

500 companies like Ford, Chrysler and Wal-Mart have the ability to offer health benefits to their employees without complying with the diverse benefit-laden insurance mandates that exist in each of the 50 states. This exemption keeps health insurance costs down. Unfortunately, small businesses, less able to shoulder the burden of such mandates, end up paying almost 18 percent more than their big business counterparts for similar health insurance coverage. This is simply unacceptable.

Today, I join my colleagues in supporting, The Small Business Fairness Act (H.R. 660). H.R. 660 allows small businesses to form Association Health Plans (AHPs). I believe that AHPs can help reduce the number of uninsured, and I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this important legislation. By creating AHPs, small business may pool their resources and increase their bargaining power with insurers, which will allow them to negotiate better rates and purchase quality health care at a lower cost. H.R. 660 is an important first step toward making health insurance more affordable and accessible.

The time has come for all Members of this House to support small businesses. It is time to pass the Small Business Fairness Act.

IN MEMORY OF RAY ABRIL, SR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today, on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, to pay tribute to the memory of Ray Abril, Sr.

Ray Abril, Sr. was a pillar of the community, a surrogate father, a molder of character, a counselor, a coach, a builder of men. Mr. Abril passed away Sunday, May 18, 2003. He was 93 years old. To the youth of Boy Scout Troop 45 of south Colton during 1942 to 1962, he was their mentor and Scoutmaster.

On May 17, 2003, former Scouts, members of the Abril family, and community leaders gathered to pay tribute to this great man of honor. They came from near and far, over 300 strong to honor him and to provide the testimony to the positive impact Mr. Abril had on the young people of San Bernardino County.

To Ray Abril, the Boy Scouts of America and the organization of his troop was paramount. His patrol leaders were as older brothers, who taught and quizzed the new members on their way to the rank of "Tenderfoot." They learned knot tying, how to roll up sleeping bags, and how to pitch a tent. Through all of this, he did not coddle them; he let them move forward at their own pace and make mistakes. But he was always there to guide them when necessary. And guide them he did, but always in a clear direction and the young boys always admired and respected him.

I will remember Ray Abril, Sr. as a man who left his mark on history as a devoted and supportive husband, father, statesman, community leader, Boy Scout leader, mentor and a man of irrefutable wisdom. His remarkably full life is a model to all as an embodiment of the vibrant and dynamic spirit of a true American. My Barbara and I extend to the Abril family the thoughts and prayers of a grateful Nation.

SOLILOQUY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents has written a poem that showcases our Nation's flag in a glorifying manner. Mr. Victor Miller of Madisonville, Tennessee is the author of a poem titled "Soliloquy." Mr. Miller is the son of Jeanette Miller, who passed this poem along to me. Our Country's morale and heritage is strong today because of patriots like Victor Miller. I would like to call "Soliloquy" to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

SOLILOQUY

Imagine as a flag
on all folks passing by
with edifying waves
influencing their lives.

Esteemed a lofty reign
& honored to belong
all would offer tribute
in oaths, salute or songs!

Recognition could abound
for victories secured
defending liberties
despite many injured.

A patriotic stance
of opportunities
advocating, freedoms
by land, the air & sea!

In each of fifty stars
& else where when observed
the glory of your stripes
would valiantly be served!

Halleluah!!!!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX BURNS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make note of how I cast my vote on roll number 293 on Thursday, June 19, 2003. As the record illustrates, I was present and cast my vote on roll number 292 at 1:44 p.m.; on roll number 293 recorded at 1:51 p.m., however, I was present but my vote was not recorded. While I cast my vote on roll number 293, technical difficulties prevented my vote from being recorded. My vote on roll number 293 as cast was in the affirmative.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JEFF TAYLOR

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country are exceptional. The United States has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated military personnel who willingly and unselfishly dedicate their lives to service and make our country a safer place to live and work. Navy Commander Jeff Taylor is one of these individuals.

On July 21, 2003, he will be honored as he retires from the U.S. Navy.

Jeff was raised in Southern California and graduated from Southern California College with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1978. After working for three years for a major defense contractor in Newport Beach, California, he accepted an appointment to Naval Officer Candidate School and received his commission in 1981.

Commander Taylor first served as the Combat Information Center Officer aboard the USS Cochrane based in Yokosuka, Japan and as the Fire Control Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant on the USS Leahy based in San Diego, California. He also served as an instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School in Coronado teaching combat systems and ship control curriculum.

After completing Department Head School, Commander Taylor served as Chief Engineering Officer on the USS Worden based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During this time he participated in Operations Desert Shield and Storm. Jeff also served as Maintenance Officer at Assault Craft Unit 5 at Camp Pendleton, California where he directed maintenance and repair of Navy hovercraft and subsequently served as an Engineering Branch Head and instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport, Rhode Island. Jeff then returned to sea duty as Executive Officer on the USS Kidd based in Norfolk, Virginia and later served as Chief Staff Officer for Destroyer Squadrons 20 and 32.

Upon completing his sea duty, Jeff reported to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division in March of 1999. Commander Taylor also earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration and a Diploma from the United States Naval War College. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medals.

Commander Taylor is happily married to his wife Bonnie and enjoys surfing and long distance running in his spare time.

Jeff's lifetime dedication to military service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our country and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING HARLEY-DAVIDSON ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would recognize the 100th anniversary of one of America's greatest corporations and a treasure of Milwaukee, Wisconsin—the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. 100 years ago this August in the Davidson family backyard at 38th Street and Highland Boulevard, William Harley and the Davidson brothers, Arthur, Walter, and William, finished work on their first motorcycle.

Shortly afterwards the Harley-Davidson Motor Company was built on the site of the company's current world headquarters in Milwaukee. Over the next 100 years Harley-Davidson has gone on to outstanding success,

releasing innovative and unique designs that have become so easily recognizable on roads worldwide. Harleys are known as the pre-eminent motorcycle both in this country and around the world and have become a staple of the U.S. Armed Services as well as police and fire departments throughout the country.

Harley-Davidson will be celebrating its 100th birthday this August in its hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This three-day event will include festivities on Lake Michigan, a never-before-seen exhibit of sketches, videos, clay models, and mock-up motorcycles demonstrating various stages of the design used process by Harley-Davidson's Styling and Engineering departments, as well as a parade of 10,000 Harleys through downtown Milwaukee.

The national celebration will have events leading up to the grand celebration in cities across America including Las Vegas, Nashville, Indianapolis, and Dearborn. I want to invite all Harley-Davidson enthusiasts, young and old, to come out and take part in this once in a lifetime event.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this great American company by cosponsoring this resolution.

RECOGNIZING R.G. MORRIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the impeccable motor carrier safety record of Mr. R.G. Morris of Blue Springs, Missouri. Mr. Morris is a professional motor carrier operator for Yellow Transportation.

According to the most recent information from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, large trucks drove 7 percent of all vehicle miles traveled. In motor vehicle crashes, large trucks represented 9 percent of vehicles in fatal crashes, 3 percent of vehicles in injury crashes, and 5 percent of vehicles in property-damage-only crashes.

Mr. Morris reached a safety milestone when he recently surpassed one million miles driven without a preventable accident. This outstanding achievement, obtained by few drivers, demonstrates Mr. Morris' commitment to safety. To put this accomplishment in perspective, the average car driver would have to travel around the world forty times to equal this milestone.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. R.G. Morris for reaching this noteworthy milestone. I am proud to have a constituent as dedicated to highway safety as he is, and I wish him continued safe driving in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ABINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Abington Senior High School as the recipient of the 2003 Harris Wofford Award pre-

sented by Youth Service America and the State Farm Companies Foundation.

The Harris Wofford Award, named for former US Senator Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, was established in 2002 for the first annual State Farm Awards Luncheon as part of the 13th Annual National Service-Learning Conference. This award honors Harris Wofford's life long "mission of making service to others the common expectation and common experience of every young person in America".

An award like this is long overdue for Abington Senior High School since they have been dedicated to community service for years. The service-learning program, which started in 1995, has encouraged the student body to take an active interest in helping the community. The positive impact this program has had on the community as well as the students is immeasurable. The 60,000 hours that students spent last year helping the community is an outstanding accomplishment. As a proud parent of two Abington Senior High School alumni, I am sincerely honored to be able to recognize the students of Abington for their dedication and commitment to helping others. Programs like these not only help the community but also teach our youth the power of working together and helping others.

NATO ALLIED COMMAND TRANSFORMATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to note the establishment of Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 19, and to congratulate Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., the commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command, on his appointment as the first Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

The establishment of the first functional strategic command for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an important step for the Alliance as it reforms its command structure to better carry out the missions needed to defend its member countries against today's threats. Allied Command Transformation replaces the old Allied Command Atlantic, which had been responsible for keeping open sea lanes between North America and Europe during the Cold War. Today, NATO faces a more pressing task: transforming allied forces from static formations designed for territorial defense to expeditionary forces able to deploy wherever needed to combat security threats. By locating Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, home to U.S. Joint Forces Command, the transformation lessons being learned by the U.S. military can be shared with our NATO allies.

The establishment of Allied Command Transformation is an important part of the new NATO command structure, which reduces the number of NATO headquarters from 20 to 11 and eliminates geographic responsibilities. This leaner, deployable command structure will allow the Alliance to command missions wherever the member countries decide that NATO is needed.

This Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the attached speech by Lord Robert-

son, the Secretary General of NATO, at the ceremony to commission Allied Command Transformation on June 19, 2003.

REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO, LORD ROBERTSON, AT THE CEREMONY TO THE COMMISSION OF THE NEW ALLIED COMMAND TRANSFORMATION

Admirals, Generals, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a unique ceremony, because we are not only welcoming a new commander—we are also changing fundamentally the very nature and purpose of this strategic headquarters. Indeed, we are creating a new organization all together. That, in the history of this great Alliance, makes this a very special day.

Our first task is to thank the man who has led Allied Commander Atlantic since last October—Admiral Sir Ian Forbes. Admiral Forbes, your predecessor, General Kernan, once described Allied Command Atlantic as NATO's bridge to the future. When you took command of this headquarters, you vowed to continue that mission. You have done so and with true distinction. Your staff here at Norfolk has nothing but the highest praise for the work you have done here. That is an most important testimony.

Let me add my own thanks, and congratulations, for the important work you have done here since January 2002, first as Deputy and then as Acting Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic. You have provided sound leadership in Norfolk through a critical period of concluding SACLANT's successful mission and defining the role—and I might add, daring role—this new command will play in the Alliance. We will continue to value your leadership as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation.

Admiral Giambastiani—or Admiral "G", as you are already known here—this is your first day on the job. But you have already made history, as the first commander of the new Allied Command Transformation. This is an honour that is well deserved. I would like to congratulate you, as well, on this appointment.

In the coming years, Admiral, you will have a key role to play in shaping NATO's transformation. It is a transformation that has already begun, and the establishment of this Command—ACT—is proof positive.

ACT will shape the future of combined and joint operations. It will identify new concepts, and bring them to maturity. It will then turn these transformational concepts into reality; a reality shared by the entire NATO Alliance. And it will do so in close cooperation with the U.S. Joint Forces Command co-located here, to ensure that NATO's transformation stays in lock step with the changes taking place in the United States.

Indeed, the creation of a new permanent command here in Norfolk—one dedicated solely to transformation—demonstrates the investment NATO is making in preparing itself for 21st century operations.

This Command underscores NATO nations' commitment to a continuous, permanent process of transforming and modernising our armed forces.

ACT is, in a very real sense, both the symbol of the new NATO, and the architect that will shape its future. It will play an invaluable role in ensuring that the Atlantic Alliance can continue to defend the security and interests of its members against threats and challenges which we cannot even imagine today.

ACT is a symbol of this Alliance's confident embrace of the future and its challenges.

Admiral Giambastiani, as I said last week to NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels, your new title, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, means that you more than