

plan ahead, whether for an evening off or for a vacation, because some event or emergency always demands that Congress stay in session longer than planned.

All the political posturing, sniping and scrambles to claim credit for good things—or avoid blame for bad—sometimes becomes disheartening, as does the constant maneuvering for partisan advantage. And for putting up with all of this, you get paid less than you could make in the private sector, while facing harsh and frequent criticism.

Yet despite it all, most members run for reelection and remain in Congress as long as they can. Most of you worked long and hard to become a committee staff director.

Is it all worthwhile? Yes, of course it is.

Why? Let's be frank—some of it satisfies the ego. Some like the power and the trappings of power—when you speak, people listen, and that is very satisfying. But most of you, I think, are truly motivated by the belief that, as hard as it is, you can make a difference and enhance the lives of ordinary Americans.

Then, too, it is all pretty exciting—and interesting. The sheer challenge of public policy issues attracts us. There is a pervasive sense on Capitol Hill that it is where the issues of greatest importance to the nation are being sorted out. This is where the action is. Sometimes this is misplaced, but often it is not.

You struggle over the issues that aroused the passions of this country's founding generation. How much power should the federal government be given? How should powers be separated among the branches? How do we resolve the tension between encouraging individual liberty and security? What role should our country play in the world?

These great issues are subject to debate every time a new federal budget comes to a vote, or a major presidential initiative gets introduced on Capitol Hill. When you start working in Congress, you get a chance to take part in this ongoing debate—our great experiment with democracy.

Your public service gives you a stimulating, proud and lively career.

CONCLUSION

So I salute each of you for the vital role that you play within this institution, and in your service to your fellow Americans.

You are contributing to the success and direction of this country. I hope you feel that by working in the Congress you are given the unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people and the great affairs of this Nation.

I would wager that no matter where your career takes you from Capitol Hill, that you will look back on your public service as the most rewarding of your career.

The work is hard, the recognition rare, the monetary reward modest. But your reward is a deeply fulfilling life in public service and a key role in American democracy. What more could you want?

TEXTILE SHORT SUPPLY PROCEDURES

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD and the benefit of my colleagues, a letter from Mr. David M. Spooner, Textile Negotiator for the United States Trade Representative, to Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chairman of the Com-

mittee on Finance, clarifying the textile commercial availability provisions in the Singapore and Chile Free Trade Agreements.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 25, 2003.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY: I understand that the Committee has received inquiries regarding the textile commercial availability provisions in the Singapore and Chile Free Trade Agreements and am therefore writing to clarify the agreements' commercial availability sections.

The Singapore FTA would deem as not commercially available all products designated as such prior to November 2002 (prior to the completion of the SFTA negotiations) for the AGOA and CBTPA preference programs. The Chile FTA does not contain such a provision. In the future, for both the Singapore and Chile FTAs, to designate additional items as not commercially available, either the United States or our trading partners would have to utilize the consultation provisions of the agreement's "Revision of Rules of Origin" section. This section requires the Parties to consult, upon request, to consider whether particular goods should be subject to different rules of origin to address issues of availability of supply of fibers, yarns or fabrics in the free trade area and requires the Parties to endeavor to conclude their consultations within 60 days of the request.

I hope the above explanation is helpful. Please feel free to have Committee staff contact my office at 202-395-3026 if the Committee has any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. SPOONER,
Textile Negotiator.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF TRAYNOR HALFTOWN—BROADCAST PIONEER OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the legendary Chief Traynor Halftown, the children's entertainer who passed away on July 5, 2003. His passing was broadly covered in the media and accepted as a personal loss for millions in the Philadelphia region who felt they knew him as a friend.

Chief Halftown was a true original and an entertainer at heart. Chief Halftown delighted the children of Delaware Valley for 49 years with his stories, cartoons and live talent acts. He offered a different view of Native Americans than was seen in most TV westerns. The Chief Halftown Show was one of Philadelphia's most popular programs. It was the longest running children's TV show in history, from 1951 to 1999—48 years on WFIL-TV Channel 6—Philadelphia. He had a live audience with selected children visiting his set each week. Some little known facts about the "Chief" include the fact that he had a fabulous voice. Prior to his children's TV career, he was a successful nightclub singer and had a much in demand lounge act. He was also quite a sportsman, including the fact that he was an "Ace" bowler.

Beginning from the early 1950's, Chief Halftown was an outstanding presence at community activities, business openings, sports events and holiday parades in countless towns. His scheduled appearances filled the calendar and drew adoring crowds at personal appearances until just recently.

A veteran of World War II, he served his country honorably and after discharge from the Army moved into Springfield, PA with his wife, Margaret. Unable to have children, this remarkable couple opened their home to three children from reservation families who then attended Delaware County, PA schools. Two boys and one girl, all now enjoy success in business and have families of their own.

Because of early exposure to substance abuse on his Seneca reservation, upper New York State, and due to a short period of personal dependency, he became known as a "sponsor helper" for others having such problems. He aided thousands of Pennsylvanians through his example and guidance for nearly 60 years. His passing is a tragic loss to many professionals who dedicated their own lives to this specific health care field.

In his eighties, he continued to produce children's "amateur contests" and made visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. For those elder citizens he wrote and presented a series of programs on the culture of Native Americans. The visits became popular events for confined and ailing seniors.

Mr. Speaker, our region has lost not only a legend in the broadcast industry, but a dear friend. I wish Margaret Halftown, his widow, my heartfelt condolences and may she find comfort in knowing that the many children and adults the Chief impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity of spirit and the example of his life and work. Chief Traynor Halftown exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he accomplished and stood for.

HONORING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the past few decades have posed some difficult challenges for America's workers and some hard choices for those who seek to guarantee them a brighter future. I can think of no area that is simultaneously as broadly important and increasingly complex as pension and health benefit issues. As Congress struggles with the challenge of ensuring the health and pension benefit promises made to tens of millions of workers and retirees, I want to thank the Employee Benefits Research Institute for its considerable contribution to providing education and information to members of Congress and the Nation. As EBRI marks its 25th anniversary, I want to thank them for helping us understand the issues and say that we all look forward to their counsel in the future.

EBRI is one of the only organizations dedicated to gathering employee benefit information and presenting it to the public in a timely

fashion. Regrettably, on a subject that affects almost every individual in the country, there is no government agency that collects and distributes information about workplace benefits. EBRI deserves our deepest commendation for consistently stepping into the gap and attempting to provide information that is critical to the decision-making ability of public policymakers. EBRI's strength is that it is a non-advocacy organization so that legislators on both sides of the aisle can use its resources.

America's pension system has changed a lot since ERISA was enacted and EBRI was created. Often workers don't fully understand the changes that can have a big impact on their retirement. Sometimes legislators fail to fully grasp the magnitude of the adjustments we're called onto make. Educating both groups is both a full-time job and a worthy goal.

Because of EBRI's work, we know more than we otherwise would have. I hope they continue shedding light on workplace benefits in the decades ahead because I think that will improve the odds that legislators like us will be able to make enlightened important decisions that benefit working men and women.

THE HOUSE PAYS TRIBUTE TO
DANA M. STEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIC WORKS, INC.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Dana M. Stein, executive director and cofounder of Civic Works, Inc., a non-profit youth corps that has provided critically needed services to the Baltimore area since 1993. Mr. Stein's leadership of Civic Works has transformed the organization into an outstanding AmeriCorps program—helping the community and teaching new skills to young adults.

Mr. Stein has dedicated his career to helping improve our community. He has a B.A. degree from Harvard University and a law degree from Columbia University. In 1985, he received a Masters in Public Affairs from Princeton University. He has used his knowledge and skills to reach out to others and to make a difference.

Under his direction, approximately 200 Civic Works' participants help rehabilitate low-income housing, build urban parks and gardens, clean and restore urban vacant lots and tutor and mentor school-age children. While providing important services that would otherwise go undone, Civic Works' participants also receive help in their education and citizenship skills.

Civic Works has been recognized for its successes. In 1999, it was awarded the PEPNet Award from the National Youth Education Coalition (NYEC). It also is a four-time YouthBuild sub-grantee and has been recognized through the 2003 National Association of Services and Conservation Corps Excellence in Corps Operations.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Dana

M. Stein on the 10th Anniversary of Civic Works. He is a committed American who understands how to build a better community.

TRIBUTE TO KOREAN WAR
VETERANS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Korean War Veterans Citrus Chapter 192 and all the brave men and women that answered the call to duty during the Korean War.

Sunday, July 27 commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Armistice signing that officially ended hostilities in the war torn nation.

This conflict enlisted the services of 6.8 million American men and women between 1950 and 1955. Despite the enormity of this effort, many who served regrettably feel that their sacrifice has been forgotten by a nation in the murky fog of time.

I commend the Veterans of Citrus County 192 for their efforts to memorialize their comrades in arms who paid the ultimate sacrifice. On Saturday, July 26 the Korean War memorial will be dedicated at the Citrus County Court House. This eloquent marker will serve as a reminder to our nation of the surviving Korean War Veterans, as well as the POWs and MIAs that never returned.

IN MEMORY OF BOBBY BONDS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a man that is considered one of the greatest athletes ever to come out of the Inland Empire. Bobby Bonds, a 14-year major league baseball player from Riverside, California, passed away on Sunday, August 24, 2003. His legacy, however, lives on.

Bobby Bonds was born with the talent and followed a dream. He began his baseball career in the Patterson Park Little League in Riverside's eastside neighborhood. Even then, crowds would gather to watch him play.

In high school, Bobby excelled in more than one sport. He could be spotted being shuttled from the baseball field to the track field in order to compete; his love of sports was unparalleled. He also played basketball and football. Bobby was the 1964 state long jump champion and later graduated high school in 1965. He was immediately signed by the San Francisco Giants and worked his way up through the minor leagues. He was leading the Pacific Coast League in hitting when he joined the major leagues in 1968.

In his first season, Bobby hit 32 home runs and stole 45 bases, becoming the fourth and, at 23 years old, youngest member of baseball's 30-30 club.

In 1971, Bonds was selected to the All-Star team, and later played in three All Star games.

He won three Gold Gloves for fielding excellence as an outfielder. In 1973 he hit a career-high 39 home runs, was named Most Valuable Player. Four years later he would have another career-high of 115 runs.

After retiring from baseball in 1982, Bobby became a first-base coach for the Cleveland Indians and joined the Giants coaching staff in 1993 when his son joined the team. After his role as the first-base coach, he became a special assistant for the Giants.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Pat; a daughter, Cheryl Dugan; three sons, Barry, Ricky, and Bobby Jr., his mother, Elizabeth; a brother, Robert; and a sister Rosie.

Although Bobby moved away from Riverside many years ago his influence remains. A park in Riverside was renamed the Bobby Bonds Park and the Bobby Bonds Head Start/State Preschool opened last November.

Bobby's tireless passion for the game of baseball and his love of his hometown of Riverside, California will long be remembered by the residents of Riverside that grew up next door to him and the kids everywhere who grew up inspired by his life.

TRIBUTE TO VA VOLUNTEER
DOROTHY PATRICK

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Patrick, a constituent of mine who has selflessly given her time to the veterans of my Fifth Congressional District for more than 15 years.

My district is home to thousands of our Nation's veterans and has the fourth-largest concentration of American heroes in the Nation. So it is only natural that at our veterans' clinics and hospitals there's never a shortage of things to do and never a time when additional helping hands are not desperately needed.

It was once said that, aside from love, the most precious thing a person can give another person is labor. Dorothy has given over 11,000 hours of her labor to help the veterans of Florida's Fifth Congressional District—and that is truly something to be honored.

Volunteering at both the Gainesville VA Medical Center and at the Inverness VA Clinic for 15 years, she has given her time to veterans for longer than many people stay at a single job!

David Gilmer, Administrative Officer for the VA's Inverness Community Base Outpatient Clinic, has said of Dorothy "She not only provides valuable assistance to the veterans who receive care at the Inverness Clinic, but leadership to the other volunteers who help support the VA's mission here in Inverness."

She's given to the veterans of the Fifth Congressional District as nobly and as altruistically as they've given to all of us. Her service is a testament to the value and virtue of helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in commending Dorothy for her efforts. I am honored to be her representative in Congress. She is one of the reasons that I am so very proud to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Florida in the House of Representatives.