

Although as humans "Endowed by our Creator," as we are told by the Declaration of Independence, "with certain inalienable rights," these have not been given to us without responsibilities. There exists in this country especially, a legacy of liberty which has been passed on from generation to generation, safeguarded and sustained by its citizens. But this freedom is not immutable. We, as Americans, must rise to the responsibilities that face us. When not backed by people, by Americans motivated with the same passion and fervor as the founders of this land, our freedom is but a feeble idea quickly whisked away.

Has it become this today within our very borders? Although it must still be protected from outside threats, the real threat, the real danger is right here. It is threatened every single time a human life is disregarded or disrespected. With every unborn child prevented from ever taking its first breath, freedom is stifled and its very heart violated. With every hateful word or deed against a person's race, consent is given to forfeit the liberation of an entire country. It truly is a dreadful form of poverty when such crimes against life are committed. How can a man stand upon his feet and proclaim his freedom, when he holds the stolen liberty of another in his hands? How can he defend the very thing that he has denied to others? No, it is not possible to secure for oneself what has been usurped from others. When the value of freedom is overlooked in a single human form, it is overlooked for all of humanity. Without compromise, this freedom must be defended and all obstacles and impediments standing before it must be defeated.

Our obligation to protect freedom begins within our homes, in our day-to-day life choices which affect others. What we value shows in our daily lives, and is reflected in our government. We are under a government put in place by ourselves and for ourselves. What is allowable, what is just, what is humane is before us to decide. We make the decision not merely by how we vote, but by how we speak, how we act, how we live.

In our refusal to forfeit human rights and dignity through our every action, we become a powerful testament to true freedom and liberty for all. To act in this way is our obligation; this is what we have been called to do by those who first ensured for us our freedom. We must live as free people, people valuing the liberty of all. Only then shall we truly be free. Only then shall this freedom be our possession, and only then will we be able to defend it from those who might attempt to snatch it from us.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the state of Pennsylvania's Collegiate Academy High School Academic Decathlon team as they prepare to conquer the championship title for the 2003 United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) National Competition.

Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon team is comprised of students and coaches from the Collegiate Academy High School, located in the 3rd Congressional District. The Collegiate Academy team has already found victory in the local, regional and state USAD competitions and is anxiously awaiting the final national competition scheduled to be held at the end of April in the school's hometown of Erie, Pa.

I'd like to take the time today and recognize these talented students and their coaches, who have mentored and inspired the students throughout the entire school year.

The 2003 members of Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon Team include: Joshua Cohick, Mara DiTullio, Jarrod Fedor, Noelle Lucas, Brian McNair, Andrew Narusewicz, Eden Roseborough, David Tran and Gregory Stachelek. The team's coaches are Carolyn Huzinec and Paula Lucas.

For more than 20 years, the USAD National competition has brought high school students together to challenge their intellects on various levels and provide an advanced educational opportunity. In the pursuit of academic excellence, academic decathlon teams must vigorously prepare to compete in ten different categories. The winning team will be recognized as the most prestigious high school in the nation.

I believe this scholastic competition to be a grand endeavor for high school students across America. Its continuous success is a prime example of our nation's enthusiasm for education. I am proud that Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District's own Collegiate Academy High School will represent the state this year in the national competition and I wish them the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon team and their coaches as they compete to become America's most prestigious high school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, During Rollcall vote No. 122 on the Meehen Amendment to H.R. 1036, the Gun Manufacturer's Liability Act, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE W. HINDS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a leading citizen of Trumann, Arkansas. I am proud to recognize Wayne W. Hinds in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions to his community, his state and his Nation.

Wayne was born and raised in Trumann, Arkansas, and even starred on the football team at Trumann High School. During his senior season in 1955, he set an Arkansas state high school football record for the most touchdowns scored in a single game. After graduation in 1956, Wayne decided to remain close to home and attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, where he majored in business administration.

On November 14, 1959, Wayne married Glenda Moye. He and Glenda had two daughters, Tamara Taylor and Misti Sims and are the proud grandparents of Raven Dawn Taylor, Brett Taylor, Mackenzie Sims and Bailee Sims.

In August 1967, Wayne began the job that has become the symbol of his commitment to his community. That year, Wayne was appointed Superintendent, Drainage District Number Seven. This jurisdiction covers 190,000 acres, 300 miles of channels and 65 miles of levees along the St. Francis River and Right Hand Chute of Little River. In February 1978, Wayne was elected General Manager and Executive Secretary of Drainage District Number Seven and since then has led the effort to protect the valuable waterways of Poinsett County.

In addition to his remarkable service in his professional career, Wayne has also been an important leader in his community. Wayne is a member and past president of the Trumann Booster's Club. He also served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Trumann Lions Club.

As children, we all learn the importance of "remembering where you came from". Wayne not only remembers . . . he serves. He embodies the old fashion values of service, leadership and commitment to his community that have made our State and our Nation great. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to Wayne Hinds for his tireless service and unwavering commitment to the people of Poinsett County, the people of Arkansas and the people of the United States.

THE STOP TAKING OUR HEALTH PRIVACY ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, the Bush Administration's modifications to the Federal medical privacy rule will be in effect. Federal medical privacy protections are important for protecting the integrity of our health care system. Many Americans have been taking counterproductive steps, such as giving inaccurate information to their physicians or

avoiding health care altogether, because of medical privacy concerns.

The medical privacy rule issued by the Clinton Administration in December 2000 established a sound foundation for addressing the complex issues relating to medical records privacy. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration's changes to the rule opened up significant loopholes in medical privacy protection. The Bush Administration eliminated the rule's requirement that individuals must provide consent before their personal health information can be used for treatment, payment, and a broad category of activities called "health care operations."

The Bush Administration also decreased privacy protections relating to marketing activities by removing privacy protections for activities that most consumers consider to be marketing. In addition, it changed the rule to allow disclosures of health information without patient consent to drug companies and other entities regulated by the FDA for a wide range of purposes. The December 2000 rule, in contrast, allowed such disclosures only for a narrowly defined list of health-related activities such as reporting adverse events associated with drugs.

That is why I am joining my colleagues Reps. MARKEY, DINGELL, and ROHRBACHER today in introducing the Stop Taking Our Health Privacy Act of 2003. The STOHP Act would: (1) reinstate the December 2000 rule's patient consent requirement for treatment, payment, and health care operations while ensuring that this requirement does not undermine essential health care activities such as filling prescriptions and making referrals; (2) strike the Bush Administration's definition of "marketing," thereby ensuring that the rule's privacy protections apply to activities consumers consider marketing; and (3) eliminate the broad exemption the Bush Administration created that would have allowed disclosure without consent to drug companies, while ensuring that disclosures essential for public health purposes are allowed.

I am pleased that this bill has bipartisan support. Medical privacy should not be a partisan issue. I hope to continue to work with both Democratic and Republican colleagues to remedy the harm done by the changes to the rule and to promote vigilant enforcement by the Administration of the privacy protections that remain. I will also continue to press for additional protections to ensure appropriate disclosure and use of individuals' health information.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASSISTANT CITY
MANAGER BOB WALES, CITY OF
RIVERSIDE, CA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. The community of Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Bob Wales is one

of these individuals. On Thursday, April 10, 2003, Bob will be honored at a retirement reception in recognition of his contributions as the Riverside Assistant City Manager.

Bob received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1962. Upon graduation, Bob was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served honorably as a First Lieutenant in Orleans, France until joining the California Division of Highways in 1964. Bob obtained his license as a Professional Engineer from the State of California in 1969. Bob's accomplishments include the design of the 2/210 freeway interchange as well as the design of numerous bridges throughout California.

Bob began his career with the City of Riverside as an Associate Engineer in the Public Works Department in August of 1969. Over the following eight years Bob served as a Senior Engineer and a Principal Engineer.

In 1977, Bob was named Public Works Director and continued in that position for ten years until he was later appointed Assistant City Manager of Development. His duties included the oversight of the Public Works, Planning, Airport and Development Departments, as well as negotiating agreements with private developers and ensuring expeditious processing of key economic development projects.

In 1986, Bob was appointed Executive Director of the Riverside Redevelopment Agency in addition to his other duties. In that position he has contributed to all facets of redevelopment in the City's six project areas. Under his exemplary leadership, the Agency has been involved in hundreds of projects worth millions of dollars including the reopening of the historic Mission Inn, the construction of a California State office building, the redevelopment of a major portion of the east side of Riverside with two large scale retail/entertainment projects and the creation of a Justice Center in the downtown area which brought in a State Court of Appeals, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court, a U.S. Federal District Court and a County Family Law Court.

Bob's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. He has been the heart and soul of many of the redevelopment projects and the vision of the future for Riverside 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.

INTRODUCING THE AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROL SYSTEM INTEGRITY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have joined with Congressmen LOBIONDO, DEFAZIO, and QUINN to introduce the Air Traffic Control System Integrity Act of 2003, a bill to ensure that functions relating to the air traffic control system continue to be carried out by the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the Bush Administration's recent attempts to inch its way towards privatization or corporatization

of our air traffic control system. First, on June 4, 2002, the President signed Executive Order 13264 to delete a phrase in Executive Order 13180 stating that air traffic control is an "inherently-governmental function."

More recently, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) placed air traffic controllers on its 2002 Commercial Activities list, which is an inventory of activities performed by government personnel that should be subject to the forces of competition. Although FAA Administrator Marion Blakey testified before the House Aviation Subcommittee that ATC is in a protected class of the OMB Commercial Activities list, there is nothing that prohibits the Administration from re-categorizing ATC in the future.

The National Air Space system is not one well-defined piece of equipment. It is a complex, integrated arrangement of thousands of distinct systems, as well as regulations, procedures, and people, all interfacing with one another to accomplish one of the most intricate missions in the world—ensuring our country's ability to safely and efficiently move over 600 million passenger a year.

On September 11th, we learned just how efficiently our 15,000 air traffic controllers and 6,000 technicians do their jobs. On that fateful day, at 9:45 a.m., the Department of Transportation gave the order to ground all aircraft in U.S. airspace immediately—an operation that controllers and technicians had neither been trained nor tested to accomplish. Within the space of two hours, the FAA's air traffic controllers safely landed 4,482 aircraft; 3,195 commercial, 1,122 general aviation, and 165 military—without one operational error.

Following September 11th, our FAA technicians worked with the Department of Defense to staff Long Range Radar sites throughout the country as well as to provide additional radar surveillance data and voice communication capability to the military in support of "Homeland Defense." The dedication and professionalism of all of our highly skilled government employees is unparalleled.

Operation of ATC requires the cooperative, coordinated efforts of many divisions in FAA including those responsible for ATC services, facilities and equipment, safety certification and regulation, airport development, research and development and law. All of these divisions are required by law to have safety as their highest priority.

Any plan to privatize or corporatize the ATC system contemplates that system users, principally the airlines, will be saddled with a fee structure to pay for the corporation. This means that the ATC system will be an expense for airlines, affecting their profit and loss. At the same time, airlines will play a role in setting policies for the new corporation and deciding how much the corporation will spend, and, very likely, deciding who will be winners, and who will be losers.

Do we really want to have a relationship between airline profitability and ATC spending and other decisions affecting safety or security? To be blunt, when airline profit margins start to influence ATC practices, the safety margin may be eroded, and that would not serve the public interest.

One of the main justifications advanced in support of an ATC corporation is that it would produce a system that is more responsive to airline concerns and would reduce airline costs. However, two of the most prominent