

professional and as dedicated as any that has ever worn the uniform of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as an Oregonian and as an American, I am proud to call them my countrymen. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in extending their gratitude to the men and women of the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry—the Guardians of the Western Gate.

May God bless them, and may God bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, on April 25, 2002, I had to return home due to my son's sudden illness and I was not present to cast my vote for HR 3231, the Barbara Jordan Immigration Reform and Accountability Act, and its amendments. Had I been present I would have voted:

YES on roll call 111.

YES on roll call 112.

YES on roll call 113.

NO, on roll call 114, the Issa amendment.

NO, on roll call 115, the Lofgren amendment, and

YES, on roll call vote 116 for final passage.

INTRODUCTION OF "WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT AND DIGITAL DIVIDENDS ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Wireless Technology Investment and Digital Dividends Act." I am proposing this measure in order to advance three key goals: (1) to create a permanent public interest telecommunications trust fund; (2) to establish a "Spectrum Commons"; and (3) to recapture wireless policymaking from unrelated budgetary initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, the public deserves to reap the benefits of the sale of licenses to its airwaves, not only in the offering of new commercial services or the temporary infusion of cash into the Federal treasury. The public should also enjoy the "dividends" that can be reaped by reinvesting money raised through use of a public asset in a manner designed to promote educational technology projects, educational software R&D, as well as initiatives addressing the digital divide.

The bill I am introducing today creates a permanent trust fund (the "Digital Dividends Trust Fund") from wireless auction revenue to fund such public interest telecommunications initiatives. Splitting the grants into two general categories—"human capital telecommunications investments" and "broadband infrastructure investments for public access and rural development" the Digital Dividends Trust Fund authorizes grants for the following initiatives: Training of teachers & other personnel at schools and libraries eligible for E-rate funding; R&D for cutting-edge educational software

designed to enhance learning in schools; Digitizing educational materials held in our nation's libraries, archives, and museums; Technology projects supported by volunteers enrolled in AmeriCorps; Projects enhancing the access of individuals with disabilities to advanced telecommunications services; Retraining workers and unemployed individuals with skills applicable to the new economy; After-school programs for youth focused on computer literacy and interaction; Local and regional programs to expand access to advanced telecommunications in areas available to the general public; Broadband deployment to low-income housing and community centers and to unserved rural areas; and, Conversion of public radio and television broadcasting stations to digital broadcasting technology.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduce today establishes a "Spectrum Commons." High tech manufacturers, entrepreneurs and the proverbial 'kid in the garage' could make more robust use of wireless communications if sufficient spectrum were available in unlicensed form for the general public. The bill requires the FCC to establish a 20 MHz band of contiguous frequencies below 2 GHz as well as between 3 to 500 MHz between 2 GHz and 6 GHz—a swath of the airwaves that would remain open to the public and unlicensed. Such a public set-aside could foster the formation of an open platform for innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and public communications. It would also militate against unhealthy consolidation of spectrum in the hands of too few providers.

An unlicensed area of the airwaves will permit the public, through the use of 'smart' radio technology and better receiver equipment, to harness the airwaves for countless applications if the government is willing to give back to the public a portion of its own airwaves in such an unlicensed format. From "wi-fi" technology and low power "Bluetooth" wireless connections, to so-called "802.11b" protocols, wireless local area networks and Net connections, utilization of publicly available airwaves can help connect people and businesses in cost-effective and spectrum efficient ways. The "Spectrum Commons" will also help to propel economic growth and innovation by opening up the airwaves to new marketplace entry by individuals and entities unaffiliated with established network providers.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is important that telecommunications policymaking reassert itself in wireless policy, where for too long budget priorities have warped sound policy. Since Congress first enacted legislation in 1993 to permit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to distribute certain airwave licenses to the public through the use of auctions, the FCC has used this licensing mechanism numerous times and the U.S. Government has reaped billions of dollars for general revenue purposes. The initial principle behind auctions was to enhance telecommunications policy goals through the efficient licensing of frequency spectrum, where the revenue an auction raised represented an additional beneficial dividend to the taxpayer.

Over time, however, the use of auctions has become perverted. They are increasingly advocated primarily for purposes of raising general revenue irrespective of whether such auctions advance sound telecommunications policy. Moreover, the money raised from auctions has been sent directly to the U.S. Treasury.

The money from telecommunications auctions was not reinvested in order to enhance our democracy, bridge the digital divide, or promote public interest telecommunications projects. Instead, the auction of licenses for use of the public's airwaves has been subjected to the alchemy of budget scorers intent on transforming thin air into gold.

Legitimate telecommunications policy objectives are often undermined by proposals to auction certain slices of the airwaves on a date dictated by budgetary scoring needs. Instead, auctions should only be scheduled once the appropriate telecommunications policy goals have been agreed upon and the conditions necessary for successful licensing through auctions have been secured.

This legislation requires the FCC, prior to scheduling upcoming auctions, to take action to achieve the timely transition to digital television by establishing rules governing must-carry issues, minimum programming and broadcasting requirements, and digital television receiver benchmarks. It also directs the NTIA and the FCC to take action to secure additional spectrum for advanced wireless services—including mobile services such as so-called "3G" services. Sound telecommunications policy, consistent with the public interest, would be greatly furthered by putting the "policy horse" back in front of the "auction cart." The bill re-establishes this principle in wireless policy.

REMARKS FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN WASHINGTON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, what a privilege it is to be with you today. I am especially pleased that my wife is here! She got up early and left North Carolina at 5:00 a.m. to surprise me. [applause] Yes, let's give her a hand! And I appreciate my staff being here! In just a little while—back in my hometown of Lumberton, North Carolina—scores of people will be gathering around the Robeson County Courthouse to pray for us here in Washington—and for our nation and our world. Ten years ago I was part of a local family commission that began our observance of the National Day of Prayer back home, and it has been exciting to see the ever-increasing number of people who gather to pray on this day—both locally and nationally.

Why should we pray? Why is prayer important? Think about it! How many times have we prayed really expecting an answer? Prayer is important because it emphasizes God's peace, God's power, God's purpose. Peace, power and purpose.

First, we know God's peace through prayer. Luke 18:1 is a parable to show that all times we ought to pray and not lose heart. So often we consume ourselves with fear rather than with faith. We forget that prayer should be the first resort, not the last resort! Too often we buy the lie that the world has taught us: "Well, I guess there's nothing left to do but pray about it!" We ought to talk to God first, because He already knows the outcome, and He can handle it! So often we rob ourselves of peace because we forget that God is bigger

than any problem we may face. We should open our Bible-right in the middle to Psalms and read out loud in our closet or our room Psalms 140-145. As we praise God first, we will realize the truth of the Scripture that says God inhabits the praise of his people, and He will give us peace in the midst of our circumstances.

Second, prayer is important because it reminds us of God's power. "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it shall be opened to you," Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:7. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened." Many times, we don't even bother to ask for help of guidance. God promises to give us wisdom if we just ask. He has the power to protect and provide. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; ... they will not overflow you," God says in Isaiah. "When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched."

Third, prayer not only gives us God's peace and power, but also His purpose. Many of you have said you saw several of us in Congress singing "God Bless America" on the Capitol steps as the sun set on 9/11 after the terrorist attacks. Some have wondered if that was orchestrated or not. Actually, late that afternoon, several of us met in Capitol Police headquarters to talk by telephone speaker with Speaker Hastert and Leader Gephardt, who were at an undisclosed location. After we finished talking with them about that evening's press conference, someone suggested that we pray together. The House chaplain offered to let us walk to one of the local churches, but we said that we didn't have to go somewhere to pray; we could pray right there. And we did. After the chaplain prayed, we had an opportunity to pray out loud. After a few moments, a few of us did pray. And when we concluded, we sang "God Bless America" as a closing prayer.

That night, after the Senate and the House leaders spoke at the press conference, members who had been at the prayer time a couple of hours earlier spontaneously broke out into singing that prayer, "God Bless America."

We cannot know God's will—God's purpose—if we won't talk with Him. As Rosalind Rinker has written, Prayer is the expression of the human heart in conversation with God . . . prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other."

Peace, power, purpose! That is what prayer is about, and that is what we as one nation under God should be about! Dr. Charles Allen expresses it well in a poem:

"Worry? Why worry? What can worry do?
It never keeps a trouble from overtaking you.
It gives you indigestion and sleepless hours at night,
And fills with gloom the days, however fair and bright.
It puts a frown upon the face and sharpness to the tone;
We're unfit to live with others and unfit to live alone.

Pray? Why pray? What can praying do?
Praying really changes things, arranges life anew.

It's good for you digestion, gives peaceful sleep at night
And fills the grayest, gloomiest day—with rays of glowing light.
It puts a smile upon your face, The love note in your tone

Makes you fit to live with others, and fit to live alone.

Pray? Why pray? What can praying do?
It brings God down from Heaven To live and work with you."

We all should follow the teaching of I Thessalonians 5:17 "to pray without ceasing." Indeed, if any of us desire to know the True Source of Power, it cannot be found in a building, in a person, or in a place; it must be found in the one who is the only true source of power. Prayer gives us an opportunity to express our heart to God, and it gives Him the opportunity to speak to a receptive heart.

May all of our hearts be receptive to this power. Pray for us here in Washington that we may rely upon the wisdom which only He can give.

(1) Please pray not only for wisdom for members of Congress but also for a spirit of harmony even during debate about important issues. (2) Pray for a greater spiritual awareness and depth to our relationships with each other personally here in Congress. (3) Pray that more hearts would be opened to salvation and stronger faith in the God who has given us this wonderful land and this opportunity to be a beacon of hope in a world of despair.

As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and . . . minds in Christ Jesus."

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NARROWSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a very special volunteer organization on their 100th anniversary: the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department in our 20th Congressional District of New York.

Over the last century, the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department has been a cornerstone of our community, committed to ensuring the safety of Narrowsburg's citizens. The immeasurable and indispensable public service that these volunteers render is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of all those who place their lives of the line to protect the public.

Our nation has been built on an active and alert citizenry, working together for the public good. That was exactly the first step taken on March 4, 1902, when thirty nine concerned citizens of the hamlet of Narrowsburg signed a petition supporting a proposal to form and organize a Hook and Ladder Company to protect "Narrowsburg and vicinity". From the group's first firehouse, built in 1904, to now, the Fire Department has stood as a symbol of strength, unity, and determination. It has demonstrated how a community volunteer group can grow into an efficient and effective organization.

While their milestones have been numerous and great over the department's one hundred years, one longstanding, underlying and vital resource of the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire

Department is the overwhelming support of the community. From fund-raisers to town bbq's, parades, and other events, the department has been interwoven in the fabric of the community. When an organization becomes such an integral part of our town or village, it makes the loss of life, a cold reality in fire departments across the nation, an even more bitter pill to swallow. Such was the case in 1979, when the Narrowsburg lost its Assistant Chief Paul Brock and members Brett Hankins and Jay Laraia. It was a tragic loss to the department and the town. But the strength of volunteerism is the infusion of new and enthusiastic members who are willing to serve, and although they can never take the place of those who have been lost or have come before them, their resolve can help heal these wounds. Today, Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department is stronger than ever. There's no reason to believe that it will continue to grow and be vital for another century and beyond.

During the tragedy of September 11, the heroism of the fighters was on full display, as they risked their own lives with stunning bravery. Our fire departments are finally receiving the accolades they have long deserved. To those who have truly known the selflessness of volunteer fire departments and the fire personnel in their towns, such as the one we are blessed with in Narrowsburg, this bravery was not much of a surprise. Instead, it is a reflection of the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our communities nationwide, over the last century, and beyond.

As a Member of our Congressional Fire Caucus, I am committed to ensuring that our nation's firefighters have the support and resources needed to protect themselves and our communities. Accordingly, I am gratified that Congress has stood with our nation's fire personnel in approving the FIRE Grant program and providing it with an unprecedented amount of funding. On this anniversary, I know that our Narrowsburg firefighters are grateful for the support they have received and join with me in expressing their gratitude to our nation.

As the citizens of Narrowsburg join together to celebrate and honor their volunteer fire department, we take a moment to remember those who we've lost in the line of duty and express our thanks to all those who serve our nation today.

Congratulations to the Narrowsburg Volunteer Fire Department on its' 100th anniversary. A grateful nation thanks you.

MURDER OF UKRAINIAN HEORHIY GONGADZE STILL UNSOLVED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the murder of Ukrainian investigative journalist Heorhiy Gongadze remains unsolved. On September 16, 2000, Gongadze, editor of an Internet news publication critical of official, high-level corruption in Ukraine, disappeared. Seven weeks later, his remains were found in Tarashcha in the Kyiv region.

Repeated expressions of concern to the Government of Ukraine have been met with stonewalling. Over the last 18 months, the