

cases concerning specific constitutional issues. Limiting the jurisdiction of any court for any particular class of cases raises questions regarding both the separation of powers doctrine and the Equal Protection Clause of our Constitution.

Additionally, it is not settled doctrine that Congress has the power to eliminate Supreme Court review of constitutional questions. As President Reagan's first attorney general, William French Smith, noted: "The integrity of our system of federal law depends upon a single court of last resort having a final say on the resolution of federal questions. The ultimate result of depriving the Supreme Court of jurisdiction over a class of cases would be that federal law would vary in its impact among the inferior courts. State courts could reach disparate conclusions on identical questions of law and the Supreme Court would not be able to resolve the inevitable conflicts."

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, enactment of H.R. 3313 would be unwise and quite possibly unconstitutional. I agree with the late Senator Barry Goldwater who opposed similar "court stripping" bills during his Senate service, stating that "the frontal assault on the independence of the Federal courts is a dangerous blow to the foundations of a free society."

I noted with great interest a letter I recently received from former U.S. Representative Bob Barr, who authored the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. In his correspondence to members of the House, dated July 19, 2004, former Congressman Barr urged the House to defeat H.R. 3313, stating that it will "needlessly set a dangerous precedent for future Congresses that might want to protect unconstitutional legislation from judicial review. . . . The fundamental protections afforded by the Constitution would be rendered meaningless if others follow the path set by H.R. 3313."

Former Congressman Barr also notes in his letter that, "where I differ with the supporters of H.R. 3313 is in my confidence that the Supreme Court will not invalidate DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act]. During the lengthy consideration of DOMA, the House of Representatives heard detailed testimony on the constitutionality of DOMA. A parade of legal experts—including the Justice Department—determined that DOMA is fully constitutional. Although there are a few naysayers and wishful thinkers who opined that DOMA is unconstitutional, the overwhelming weight of authority was clear that DOMA is constitutional. Based on the exhaustive review of these opinions, Congress overwhelmingly passed DOMA and it was signed into law by President Clinton. DOMA remains good law. It is a sound and valid exercise of congressional authority, pursuant to the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the Constitution."

Further, former Congressman Barr comments in his letter that "because H.R. 3313 does not strip state courts of jurisdiction to hear challenges to the cross-state recognition section of DOMA, the result will be that each of the 50 state supreme courts will be the final authority on the constitutionality of a federal law. The chaotic result could be 50 different interpretations reached by state supreme courts, with no possibility of the U.S. Supreme Court reversing any incorrect interpretation of the federal DOMA. The potential for mischief by these courts is obvious. Ironically, I fear an increased likelihood of an adverse decision on

DOMA's constitutionality if H.R. 3313 becomes law."

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, H.R. 3313 is neither good law nor good policy. My personal belief is that marriage is a union between a man and a woman, but that the regulation of marriage should be left to the states. Amending the Constitution of the United States is a serious matter not to be taken lightly and neither is enactment of legislation that would alter the careful balance of power and responsibility that the founders of our nation apportioned between the three branches of the federal government. I oppose H.R. 3313.

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**HONORING LOUISIANA EMPLOYER  
BAKER OIL TOOLS—THE FIRST  
RECIPIENT OF THE MANUFACTURING  
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OF LOUISIANA'S ANNUAL  
PACE AWARD**

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**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, our local employers are dedicated contributors to our local economies. Each day our local manufacturers not only produce valuable products in our communities, they employ the skills of area workers and resources to get the job done. Manufacturers like the one I am recognizing today are committed to success, and their success directly benefits our communities.

One such local manufacturer is Baker Oil Tools located in Lafayette, Louisiana. Baker Oil Tools is a leader in oilfield services and today they are being honored by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPoL) with the first-ever Platinum Award for Continued Excellence (PACE Award).

MEPoL—a non-profit business resource based at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette—has a distinguished history of providing business and technical assistance to manufacturing firms throughout the State of Louisiana. They have worked with over 550 Louisiana businesses—including Baker Oil Tools—since 1997 to increase the productivity and profitability of their clients.

MEPoL educated, encouraged and empowered Baker Oil Tools to embrace the principles of 'Lean Manufacturing,' a systematic approach to identifying and eliminating waste in the manufacturing process through continuous improvement. This efficient approach enabled the organizational advancements that led to the receipt of this prestigious award.

Thanks to a committed workforce and leadership dedicated to excellence, Baker Oil Tools has made significant advances in driving productivity, quality and technology throughout their organization. Baker Oil Tools is a local manufacturing leader and this award is an outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to Baker Oil Tools on receipt of MEPoL's first annual PACE award and to their long standing commitment to the people and prosperity of our community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
ASSISTED LIVING WEEK**

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 12 to 18 as National Assisted Living Week. Created in 1995 by the National Center for Assisted Living, National Assisted Living Week is being celebrated this year for the first time in collaboration with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and the Assisted Living Federation of America.

Along with good health and access to family and friends, nothing is more important to the senior citizens of our communities than their independence. National Assisted Living Week recognizes senior citizens who prize their independence and honors the professionals, volunteers, and investors who support the facilities and services that help them keep it.

The 2004 NALW theme, symbolized by a family tree and a heart, is "Caring for Our Heritage". The focus is on diverse cultural traditions that enrich our communities at all stages of life and are especially meaningful and comforting to residents of assisted living environments.

Mr. Speaker, I commend NCAL, AAHSA, and ALFA for working together to promote National Assisted Living Week, beginning this Grandparents' Day. We as a nation are grateful to the members of these three organizations for their mission and expertise in advocating and caring for and preserving the quality of life of our senior citizens.

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**CITY OF COPPELL RANKED IN TOP  
TEN**

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize five communities within my district for being acknowledged as among the "Top Ten Suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area," by D Magazine, a regional monthly magazine. Top honors went to Southlake, Colleyville, Highland Village, Flower Mound, and Coppell based on these communities' excellent schools, affordability, and low crime rates.

Every two years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. Coppell was ranked number nine on this year's top ten after receiving top marks for its diversity. D Magazine also noted the city's predominantly younger residents and made specific mention of the Coppell Community Garden. Started in 1998, the Coppell Community Garden seeks to promote community "cohesiveness" through volunteer gardening. The Community Garden operates in conjunction with Coppell's Share the Harvest program to provide fresh produce to local food pantries.

I applaud Mayor Doug Stover and the City Council of Coppell for building the City of Coppell into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant city.

HONORING MR. JOHN DANIEL  
ARTIS

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. John Daniel Artis for being selected as the East Chicagoan of the Year. For fifteen years, the Twin City Community Services in East Chicago, Indiana, has awarded this title to prominent members of the community who have greatly contributed to the city and people of East Chicago. This year's festivities will take place Friday, August 20, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago. During this prestigious event, John's friends and family will accompany him in a roast held in his honor.

Throughout his education and career, John D. Artis has accomplished many admirable goals. He graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of the Arts in political science and history and later received his masters in public administration from Indiana University Northwest's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

After finishing his undergraduate education, John selflessly devoted two years to working as a caseworker for the Crippled Children Division of Gary's Department of Public Works. John then served as the Assistant Director of the Cooperative Area Manpower Planning Agency followed by a two year term as the Supervisor of Relocation for the Department of Redevelopment. As a hardworking, disciplined, and dedicated leader, John was promoted to Deputy Director of Redevelopment in 1975 and to Director of Housing and Redevelopment in 1978, a position he continues to hold. John has been an integral part of several programs that have bettered the lives of those in his community: he aided in designing The Project 10 Program for rehabilitating multi-family buildings and created the First Time Homeownership Program and the Planned United Development to expand public housing. Through these and other projects, John has been spotlighted as an accomplished citizen devoted to providing affordable housing to his fellow man.

Beyond his full and active career, John has also held several positions in an effort to further serve East Chicago. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Reinvestment Project, St. Catherine's Hospital, the Healthy East Chicago Board, and the Enterprise Development and Management Corporation. He is also a board member of the Northwest Indiana Urban League, the Quality of Life Council of Northwest Indiana, the Lake County Integrated Services Delivery Board, the Northwest Indiana Discovery Center, and the National City Community Development Foundation. Additionally, John is President of the Partners in Contracting Board of Directors, Treasurer of the Urban Enterprise Association, and a Member of the Gary, Hammond, East Chicago Empowerment Zone Oversight Committee. John's list of memberships continues and includes several other committees that strive to improve East Chicago, illustrating that John has dedicated his life, his time, and his energy to improving the housing, health care, and economic future of East Chicago.

The Knights of Columbus Hall will be filled Friday night with friends and family who have been blessed with the opportunity to know and work with John and who wish to celebrate with him as he receives his award. John's work, which has earned him East Chicagoan of the Year, has been improving his community and the lives of East Chicagoans for over thirty years. Though John is dedicated to his career and the community of East Chicago, he has never limited his time and love for his family. John and his wife, Karen, have been happily married for over thirty years and have one son, Christopher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. John Daniel Artis on being recognized as the East Chicagoan of the Year. It is my privilege to extend my personal thanks to Mr. Artis for his lifelong dedication to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Indiana. I confidently await Mr. Artis' future contributions to society and wish him continued personal and professional success.

### TRIBUTE TO DANIEL J. WATKINS

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of Daniel J. Watkins, of Prairie Village, Kansas, who passed away peacefully at his home with his wife and children around him on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, the feast day of his patron, St. Daniel the Prophet.

Dan Watkins was born on December 18, 1923, the second of four children of Thomas J. and Theresa A. Watkins, and raised on the family farm near Albia, Iowa. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and was commissioned and assigned to the 37th Spec. Construction Battalion (Sea Bees) in the Pacific Theatre, where he was Asst. Company Commander on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, near Pearl Harbor. Following his service in the Navy, Dan completed his studies at Iowa State University, where he earned a degree in civil engineering. He was a member of the Phi Kappa fraternity and the track team. He was also inducted into the Tau Beta Pi, the Knights of St. Patrick and the Iowa Engineering honorary societies.

Dan married Barbara L. Van Cleve on September 9, 1946. They moved to Kansas City in 1947 when Dan accepted a position with the firm of Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff. His entire professional career was spent with HNTB, culminating as the chairman of the Executive Committee. He took great satisfaction in the many roads, bridges, airports and other projects that HNTB designed. In 1989, Dan was awarded the Marston Medal by his alma mater, Iowa State University for outstanding achievement in engineering. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Society of Professional Engineers and by the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

Dan was also very active in civic and charitable organizations serving the metropolitan area. Dan was a member of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, serving as a Director from 1985 to 1988. He was also Chairman of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in 1982-1983, after serving on the

Board for several years. Dan served two terms as Chairman of Carondelet Health Corporation, after serving on the Board from its inception from 1983 until 1989. He was on the Board of Directors of St. Joseph Hospital for six years. Dan and Barb also spent many years fundraising for the St. Martin of Tours League, which sponsors the annual Snow Ball benefiting Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. Dan was President of the League in 1985. In 1987, Dan was selected as the Catholic honoree of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Dan served on the Rockhurst College Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees for the Midwest Research Institute and the Board of Directors of UMB South. He also served as a Prairie Village City Councilman for six years.

Above all else, Dan was a faithful servant of Christ, a loving husband, and devoted father. His greatest gift to us was his example, including his strong Catholic Faith and his devotion to the Rosary. Perhaps the greatest testament to Dan's trust in the Lord was his willingness, together with Barb, to welcome each of their fifteen children into the world and provide all of them with abundant love. Dan will be missed dearly by the family, and his passing is a loss for the entire community.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas J. and Theresa A. Watkins, and one infant son, Paul, in whose name Dan sponsored a church built in Africa. Dan is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Barbara, who continues to reside at the family home, and by his children and their families: Daniel and Phyllis Watkins, Lawrence, KS; Robert and Julie Watkins, Dallas, TX; Alice and Jim Scherzberg, Olathe, KS; John and Melissa Watkins, Lawrence, KS; Marianne and Paul Horvath, Prairie Village, KS; Jeanne and Gene Schinstock, Hutchinson, KS; Thomas and K. Watkins, Prairie Village; James and Ruth Watkins, Australia; Barbara Sack Hodges and Gene Hodges, Merriam, KS; William and Connie Watkins, Leawood, KS; Molly and Dan DiCarlo, Covington, GA; Frances Hunt, Prairie Village; David and Theresa Watkins, and Patrick and Shannon Watkins, Overland Park, KS; and by his forty grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, and by his sisters, Mary Mahoney and Charlene Coady, and his brother, Robert Watkins, of Iowa.

The Watkins family would like to acknowledge the kind, compassionate care of the Sisters, Servants of Mary at the end of Dan's life. I join with all of them, and with Dan and Barb's many friends and neighbors, in mourning the passing of this remarkable man, who gave so much to so many during his rich, full life.

IN HONOR OF MARINE DAVID  
PAUL BURRIDGE OF LAFAYETTE,  
LOUISIANA

### HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fine American, a devoted son and a brave soldier who gave his life serving our Nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.