

Just as the historic parade marched through the gap for more than 200 years, the procession is not yet finished. Today the town of Cumberland Gap, the natural starting point for a journey into the Cumberland Gap National Park, is a haven for day hikers, adventure hikers, and cycle enthusiasts. Whether you are seeking history, culture or adventure, Cumberland Gap is always a great place to be.

On July 19th, this historic town celebrates 200 years of postal service with a day of interpretive presentations of what life was like in the early 1800s including "living history" exhibits throughout the town. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join them on this important day and I wish the town of Cumberland Gap many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TP I.W. SPUD AND MARY WOOD

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize two very special constituents, I.W. "Spud" and Mary Wood. On August 2 in Merced, CA. Spud and Mary will be celebrating with family and friends their 90th birthdays and their 70th wedding anniversary. These monumental events are being memorialized by their family who are traveling from both near and far.

Spud and Mary came to Merced, CA, in 1936 from Wheeler County, TX. In Merced, they made their home and have lived on their ranch for the past 64 years. They are the parents of three—Annetta Meyer, Myrna Aikins, and Kenneth, who is now deceased. Both Annetta and Myrna have a total of 5 children between them. Spud and Mary are the proud great grandparents of 8 which also includes one set of triplets.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor this wonderful family on this auspicious occasion. Our community benefits greatly from the splendid example they have set for us all. Marriages such as the Wood's form a sound foundation for our country and contribute greatly toward making this a better world in which to live. I wish both Spud and Mary my sincerest congratulations as they share these milestones in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JAMES EWALD

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major James "Chocks" Ewald of the Michigan Air National Guard for his exemplary service to our Nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On April 8, 2003, during one of the 30 sorties he flew over Iraq, Major Ewald's aircraft was struck by a surface-to-air missile. Major Ewald managed to continue flying the damaged aircraft for 12 minutes, eject before it crashed and evade capture until he was rescued.

In the face of extreme danger, Major Ewald's composure and commitment to fulfill his mission never faltered. Major Ewald is a tribute to the success of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Throughout his career in the United States military, Major Ewald has been unselfishly devoted to securing the safety and liberty of the American people.

On behalf of Michigan's Second Congressional District, I welcome Major Ewald home and offer appreciation for his heroic service to our Nation.

FCC DELAY IS UNCONSCIONABLE

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Communications Commission voted on February 20 to loosen some of the rules that inhibit the deployment of broadband services. This is good news for consumers everywhere, as more broadband means better Internet access, more choice, and better service. The February 20 vote starts the FCC down the road to true parity of broadband regulation.

The problem is that it is almost four months later and the order that was voted on has not been released. We had heard that the FCC was waiting to vote on the media ownership issue before completing the February 20 rule-making. The ownership vote took place last week June 2. What is the FCC waiting for?

This delay is simply unconscionable. As a comparison point, according to the National Council of State Legislatures' website <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/legman/about/sess2003.htm>, half of the State legislatures in this country have completed their entire legislative year in less time than the FCC has taken to write an order that it has already voted on. In addition to my own State of Virginia, where I served in the State legislature, the State legislatures of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming all complete their substantive legislative business in about 4 months or less. And yet, in that same amount of time, the FCC can't seem to agree on the words that give life to the order they voted on in February. I missed the part in civics class where it is harder to write the words of a regulatory order that has been agreed to than it is to conduct the entire annual business of a State.

The FCC needs to end this embarrassing delay, and make sure its rules do not inhibit the deployment of broadband services to consumers throughout the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 354, agreeing to the amendment

offered by Mr. REHBERG, the gentleman from Montana, striking the prohibition on mandatory country of origin labeling, to H.R. 2673, I inadvertently voted "yea" when it was my intent to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL STEPHEN R. PIETROPAOLI, U.S. NAVY, NAVY CHIEF OF INFORMATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of Rear Admiral Stephen R. Pietropaoli, the Navy's Chief of Information, who will retire later this year. Rear Admiral Pietropaoli's career has worn the cloth of the Nation for over 26 years, during which time he has distinguished himself as a sailor, a leader, and a trusted advisor to many senior Navy and DOD senior military and civilian officials.

Throughout his career, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli has excelled in numerous positions of great responsibility. Whether he was "driving ships" as a surface warfare officer; guiding and leading midshipmen as a teacher at the Naval ROTC program at the University of Pennsylvania; responding to media queries as the lead spokesman at the Navy's National News Desk; or providing thoughtful and wise public affairs advice and counsel as the public affairs officer to the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of the Navy, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli has always been widely recognized as the most trusted and respected military officer, national security expert and public affairs professional.

It was during his tour of duty at the Joint Chiefs of Staff where his stellar reputation was further solidified. Rear Admiral Pietropaoli served as the sole communications strategist and public affairs advisor for two Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. While working for Generals Shalikashvili and Shelton, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli developed messages for countless media briefings, congressional appearances and international trips. During this time, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military services used these messages to work successfully with the Congress to provide the largest pay raise in 20 years and to restore retirement benefits for service members that serve 20 years in the military.

In his final assignment as the Navy's Chief of Information, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli led a global team of 500 active duty, reserve and civilian public professionals. His personal leadership and actions gave the American public an extraordinary understanding of the sacrifices and contributions of our Sailors and Marines, and the capabilities of U.S. Naval forces in times of peace and war. His vision, leadership and dedication have raised the Department of the Navy's numerous worldwide public affairs operations to unprecedented levels of success. Without question, no other leader in the U.S. Navy had a greater impact on garnering departmental, congressional, and public support for key Navy issues and programs than Rear Admiral Pietropaoli.

Whether coordinating Navy Public Affairs efforts following the attacks of September 11th, communicating the Navy's role in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan and the Philippines and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, or discussing Navy's support for homeland defense and Operation NOBLE EAGLE, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli orchestrated unprecedented media access to naval information and operations giving American and international audiences a clear picture of the readiness, dedication and contributions our Sailors made to national security.

During his tenure as CHINFO, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli also demonstrated unparalleled expertise in all facets of Navy Public Affairs community management; active duty and reserve, officer, enlisted, and civilian alike. His knowledge of public affairs requirements across the spectrum of military operations, combined with his keen sense of an individual's strengths, ensured the right person was sent to the right job at the right time. Joint commanders augmenting their public affairs staffs during military operations routinely sought Rear Admiral Pietropaoli's well trained public affairs specialists. He has led the consolidation effort over various enlisted ratings into the public affairs family of ratings, ensuring better career management for all those who work in the public affairs arena. He has also championed efforts by the Secretary of the Navy to study and implement a civilian community management plan, becoming the sponsor for those in the public affairs and related series.

There is no question that Rear Admiral Pietropaoli is the top communications professional in the U.S. military today. His unparalleled leadership and zeal for excellence will have a positive impact on the Navy Public Affairs Community for decades. He will be missed.

In a Navy where many people come and go, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli is a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his nearly three decades of honorable service to the Navy and country.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I offer my congratulations to Rear Admiral Pietropaoli and wish him the best of luck as he and his wife, Dawn, and their two sons, Daniel and Matthew, begin this new and exciting chapter of their lives. Fair winds and following seas!

INTRODUCTION OF TWO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BILLS, THE PUBLIC PRIVATE VOCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ACT AND THE EXCELLENCE IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce two bills promoting public-private partnerships in the interest of improving vocational education.

Vocational education is an extremely important component of secondary education for millions of students. It is too often neglected at

the state level and does not receive adequate funding or attention.

Many students do not go onto an undergraduate university for their post-secondary education. Only about 40% of high school students who pursue post secondary education enroll in a baccalaureate (college) program. One third (over 5 million people) enroll in a vocational education (sub-baccalaureate) program.

We should acknowledge that not everyone chooses to go to an academic four year university. For many of these students, our current educational system is failing them.

There are many good paying jobs available to students interested in vocational training, but not enough students are being prepared for these types of jobs.

However, we do have the ability to encourage more schools and their students to participate in vocational education. We can leverage the involvement of the private sector. We can get businesses involved with the education of the skilled workers of tomorrow by helping them train the students of today. To accomplish this I am introducing two vocational education bills today.

The first bill, the Public Private Vocational Partnership Act, establishes a tax credit for companies that donate equipment and other resources that can be used for vocational training. It also establishes a tax credit for the hiring of full time students who want to work as interns in fields relating to vocational education.

The second bill, the Excellence in Vocational Education Act, creates a new competitive grant program where schools can seek out federal funding to match private sector contributions for vocational education projects. The goal is to increase students' participation and achievement in vocational education. The money will also be used to strengthen teachers' understanding of, and competency in, vocational education and practical application of it.

Both bills will encourage schools and the private sector to work together to give students practical training for quality jobs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these important proposals.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 1950) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005, to authorize appropriations under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for security assistance for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this very harmful amendment.

In the early 1990s, because of concerns about United Nations' operations and the lack of reforms by that body, the United States began withholding its payments to the UN and fell into arrears. We subsequently debated this issue for years, and, in November 1999, Congress and the Administration finally agreed on a plan to repay our longstanding debt to the UN in exchange for significant reforms by the world body.

This agreement conditioned U.S. payments of \$819 million on substantial reforms at the UN. In return for the United States making good on its commitment, the UN reduced our contributions to its regular budget from 25 to 20 percent, and to the peacekeeping budget from 31 to 25 percent. The UN also agreed to open up its financial books to the United States and to establish an office of an Inspector General at each of its program offices.

We've debated these issues, and this body has decided the United States should continue to be a member in good standing at the UN. This amendment would send us back to a debate settled more than three years ago.

Mr. Chairman, as the UN's single largest contributor, the United States is granted unparalleled power to craft the UN's agenda and budget. Our financial leadership truly gives us the ability to shape world events.

Countries all over the world are looking to the United States for leadership, yet if this amendment were to pass, what they would see is a very powerful and wealthy country refusing to live up to its international commitments. Why, as a nation, would we want to unnecessarily complicate our diplomatic efforts at a time when we need every ounce of leverage?

While we must continue examining its operations and recommending operational improvements, the United Nations deserves U.S. support as it continues to combat terrorism, promote economic growth and assist countries in moving towards democracy.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the King/Hayworth Amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: July 14, 2003, Rollcall vote 354, on agreeing to the Rehberg Amendment, I would have voted no. Rollcall vote 355, on agreeing to the Blumenauer Amendment, I would have voted no. Rollcall vote 356, on agreeing to the Hefley Amendment, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 357, on agreeing to the Ackerman Amendment, I would have voted no. Rollcall vote 358, on passage of H.R. 2673, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 359, on Motion to Instruct Conferees, I would have voted no. July 15, 2003, Rollcall vote 360, on agreeing to H. Res. 316, I would have voted yea. Rollcall vote 361, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 2330, I would have voted yea.