

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DENTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Denton Fire Department for their nominations of their department employees. For 130 years this fire department has fought to save the lives of citizens of the Denton area. This fire department has 122 firefighters and officers, eight 911 dispatchers, and one RSVP volunteer. It is not the equipment in these stations that makes Denton a safer place; it is the personnel that are hard at work to keep this community safe.

The philosophy of the fire department is that prevention is key to reducing the fire loss of our city. This department is able to maintain its high standards by acting towards arising situations and regulations. These firefighters take a proactive approach of educating citizens about fire safety and life safety through CPR classes and first aid classes. Even with programs in place, the Denton Fire Department strives to continue improvement in the quality of service provided to citizens by aggressively training officers in all areas of expertise. All of our fire department's continuing education programs exceed requirements suggested by the Texas Department of Health. This is proof that our firefighters are above average.

The individuals who work at the Denton County Fire Department are to be commended for their achievements in this past year. Without dedicated individuals the Denton County Fire Department would not serve at the high level it does. Brad Fuller, Brad Lahart, and Mike Tucker received Meritorious Service awards for their hard work and dedication of going beyond the normal job requirements to serve the Denton area. Also, Tim Tarlton's Crew at Station 3 "B" Shift has been awarded the Community Service Award for their methods of getting the message to children about fire safety in public schools. Likewise, Lisa Parker, who serves the Denton Fire Department with a cheerful personality and a positive attitude, has been awarded the EMS Excellence award. Furthermore, Jeff Knoles has been awarded special recognition for serving the Denton community in dual roles as a firefighter and paramedic since 1999.

The fire administration provides the leadership, vision and resources that our personnel need to provide the highest quality service to our citizens. The city staff and fire department employees coordinate efforts to maintain the quality of safety necessary for a city of Denton's size.

Firefighters are a necessary part of public life. Like in any other part of life, there are those who deserve special recognition. The individuals honored here today are some of those individuals.

CONGRATULATING THE EXPORT- IMPORT BANK ON ITS 70TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to help observe a landmark anniversary for an institution that sustains the jobs of thousands of Americans. February 12, 2004, marked the 70th anniversary of the Export-Import Bank, the official export credit agency of the United States. The Bank will have a celebration of this anniversary in the near future. The Export-Import Bank is an independent U.S. Government agency that creates and sustains American jobs by providing direct loans to buyers of U.S. exports, guarantees to commercial loans to buyers of U.S. products, and insurance products which greatly benefit short-term small business sales.

In an ideal world, export contracts would be won or lost on the basis of the cost and quality of the products being sold. However, as long as foreign export credit agencies provide concessionary financing to companies from their countries, the Export-Import Bank of the United States must "level the playing field" by protecting American exporters. The Export-Import Bank fills the necessary role of creating and sustaining American jobs here in the United States, where they are sorely needed.

Since its founding in 1934, the Export-Import Bank has supported over \$330 billion of U.S. exports from businesses large and small. In FY 2003, it supported \$14.3 billion in exports. Currently, about 85 percent of Export-Import transactions directly benefit small businesses. This amounts to almost 20 percent of the Bank's financings.

The Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act was signed into law on June 14, 2002 (Public Law No. 107-189). This Act reauthorized the Export-Import Bank through 2006 and made other appropriate changes to the charter of the Bank. The House Financial Services Committee continues to conduct oversight over the implementation of this Act.

Again, I extend my congratulations to the Export-Import Bank on its 70th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIVITY OF OUR SAVIOR CHURCH IN POR- TAGE, IN, DURING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the Nativity of Our Savior Church in Portage, IN, as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. During the weekend of September 11,

2004, and September 12, 2004, the Nativity of Our Savior Church will be celebrating their anniversary with an Anniversary Celebration Mass and an All-Parish Anniversary Celebration Family Picnic.

The Catholic faith began in Portage in the 1600's with early settlers and French trappers, and they named the area "New France." In 1882, Joseph Bailly, one of those early settlers, established a trading post which he called "Bailly-Town." This area included a chapel for his family as well as other nearby villagers to worship in. During the early 1960's, the Diocese of Gary purchased the land that is now the Nativity Parish and School.

As the population grew in Portage, Bishop Andrew Grutka along with other parish members, established a larger church, which was called "The Chapel on the Mall" because it was located at the north end of the Portage Shopping Mall. In 1964, this 10' by 50' drive-in church was visited by over 450 cars at each Sunday mass. It was in July 1965 that the Nativity of Our Savior Church was officially established with Father Joseph Till as its first pastor. On October 31, 1965, during the Feast of Christ the King, Nativity of Our Savior became a permanent church and it was formally dedicated by Bishop Grutka on Saturday, March 12, 1966.

In September 1975, the Nativity School opened its doors to 95 students in its first year. Since the founding of the Nativity of Our Savior Church in 1964 and the opening of the school in 1975, there have been many influential pastors who have led the congregation. These include: Father Joseph Till, Father William Spranger, Monsignor Carl Mengeling, Monsignor John Morales, Father John Scott, Father Patrick Kalich, and currently Father Walter Rakoczy. Today, the Nativity of Our Savior Church has over 2,200 registered families, over 200 students in their parish school, and over 600 students in their religious education program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Nativity of Our Savior Church on their 40th anniversary. They have provided support and guidance for all those in the Portage community, and will continue to serve their community through their selfless dedication and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO ELBIE J. HICKAMBOTTOM, SR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Elbie J. Hickambottom, Sr., who passed away on the evening of December 31, 2003.

Elbie Hickambottom began his life in Okmulgee, OK, in 1924. In 1925 his family

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

moved to Pasadena, CA, where he grew up and attended Pasadena public schools. As a young adult he attended Pasadena City College and though his education was interrupted by his service in the military, he continued his academic pursuits at USC and completed his BA degree from the University of Omaha.

Mr. Hickambottom served in the U.S. Army during World War II and at 19 years old was one of the youngest first sergeants in Europe. He was recalled by the Army during the Korean war and commissioned as a second lieutenant. After 20 years of distinguished service, he retired in 1967 with the rank of major. During his career, he was awarded many decorations including twice receiving the Medal for Outstanding Service and three times the Army Commendation Medal. Elbie was a past commander of the Pasadena chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars and a recipient of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Patriot of the Year Award.

After Elbie's military retirement, he joined the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency in 1967 where he served as director of Relocation and Property Management, managing programs that assisted displaced families and small businesses. He subsequently worked as senior vice president of Municipal Services, Inc. a private redevelopment consulting firm from which he retired in 1985.

In 1979 Mr. Hickambottom was elected to the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education, where he served until he retired from the board in 1994. A champion for excellence in education and a strong voice for improving academic achievement for all students, particularly for disadvantaged and minority students, Elbie was often the conscience of the school board. He was an active member of the California Coalition of Black School Board Members, where his tenure included holding office on the Executive Board.

A dedicated community volunteer, Elbie participated in many organizations, including the NAACP, the Pasadena Educational Foundation, Young and Healthy, the Pasadena Commission on Children and Youth, Project Day, ROTC, and various other civic groups.

Elbie is survived by his wife of 52 years, Dolores, his children, Ann Marie, Elbie Jr., Leslie and John, sisters Verda Arnold and Wilmer Lane, niece Robin Foster, sister-in-law Agnes Brumfield, two brothers-in-law, Joseph Arceneaux and Oscar Dupre II, and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved friends.

I would like to convey my deepest sympathies to Elbie's family and friends, as well as extend my heartfelt thanks for his many contributions to the community. Elbie J. Hickambottom, Sr., will be missed by all who knew him.

KRISTY WICKLIFF AND E9-1-1
INSTITUTE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts made by the Enhanced 9-1-1 Institute for their lasting efforts to improve our Nation's 9-1-1 system. The E9-1-1 Institute is committed to educating and in-

forming citizens of the vital role the 9-1-1 service plays in our communities. Since 1968, 9-1-1 has been a means in which to report emergencies. Today, 9-1-1 is a key component to saving lives and property.

The E9-1-1 Institute has included every level of government, corporations large and small in addition to government policy makers, to convey the significance of the 9-1-1 service to all Americans. The institute continues to work very hard to show that every citizen of this country plays a vital role in making this system successful.

The outstanding efforts of E9-1-1 are most evident in a recent event in my district. I am honored to acknowledge Kristy Wickliff a resident of Southlake, Texas, who is being honored by the E9-1-1 Institute for the heroic act of saving her father's life in April of 2003. Kristy, age five at the time, successfully called 9-1-1 and then proceeded to the medicine cabinet where she was able to obtain and administer medication to her father while he was suffering from diabetic shock. Miss Wickliff will receive the Enhanced 9-1-1 Institute's "Citizen in Action" Award on Tuesday, February 24, 2004.

If it were not for the E9-1-1 Institute's dedication to improving the 9-1-1 system or their commitment to education, our ability to save lives and property would be greatly hindered by a lack of communication.

The 9-1-1 service is a necessary part of our daily lives. Like those who have used the service in a time of crisis, the individuals who work to make 9-1-1 a better system deserve to be honored.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the lengthy debate over campaign finance reform, some of us warned that appearances can be deceiving. The McCain-Feingold bill was supposed to empower ordinary voters, who were evidently thought incapable of exercising their own reason during election campaigns. The power shift has actually been to the unelected media and unaccountable special interest groups, mostly liberal, who have concentrated their control over what voters see and hear. Other voices have been muzzled, which is why U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia called the failure to strike down the law "a sad day for freedom of speech."

I commend to your attention this George Will column published in the Washington Post on February 22.

RENDERING POLITICS SPEECHLESS

(By George F. Will)

Two years ago President Bush, who had called it unconstitutional, signed the McCain-Feingold bill—furtively, at 8 a.m. in the Oval Office. The law expanded government restrictions on political speech, ostensibly to combat corruption or the "appearance" thereof. Bush probably signed it partly because the White House, thinking corruptly or appearing to do so, saw reelection advantage in this fiddling with the First Amendment.

And partly because the nation's newspaper editorial writers nearly unanimous in praise

of McCain-Feingold. The editorialists' advocacy of McCain-Feingold could appear corrupt: The bill increases the political influence of unregulated newspaper editorializing relative to increasingly restricted rival voices (parties, candidates and their financial supporters).

Last December the Supreme Court found no serious constitutional infirmity in the law because, although the Constitution says Congress shall make "no law" abridging freedom of speech, Congress has broad latitude to combat corruption or its appearance. There is the appearance of corruption when a legislator's views attract contributions from like-minded people, and then he acts in accordance with his and their views.

Today McCain-Feingold itself does not just appear to be corrupting. It is demonstrably and comprehensively so.

Most campaign money is spent on speech—disseminating ideas, primarily by broadcasting. McCain-Feingold's stated premise was that there is "too much" money in politics—hence, it follows, too much speech. McCain-Feingold's prudently unstated premise was that legislators know—and should legislate—the correct quantity of speech about themselves, the proper times for it and certain restrictions on the content of it.

Such legislating may not be corrupt, but it might appear so. And appearances are the essence of ethics, as understood by Washington's ethics industry.

Perhaps the White House embraced McCain-Feingold because it doubled to \$2,000 the permissible ceiling on "hard money" contributions crucial to the president's reelection campaign. Also, Republican national committees do better than their Democratic counterparts at raising smaller hard-dollar contributions.

Supposedly, the principal purpose of McCain-Feingold was to ban large "soft money" contributions to the parties ostensibly for "party-building" purposes. The delusional assumption of many McCain-Feingold enthusiasts was that when such contributions were banned, the people who had been eager to exert political influence by such contributions would say "Oh, well" and spend their money instead on high-definition televisions. Or something.

Actually, McCain-Feingold was moral grandstanding by many liberals who had no intention of abiding by its spirit—or its letter, for that matter—any more than they had abided by existing campaign finance law. To compensate for Republican advantages in raising strictly limited hard dollars, Democrats quickly formed a slew of committees technically disconnected from the party but allowed to receive unlimited soft dollars.

Allowed, that is, as long as the committees do not spend money "for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office." Under McCain-Feingold, and for 30 years before it, entities that raise and spend money for that purpose are subject to hard-dollar limits.

McCain-Feingold's ban on large soft-money contributions to political parties has spawned many groups, mostly liberal ones, to receive and spend such contributions as surrogates for the parties—groups such as America Coming Together. Ellen Malcolm, ACT's president, says her group aims to increase voter turnout in 17 states crucial to the presidential election in order "to beat George Bush."

It appears that she intends to influence a federal election. Nothing wrong with that. Citizens are supposed to do that. But liberals have been the prime movers in enacting laws against doing so with soft money, which organizations such as ACT exist to receive.