis, Palestinians, and their Arab neighbors.

For the Israelis, that means establishing secure and defensible borders, withdrawing from occupied areas, and recognizing the viability of a Palestinian state. For the Palestinians, that means not only renouncing terrorism but cutting ties to terrorists, halting arms shipments, unequivocally recognizing Israel's right to exist and stifling the rhetoric that encourages and glorifies the continuation of Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

In spite of all of its struggles past and present Israel's cultural and artistic activity has flourished, blending Middle Eastern, North African and Western elements, as Jews arriving from all parts of the world brought with them the unique traditions of their own communities as well as aspects of the culture prevailing in the countries where they had lived for generations.

When Israel celebrated its 10th anniversary, the population numbered over two million. During Israel's second decade (1958–68), exports doubled, and the GNP increased some 10 percent annually. While some previously imported items such as paper, tires, radios and refrigerators were now being manufactured locally, the most rapid growth took place in the newly established branches of metals, machinery, chemicals and electronics. Since the domestic market for homegrown food was fast approaching the saturation point, the agricultural sector began to grow a larger variety of crops for the food processing industry as well as fresh produce for export. A second deep-water port was built on the Mediterranean coast at Ashdod, in addition to the existing one at Haifa, to handle the increased volume of trade.

Israel's foreign relations expanded have expanded steadily, as close ties were developed with the United States, British Commonwealth countries, most western European states, nearly all the countries of Latin America and Africa, and some in Asia. Extensive programs of international cooperation were initiated, as hundreds of Israeli physicians, engineers, teachers, agronomists, and irrigation experts and youth organizers shared their know-how and experience with people in other developing countries. Clearly this nation has come far in its relatively short lifetime.

On this day of reflection let us recognize that on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea sits a land of freedom and democracy—Israel. Surrounded by hostility, but a place where freedom and tolerance are alive today. On this day of independence for Israel, I hope all people of good will would join me in praying for peace in the Middle East.

RECOGNIZING OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Speaker, April 18 is National D.O. Day, a day when we recognize the more than 47,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) for their contributions to the American healthcare system. On National D.O. Day, more than 100 members of the osteopathic medical profession, including osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, will descend upon Capitol Hill to share their views with Congress.

I especially am pleased that osteopathic physicians from Oklahoma will be visiting our nation's Capitol and participating in this event. These representatives are practicing osteopathic physicians, staff from the American Osteopathic Association, and osteopathic medical students.

Participants in National D.O. Day are here to talk about how liability insurance rates for all health care professionals—especially those in high-risk specialties and rural areas—are increasing rapidly. Numerous commercial insurers are no longer offering professional liability insurance for physicians and others have stopped covering certain procedures or services. A continuation of this trend will, over time, lead to a shortage of physicians and create access to care problems for our citizens. I share their concerns about access to care. Several States, including my home State of Oklahoma, are facing critical access problems and this trend will only continue to worsen if action is not taken.

For more than a century, osteopathic physicians have made a difference in the lives and health of my fellow Oklahomans and all Americans. Overall, osteopathic physicians provide care to more than 100 million patients each year. Osteopathic physicians are committed to serving the needs of rural and underserved communities and make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

D.O.s are certified in nearly 60 specialties and 33 subspecialties. Similar to requirements set for their M.D. colleagues, D.O.s must complete and pass: four years of medical education at one of 19 osteopathic medical schools-, a one-year internship-, a multi-year residency-, and a State medical board exam. Throughout this education, D.O.s are trained to understand how the musculoskeletal system influences the condition of all other body systems. Many patients want this extra education as a part of their health care. Individuals may call (866) 346-3236 to find a D.O. in their community.

In recognition of National D.O. Day, I would like to congratulate the over 1,200 D.O.s in Oklahoma, the 350 students at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the 47,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

CARE BY CELEBRATING CHILDREN DAY

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Care by Celebrating Children Day on April 26, a day set aside to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of children that make the world a better place for us all. Today, we invite every adult to visit their child in school, where they will learn about and admire the ways in which those children grow every day. By distinguishing their efforts and accomplishments, this day helps to raise the self-esteem of the children, builds bridges between the community and the school, introduces the children to role models, and teaches the children about their value to the community.

It is also my privilege to introduce Ms. Gail Delevich in conjunction with this day. Ms. Delevich is an elementary school teacher in the Central Bucks School District, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She spearheaded this initiative at her elementary school, after she was disheartened at the multitude of negative media coverage of American schools in the wake of the Columbine tragedy and other episodes of school violence. Rather than chastise students or criticize our education system as inadequate to prevent violence, this day celebrates children and their accomplishments as students, athletes, artists and young leaders.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey have already declared a day each April as Care by Celebrating Children Day, and I present this remark in hope of expanding the day's recognition to the national level. I hope that this day, which honors, celebrates, and encourages our children, our most precious resource, will empower children to believe in themselves, working hard to prepare for their future and for the future of our Nation.

A BILL TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 179

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2002," legislation to assist small businesses with the cost of new business investment. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Mr. TANNER, as well as several other of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

On March 19 of this year, President Bush unveiled his small business proposal. I applaud the President for his commitment to our