

Then, in 1992, Senator Adams was elected to the Indiana Senate, and currently serves as Chair of the Governmental Affairs & Interstate Cooperation Subcommittee and is a ranking member of the Environmental Affairs and Natural Resources committees. He also serves on the Pensions and Labor committee.

Senator Adams was recognized for achieving a one hundred percent voting attendance record, having been present for all 570 roll-call votes recorded during the 16 week long 2003 legislative session.

In addition to his duties at the Senate, Senator Adams has also been actively involved in his local community as a member of the Kosciusko County Historical Society and the Kosciusko County Retired Teachers Association. He has also served as a board member for the Bowen Center for Human Services and the Warsaw Community Development Corporation.

After 16 years in the Indiana General Assembly, Senator Adams recently announced that he would not seek re-election to Indiana Senate District 9 in 2004.

Upon the completion of his third term, Senator Adams looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Nancy, and their five children and fifteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know his constituents will be sorry to see him leave. But both they and his family can take comfort in the knowledge that he has both capably and honorably represented District Nine for the past 16 years.

I know that all of Senator Adams' colleagues agree with me in saying that they are proud to have served with him during his long and distinguished career.

I wish him and his family well.

BOY SCOUTS HONOR STEPHEN BARROUK WITH DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Mr. Stephen Barrouk, native of Wilkes-Barre, in Luzerne County, in my district, who is being honored by the Boy Scout Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to him as he is awarded the Distinguished Citizens Award at a dinner tonight at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Steve has served as President and CEO of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry since 1989. In this capacity, he manages three organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Committee for Economic Growth and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, Inc.

Steve attended E.L. Meyers High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he went on to the University of Pittsburgh, where he received his bachelor of arts degree in urban studies and economics and his master's degree in public administration.

Prior to his appointment in Wilkes-Barre, Steve worked in the Pittsburgh Department of City Development in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He later worked as Deputy Director of the Allegheny County Department of Development

and Executive Director of the Allegheny County Industrial, Hospital and Higher Education Authorities. On behalf of all of Northeastern Pennsylvania, I offer my gratitude to our colleagues in the western part of the state for educating Steve on economic development. At our first opportunity, we stole him back.

Steve is a current Board member and past Chairman of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. He serves on the Boards of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, the United Way of the Wyoming Valley, the Ethics Institute and Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

I am especially proud of the leadership Steve has shown as an original member of the Board of the Earth Conservancy, non-profit, charitable organization that I helped to establish to restore, preserve, and develop more than 17,000 acres of land throughout Luzerne County previously owned by a bankrupt coal company. We worked very closely together on this project, which I believe will have a profound impact on present and future generations of Northeastern Pennsylvanians. Especially in the earliest days of the organization, we endured a great deal of criticism and controversy.

Like the Earth Conservancy, the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority generated a great deal of controversy in its early days and has since been recognized as an overwhelming success for the entire region. Steve Barrouk served as chairman of this authority and continues to serve on the board. It is for his willingness to step forward and lead efforts that may be controversial but serve the long-term interests of the community that Steve deserves the greatest commendations.

Steve is also a member of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, Northeast Economic Development Association and the International Research Council. He has also served on the Board of the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic Society and was a member of the Osterhout Free Library Long-Term Planning Committee and Downtown Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to represent a man who has tirelessly served our community. Northeastern Pennsylvania is a stronger community because of the service of Steve Barrouk, and I can think of no higher compliment for a man. I am pleased to join the Boy Scouts in honoring this man who has worked so earnestly to improve the quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDNA WILSON MOSLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Edna Mosley for her selfless dedication to the community of Jefferson County, Colorado, and congratulate her on receiving the "Power of One" award at the 2004 Colorado Woman Conference. The conference recognizes individual women, selected by Colorado newswomen, who have made an extraordinary difference in their community, and it is my privilege to acknowledge Edna before this body of Congress and this nation today.

As an active member in her community, Edna dedicates her efforts to a vast array of civic functions. Tamara Banks of KWGN-TV selected Edna for this award in recognition of her hard work and dedication toward the redevelopment of Lowry Air Force Base and Fitzsimons Army Base. When Lowry was decommissioned, Edna helped transform Lowry into a popular home development and community with shops and stores, and Fitzsimons now houses the prestigious Colorado University Health Science Center. Her extensive involvement in Aurora includes serving on the Aurora City Council for three terms, serving as co-founder of the Denver-Nairobi Sister Cities Committee, and serving as president and chair of Denver Sister Cities International.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Edna Mosley today before this body of Congress and this nation and congratulate her on receiving the "Power of One" award. Her exceptional civic service has done much for the betterment of the City of Aurora and the State of Colorado. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING THE 183RD ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE.

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the 183rd anniversary of Greek Independence. This special day for Greece commemorates the strength and determination of its people to restore their democratic roots and identity.

The political philosophies of both the United States and Greece have been challenged by oppressive powers, and both nations have proudly defended their right to self-government and individual freedoms. After showing a desire to be free from the Ottoman Empire in 1821, Greece endured eleven long years of war to succeed in gaining independence. American and Hellenic cultures greatly respect their tradition of independence and recognize the importance of democratic principles.

The United States and Greece have always enjoyed a friendship and alliance in international and cultural endeavors. Hellenic principles resonate in our culture and politics, since the United States was founded on the principles of democracy developed thousands of years ago in the city-states of ancient Greece. The beauty of Greek architecture can even be found while taking a walk through our beloved Capitol building. Likewise, our country's influence on Greece can be seen in their first Constitution, which was based on our Declaration of Independence and the principles behind the American Revolution.

On a cultural level, I am looking forward to this summer and the homecoming of the Olympic Games to Athens. Since Greece resurrected the Olympics in 1896, they have symbolized peace and excellence for people around the world. The Olympics show that great athletic skill and spirited competition can bring nations together despite their differences. Greece will undoubtedly serve as a gracious host of the Games, and the 25th Summer Olympics will prove again to the

world how Hellenic ideals such as equality and friendship have stood the test of time and continue to flourish at a global level. Hellenic culture, whether through its development of democratic government or its espousal of friendly competition, encourages people to come together amicably even during the most difficult of times.

Mr. Speaker, it would be hard to imagine a United States of America, or even the world, without the great contributions from Greece. I will continue to work in Congress to support Hellenic causes and our strong and important alliance. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Greece on the anniversary of its independence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this anniversary.

THE TELEVISION CONSUMER FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Television Consumer Freedom Act, legislation repealing regulations that interfere with a consumer's ability to obtain desired television programming. The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals federal regulations that would increase the cost of a television.

My office has received numerous calls from rural satellite and cable TV customers who are upset because their satellite or cable service providers have informed them that they will lose access to certain network and cable programming. The reason my constituents cannot obtain their desired satellite and cable services is that the satellite and cable "marketplace" is fraught with government interventionism at every level. Local governments have historically granted cable companies franchises of monopoly privilege. Government has previously intervened to invalidate "exclusive dealings" contracts between private parties, namely cable service providers and program creators, and has most recently imposed price controls. The Library of Congress has even been delegated the power to determine prices at which program suppliers must make their programs available to cable and satellite programming service providers.

It is, of course, within the constitutionally enumerated powers of Congress to "promote the progress of Science and Useful Arts by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." However, operating a clearing-house for the subsequent transfer of such property rights in the name of setting a just price or "instilling competition" via "central planning" seems to be neither economically prudent nor justifiable under this enumerated power. This process is one best reserved to the competitive marketplace.

It is impossible for the government to set the just price for satellite programming. Over regulation of the cable industry has resulted in competition among service providers for government privilege rather than free market competition among providers to offer a better product at a lower price. While federal regulation does leave satellite programming service pro-

viders free to bypass the governmental royalty distribution scheme and negotiate directly with owners of programming for program rights, there is a federal prohibition on satellite service providers making local network affiliates' programs available to nearby satellite subscribers. This bill repeals that federal prohibition so satellite service providers may freely negotiate with program owners for programming desired by satellite service subscribers. Technology is now available by which viewers could view network programs via satellite as presented by their nearest network affiliate. This market-generated technology will remove a major stumbling block to negotiations that should currently be taking place between network program owners and satellite service providers.

This bill also repeals federal laws that force cable companies to carry certain programs. These federal "must carry" mandates deny cable companies the ability to provide the programming their customers' desire. Decisions about what programming to carry on a cable system should be made by consumers, not federal bureaucrats.

The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals federal regulations that mandate that all TVs sold in the United States contain "digital technology." In complete disregard of all free market and constitutional principles, the FCC actually plans to forbid consumers from buying TVs, after 2006 that are not equipped to carry digital broadcasts. According to Stephen Moore of the CATO Institute, this could raise the price of a TV by as much as \$250 dollars. While some television manufacturers and broadcasters may believe they will benefit from this government-imposed price increase, they will actually lose business as consumers refrain from purchasing new TVs because of the government mandated price increase.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government should not interfere with a consumer's ability to purchase services such as satellite or cable television in the free market. I therefore urge my colleagues to take a step toward restoring freedom by cosponsoring my Television Consumer Freedom Act.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4020, STATE VETERANS HOME NURSE RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 4020, the State Veterans Home Nurse Recruitment Act of 2004, a bill to assist state veterans' homes in hiring and retaining nurses. Mr. Evans, the gentleman from Illinois and Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, joins me as an original cosponsor of this important legislation.

H.R. 4020 would allow states which already receive per diem payments and have an established employee incentive programs to apply to receive up to 50 percent of the annual cost of such incentive programs, but no more than 2 percent of the annual amount of per diem payments per fiscal year. These funds would be paid from VA's health care budget, just as the per diem payments are now being paid.

State veterans' homes first began serving veterans in the wake of the Civil War. In 1888, Congress authorized the first Federal aid to states which maintained homes for disabled American soldiers and sailors in need of long term care. At the time, the payments amounted to about 30 cents per resident per day. In the years since, Congress has made several major revisions to the program to expand the base of payments to include specialized hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, and adult day health care.

Now the largest provider of long-term care to our nation's veterans, the state veterans' home system plays a vital role in caring for the growing number of aging veterans. The veteran population most in need of nursing home care, those veterans 85 years or older, grew from about 387,000 in FY 1998 to 870,000 in FY 2003, more than a 100 percent increase over the past five years. This veteran population is expected to continue to rise to about 1.3 million by mid-decade.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2002 surveyed the 50 states and Puerto Rico to learn how states are responding to needs for health care workers. Ninety percent reported a shortage of nursing staff as a major concern in their responses. In efforts to respond to these nursing and other health work force shortages, 44 of 50 states reported establishing task forces and commissions to study and seek solutions. The focus of the task forces or commissions in 25 states was to study shortages in the long-term care work force.

While the HHS study documented the extent of the problems nationally, I am aware of difficulties that the three New Jersey state veterans' homes in Vineland, Paramus and Menlo Park, have faced over the past several years in recruiting and retaining quality nursing staff. The nursing shortage in my state of New Jersey was reported by HHS to be among the three highest in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to ensure that our veterans receive the benefits that they have earned through their service, including long-term care of high quality. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4020.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BETTY PROCTOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Betty Proctor for her selfless dedication to the community of Jefferson County, Colorado, and congratulate her on receiving the "Power of One" award at the 2004 Colorado Woman Conference. This award is bestowed upon women who have made a remarkable impact on their community, and Betty could not be a more worthy recipient.

Betty's life has always revolved around public service, having established more than thirty non-profit organizations over the years. After retiring from the Jefferson County Social Services six years ago, Betty has dedicated her time to an organization she founded, called Helping Hearts & Hands. The organization raises money for people who need emergency