

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vicki Smothers as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

END UNFAIR PUNISHMENT OF
STUDENT ATHLETES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as we all prepare for college basketball's "March Madness" this month, I am introducing a bill, the Student Athlete Fairness Act, along with Representative ROB ANDREWS, to deal with another kind of madness. Recently a number of institutions of higher education have penalized student basketball players for misconduct, by banning them from post-season intercollegiate play. I support actions by colleges and universities to hold their coaches and players accountable when they engage in misconduct of any kind. Recruiting violations, academic fraud and financial improprieties have no place in college or college sports, and deserve punishment.

However, these particular institutions are penalizing the wrong student athletes—students who were not involved in any wrongdoing. In one case, Fresno State University is barring an entire basketball team from post-season intercollegiate play for the transgressions of previous players and coaches, even though none of the current student athletes or coaches were involved in the wrongdoing at all.

We can no longer allow colleges and universities to penalize innocent student athletes. Instead institutions of higher education must focus their efforts on the guilty parties.

The Student Athlete Fairness Act would prohibit colleges from penalizing players or coaches who had no involvement in a rules violation and would also prohibit colleges and universities from being affiliated with intercollegiate associations, like the NCAA, whose policies might include sanctioning players, teams and/or coaches even if they were not involved in any rules violation.

While many schools and teams work hard to follow the rules that are intended to preserve a quality academic and campus life alongside a vibrant athletic program, some schools have chosen to make innocent students scapegoats for the actions of runaway athletic programs that give win-loss records more priority than ethics and fair play.

An integral ingredient of the college and university mission is to foster both the academic and personal development of their students—from civic engagement and community service, where students learn how to become active participants in democracy, to team athletics, where students gain valuable leadership experience. These objectives are severely undermined when students are punished harshly, in ways that can significantly affect their future careers and earnings, for violations of rules by others. This kind of substitute punishment has no place in our courts, and it should have no place in our colleges and universities either.

The Student Athlete Fairness Act would make certain that the coaches, school officials, or students who break the rules are the ones

who are punished. Innocent student athletes should be free to play ball.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION
ACT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in October 2002, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released a report entitled the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children, which estimate there are almost 800,000 reported cases of missing children. This equates to over 11 children per 1000 in the U.S. that are missing. Worse yet are the hundreds of thousands of missing children that are not reported. While a large number of missing children are runaways, too many are missing due to abduction. One way to decrease this number is to pass H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. H.R. 1104 is better known as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Plan, the AMBER Alert.

Currently, the AMBER alert is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in case of child abduction. Almost 40 states have established AMBER alerts. Since the program began a little over six years ago, the AMBER alert has been credited with the recovery of 47 children. If the plan were implemented nationwide, with federal funding, the possibilities of recovering more children increase exponentially.

As a parent and a grandparent, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same, our children deserve it!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SARA FISHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize Mrs. Sara Fisher of Gypsum, Colorado. As Sara prepares to step down from her position as the Eagle County Clerk and Recorder, it is clear that the people of Eagle County are lucky to have benefited from Sara's years of service.

The job of Clerk and Recorder has presented many challenges during Sara's tenure. Since she first took office the population of the county has more than doubled. Sara modernized the county's voting system, streamlined the process of obtaining basic services, and increased staff at satellite offices. Sara, who speaks Spanish fluently, has worked to increase the number of bilingual office staff to better serve her diverse community. Throughout her service as Clerk and Recorder, Sara has always had a positive attitude about serving the people of her county. Sara serves because she loves her community, and that shows in her dedication and hard work. The people who have been fortunate enough to

have worked with Sara while she has been the Clerk and Recorder all know that she is a true asset to Eagle County, and an excellent public servant.

After more than a decade of service, Sara has recently built a new home in Gypsum and is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, Bill, and enjoying the beautiful landscape of Colorado. Throughout all of the challenges that Sara has faced, she has been a strong and competent leader in both Eagle County and throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Sara Fisher before this body of Congress and this nation. She has been a diligent servant of Eagle County and her commitment to her community will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF MILDRED SWANN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Mildred Swann, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Mildred Swann organized a neighborhood forum where people of different ethnic heritages gathered to share their experiences and aspirations. She engaged many volunteers in the effort that resulted in the formation of a tutoring and mentoring program for Tongan Youth. She serves as the Facilities Chair of Community Gatepath, and in this position she led the campaign to decrease dependence on shrinking government funding while maintaining the quality of the organization's programs. She also helped Community Gatepath to work with San Mateo County to identify high-risk MediCal families and provide them with prenatal care and parenting skills.

Mildred Swann has served her community in many ways and with many organizations, and has been honored by Menlo College for her contributions to the community. She was also recognized by Foothill College Haramba for her service to youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mildred Swann as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

AMBER ALERT CONCERNS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of bringing over 3,000 children into the world, I share the desire to punish severely those who sexually abuse children. In fact, it is hard to imagine someone more deserving of life in prison than one who preys on children. Therefore, I certainly support those parts of H.R. 1104 which enhance the punishment for those convicted of federal crimes involving sexual assaults on children.

I also support the provisions increasing the post-incarceration supervision of sex offenders. However, given the likelihood that a sex

offender will attempt to commit another sex crime, it is reasonable to ask why rapists and child molesters are not simply imprisoned for life?

However, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that making the AMBER Alert system a Federal program is neither constitutionally sound nor effective law enforcement. All Americans should be impressed at the demonstrated effectiveness of the AMBER system in locating missing and kidnapped children. However, I would ask my colleagues to consider that one of the factors that makes the current AMBER system so effective is that the AMBER Alert system is not a Federal program. Instead, states and local governments developed AMBER Alerts on their own, thus ensuring that each AMBER system meets the unique needs of individual jurisdictions. Once the AMBER Alert system becomes a one-size-fits all Federal program (with standards determined by DC-based bureaucrats instead of community-based law enforcement officials) local officials will not be able to tailor the AMBER Alert to fit their unique circumstances. Thus, nationalizing the AMBER system will cause this important program to lose some of its effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1104 also exceeds Congress' constitutional authority by criminalizing travel with the intent of committing a crime. As appalling as it is that some would travel abroad to engage in activities that are rightly illegal in the United States, legislation of this sort poses many problems and offers few solutions. First among these problems is the matter of national sovereignty. Those who travel abroad and break the law in their host country should be subject to prosecution in that country; it is the responsibility of the host country—not the U.S. Congress—to uphold its own laws. It is a highly unique proposal to suggest that committing a crime in a foreign country against a non-US citizen is within the jurisdiction of the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation makes it a Federal crime to "travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct." I do not think this is a practical approach to the problem. It seems that this bill actually seeks to probe the conscience of anyone who seeks to travel abroad to make sure they do not have illegal or immoral intentions. Is it possible or even advisable to make thoughts and intentions illegal? And how is this to be carried out? Should Federal agents be assigned to each travel agency to probe potential travelers as to the intent of their travel?

At a time when Federal resources are stretched to the limit, American troops are preparing for imminent military conflict, and when we are not even able to keep known terrorists out of our own country, this bill would require Federal agents to not only track Americans as they vacation abroad, but would also require that they be able to divine the intentions of these individuals who seek to travel abroad. Talk about a tall order! As well-intentioned as I am sure this legislation is, I do not believe that it is a practical or well-thought-out approach to what I agree is a serious and disturbing problem. Perhaps a better approach would be to share with those interested countries our own laws and approaches to prosecuting those who commit these kinds of crimes, so as to see more effective capture and punishment of these criminals in the countries where the crime is committed.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while H.R. 1104 has some good provisions aimed at enhancing

the penalties of those who commit the most heinous of crimes, it also weakens the effective AMBER Alert program by nationalizing it. H.R. 542 also raises serious civil liberties and national sovereignty concerns by criminalizing intent and treating violations of criminal law occurring in other countries' jurisdictions as violations of American criminal law.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BUZZ ZANCANELLA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Buzz Zancanella, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serving Glenwood Springs, Colorado. For the past thirty-six years, Buzz has worked in his community, most recently as a water maintenance coordinator. After a long and successful career, Buzz has decided to retire. As he looks forward to retirement, I would like to take this time to highlight his service to his community.

Buzz is a native of Glenwood Springs who graduated from Garfield County High School in 1958 and began serving Glenwood Springs as a volunteer firefighter in 1959. In 1961, Buzz left home to fight for his country, serving honorably in the Navy. It was also at this time that Buzz met his wife, Gracie. When Buzz returned to Glenwood Springs in 1966, he began his long career with the city, working for the city's electric company. Later, in 1977, Buzz became the city's fire chief and remained in that role until 1985 when he began working for the Glenwood Springs Water Department. Buzz is now known as the go-to guy in the city of Glenwood Springs. His service has been much appreciated and he will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand and recognize Buzz Zancanella before this Congress and this nation. Public servants work tirelessly to ensure that our communities are run safely and smoothly. Their service and dedication deserves our recognition and thanks. That is why I recognize Buzz Zancanella as he retires from his many years of service to his community. I wish you all the best Buzz.

IN HONOR OF RUTH-E BENNISON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Ruth-e Bennison, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ruth-e Bennison received a Masters degree in accounting from the University of Washington and worked as an accountant until her marriage in 1956. She later opened her own travel agency, began to travel extensively herself and became the Western Regional Manager for Sheraton Hotels. When her mother became ill and entered a nursing home, she developed a keen interest in long-term care facilities. She became a volunteer in the long-

term care ombudsman program in San Mateo County and she has selflessly dedicated more than 15,000 hours to the program over 15 years. Ruth-e Bennison has also given generously of her time and talents as a HICAP volunteer and has given 5,200 volunteer hours to this agency. She's been honored for her work by the Department of Health and Human Services and was honored with the HICAP Excellence Award in 2002 for saving San Mateo County more than \$5 million in Medicare related expenses.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ruth-e Bennison as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

HONORING CITY OF LIVONIA FIRE- FIGHTER OF THE YEAR, FIRE- FIGHTER MATTHEW MAURIER

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Michigan resident, Firefighter Matthew Maurier, recently named City of Livonia Firefighter of the Year. Firefighter Maurier has served the City of Livonia with great pride and courage since 1995.

On September 16, 2002, Firefighter Maurier answered a call to a pedestrian injury accident. Upon arrival, he found a young male patient lying in the roadway who suffered significant head trauma and multiple fractures requiring immediate attention. Realizing the patient's airway was compromised as a result of his injuries, Firefighter Maurier began aggressive intervention to ventilate the patient. Recognizing the patient would require the services of a Trauma Center for definitive treatment, Firefighter Maurier immediately requested a helicopter for transport. This action saved considerable time the patient would not have otherwise had available.

Mr. Speaker, Firefighter Matthew Maurier is a hero to the people of Livonia, Michigan and the United States. I extend my sincere appreciation to him for making our community a better place.

THE NORTH MYRTLE BEACH BILLBOARD EFFORT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise the actions of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club. Their efforts to raise community support and money to erect billboards around their city to show support for President Bush and the American soldiers stationed in the Middle East have been outstanding. The diverse group of community members, comprised of business owners, attorneys, doctors, retirees, and elected officials, have come together under the direction of Ms. Cleo Steele to respond to the numerous anti-American protests held world wide, nationally, and even in the community of