

knowing that he brought much joy to his Glenwood Springs community. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his wife Connie, his mother Nella and stepfather Hal, his son Christopher, and his brother Mark during this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUD CASH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, public officials are held to a higher standard. We are held to a higher standard because we have been selected by our neighbors and our communities to serve their interests.

Claud Cash was an elected official who exceeded the high standards his constituents laid before him. His death took a pillar of the community from us; he was a leader in the state of Arkansas and an example of how to serve those we represent.

Mr. Cash served as past presidents of the Trumann Lions Club and the MidSouth Farm Equipment Dealers Association and on the Boards of Directors for Liberty Bank and St. Bernard's Foundation Board. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, AR, the University Heights Lions Club and Trumann Masonic Lodge #693.

As a public servant, Mr. Cash served two terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives where he became the first freshman representative to be elected to the Joint Budget Committee. He later served one term in the Arkansas Senate. Throughout his public service, Mr. Cash had a reputation for bipartisan leadership, an unwavering dedication to his constituents and a sharp, legislative mind.

His business dealings were honorable and he was trusted by friends and competitors alike. His word was his bond as was the gold-
en rule.

As we recall Mr. Cash's exceptional career, we find his accomplishments as an elected official pale only in comparison to his strong devotion to his family and his community. On behalf of the Congress, I extend sympathies to his family, and gratitude for all he did to make the world a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ("NOPEC") ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC)" Act of 2004, legislation that subjects a group of competing oil producers, like the OPEC nations, to U.S. antitrust law when they act together to restrict supply or set prices. I am joined by Representatives LOFGREN and MCINTYRE.

In recent days, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first Gulf War. Since January, oil prices have climbed more than fifteen percent, driving gas-

oline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia.

The group of eleven nations comprising OPEC are a classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for more than a third of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent about 55 percent of the oil traded internationally. This makes OPEC's influence on the oil market dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

And this is exactly what OPEC has decided to do again. Just today OPEC announced that it will cut its production target by 4 percent—or by 1 million barrels per day—starting in April. This move will undoubtedly drive our oil and gasoline prices through the roof.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective. It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws. It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. Federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAMOSA HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT STUDENTS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a truly talented class of students from Alamosa, Colorado. The students from teacher Buckley Bangert's Advanced Placement American Government class recently competed in an annual competition that teaches high school students about the Constitution. These motivated students have taken an active interest in our country's political process, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing their tremendous achievements before this body of Congress.

Alamosa High School Advanced Placement Government students studied for months to prepare for their roles as constitutional expert witnesses in simulated congressional hearings. Students addressed issues such as the development and expansion of the Bill of Rights, and the historical and philosophical ideas that underlie the Constitution. The students placed first in the district competition, and tied for fourth place at the State competition. The Alamosa students' prowess and extensive knowledge attracted the attention of the State judges, who extolled the team for achieving one of the highest scores for a first time attempt at the State level.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor the students from Alamosa High School for their remarkable achievements in the constitutional competition. The dedication of the students and their teacher, Buckley Bangert, are certainly commendable, and it is with great pleasure I recognize them today before this body of Congress and this nation. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOYLE AND RAYE ROGERS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, today more than ever, we must recognize commitments made by Americans who realize the best way to grow an economy is through continued investment infrastructure. I rise today to pay tribute to a great business and civic leader and a great Arkansan; I am honored to recognize Doyle Rogers in the Congress.

In a day and age when the presiding belief is in order to grow up and succeed you must escape Rural America, Doyle Rogers and his family lived in Batesville, Arkansas for more than 50 years, proving success comes with hard work, not a change of zip code.

His commitment to local business development is unparalleled. Mr. Rogers has started many businesses in Batesville—including the one which bares his name, the Doyle Rogers Company, a commercial real estate development firm. It was with that company in 1982 he developed and opened the Excelsior Hotel, now the Peabody Hotel, and the adjoining Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

The opening of the Peabody—one of the finest hotels in the country—would suffice as anyone's crowning achievement, but Mr. Rogers did so much more. He bought Metropolitan National Bank, headquartered in Little Rock, in 1983. Today, it is Central Arkansas' largest independently-owned bank employing more than 350 people. In 1985, he developed the 25-story Rogers Building, now the Stephens Building, in downtown Little Rock.

He holds honorary doctorates from Lyon College in Batesville and Philander Smith College in Little Rock. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of Hendrix College and has served on the Advisory Board of the School of Business at the University of Arkansas. He has served as the President of the Batesville Chamber of Commerce.

In 2001, he was named Business and Professional Person of the Year by the Rotary Club in Little Rock and was presented the William F. Rector Memorial Award by Fifty For

the Future, a group of business and professional leaders in Greater Little Rock.

Doyle Rogers and his wife Josephine Raye Rogers have proved like-minded people tend to attract each other. In 2001, the White River Medical Center in Batesville received a unique Valentine's Day gift when Doyle Rogers and his wife Raye announced a gift of \$1 million to the hospital. It is the largest gift in the hospital's 25-year history. The gift was used as seed money for the Josephine Raye Rogers Center for Women and Imaging.

Raye, as she's known to her friends, complements Doyle well, proving her commitment to the community is as strong as her love for her husband. The Rogers' are truly a perfect match—and a shining example of the compassion our country occasionally lacks.

Mr. Rogers knows the people of Rural America will move this country ahead. He is a great business man, an impassioned community leader and a devoted family man. On behalf of the Congress, I extend a deep sense of appreciation for all he did to drive Arkansas and this nation forward.

INTRODUCING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONNECTIONS CAMPAIGN ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Domestic Violence Connections Campaign Act" of 2004, legislation that ensures that the National Domestic Violence Hotline continues to provide the essential services it has been providing since it was created in 1996. I am joined by Representative HART.

The Hotline was created by the Violence Against Women Act and answered its first call on February 21, 1996. By August 2003 it answered its one millionth call, an increase of approximately 133 percent. This is due in large part to public awareness of domestic violence and public promotion of the Hotline. Today, on average the Hotline receives almost 16,000 calls a month.

The Hotline is primarily funded by federal dollars that come from annual federal spending bills. However, as the Hotline's call volume continues to increase exponentially, funding has failed to keep pace. To keep up, the Hotline needs new equipment, new connection capability, and new data protection technology. Because its system is so outdated, over 26,000 calls last year went unanswered due to long hold times or busy signals.

The Connection Campaign is a combination of public and private efforts to bring the Hotline up to speed. It teams up private telecommunication and technology companies with the federal government to solve the Hotline's crisis and guarantee that the Hotline can answer every call. Under the Connection Campaign, companies like Microsoft, Sony, BellSouth, Verizon Wireless, IBM, Dell and others, may donate hardware and software such as cell phones, home computers, mapping software, flat-screened monitors, and telephone airtime to the Hotline.

On the public side of the partnership, Representative HART and I are joining Senator

BIDEN in introducing legislation to bridge the digital divide. Our bill, the Domestic Violence Connections Campaign Act of 2004, has three components:

It mandates that federal appropriations to be used to review and analyze data generated by the Hotline include technology training for Hotline advocates so that every new telephone, computer, and database will be used to its fullest capacity.

It provides a new research grant program to be used to review and analyze data generated by the Hotline. Administered by the Attorney General, the grant program will study trends, gaps in service and geographical areas of need. The findings of this research will be reported to Congress within 3 years of its enactment.

It provides a grant program for the Hotline to increase public awareness about the Hotline's services and domestic violence generally.

The Connections Campaign and this legislation are important next steps in our fight to defeat domestic violence and assist victims. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and thank Phyllis Taylor for her leadership and contributions to Aspen, Colorado, as principal of Aspen Middle School. I would also like to pay tribute to her excellent 40-year career in education and service to her Aspen community. As Phyllis celebrates her retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work she has done in her 40-year career as an educator in Aspen.

Phyllis Taylor will leave Aspen Middle School at the end of this school year after a 2-year tenure, in which she helped to maintain the high level of achievement of the Aspen School District. The school routinely ranks in the top tier of Colorado school systems for academic performance. In fact, last fall Aspen Middle School was awarded the John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award, which is issued to schools that perform in the top 8 percent of Colorado public schools. This was the first time the school had received this award. As she retires to spend more time with her family, Phyllis Taylor's skills as an educator will surely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service of Phyllis Taylor to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation, and to congratulate her on an outstanding career as an educator in Colorado. I would like to wish her the best in retirement and sincerely thank her for her service.

PFC LEROY SANDOVAL JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Pfc. Leroy Sandoval Jr., who died while bravely serving our country in Iraq.

Pfc. Sandoval was from Houston, Texas and graduated in 2000 from Harvest Christian Academy. He joined the Marines on May 19, 2003 and attended basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Pfc. Sandoval was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, in Camp Pendleton, California.

On March 26, 2004, less than 2 weeks after arriving in Iraq, Pfc. Sandoval suffered a fatal bullet wound in a gunfight between the 600 Marines stationed in Fallujah, Iraq, and rebel insurgents.

I know his parents, family and friends are devastated by this loss, but Pfc. Sandoval's family can be proud knowing that he died a hero while serving his country.

His loss will be felt by all of Houston, our state, and our Nation, and I ask that you remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHESTER MILAM

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Chester Milam, a notable citizen of Knoxville, Tennessee as well as a distinguished man in my home area of Oakland County, Michigan. Mr. Milam has owned and maintained Wendell's Barber Shop in Lathrup Village for the past 47 years and has recently announced he's retiring.

Mr. Milam has committed professionally to serve a loyal group of Oakland county customers, including me, for 37 years. He has played a significant role in our community, serving politicians, civic leaders, sports figures from the Detroit Red Wings, the Lions, and the Tigers, and not to mention people from every level of the community.

For the last nine years, Mr. Milam has driven 1,200 miles round trip, returning to Michigan from his home in Tennessee, one week per month to continue the loyal service to his community. Not only has he taken great pride in his business, he has taken great pride in his customers, providing his own personal touch and great stories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Chester Milam on his retirement and his many years of dedication to serving the people of Oakland County, Michigan and extend our best wishes.