

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING ALEX PETTIT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Alex Pettit of Denton, Texas on receiving the 2005 Best of Texas Award for Demonstrated Leadership in Management of Information Technology.

The Best of Texas Awards program was established to salute Information Technology professionals in Texas State and local government organizations for their dedication, hard work and contributions. An Evaluation Committee reviews submissions and selects recipients for each of the 9 categories. The Demonstrated Leadership in Management of Information Technology award is available only to Chief Information Officers or Agency Chief Information Officers who have staffed, planned and executed technology plans that have assisted their jurisdiction, department, or agency in meeting its mission. The winner of this category is judged on the basis of vision, leadership and support of IT throughout the department, agency and the entire jurisdiction.

This year, the Demonstrated Leadership in Management of Information Technology Award was given to Mr. Pettit by the Center for Digital Government for providing outstanding leadership and technical direction to the City of Denton. Mr. Pettit's responsibilities include negotiation and management of all system procurements and implementations, security, tactical and strategic planning for technology solutions and services to support the City, and coordination of all phones and pagers used by City personnel. Through these responsibilities, Mr. Pettit has succeeded in implementing the goal of the City of Denton to be a leader among cities in the delivery of outstanding quality services and products through the utilization of innovation, citizen involvement, and efficient use of resources. The award was presented to Mr. Pettit on October 19, 2005 at the Center for Digital Government's award ceremony in Austin, Texas.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Alex Pettit for receiving the 2005 Best of Texas Award. His contributions to the technology industry and his service to the Denton community should inspire us all.

HONORING FATHER BRENDAN O'SULLIVAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a distinguished man who has selflessly served the Sacramento area for almost 50 years. Father Brendan O'Sullivan retires

this month from St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Sacramento. As his parishioners, friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate his decades of ministerial service, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

Father O'Sullivan hails from Ireland, where he was born in Beara and studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's Seminary in Thurles. Shortly after being ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1956 he traveled to California to begin service in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento.

His first assignment in the diocese was as associate pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Redding. Father O'Sullivan then served at various northern California churches, including St. Lawrence Parish in North Highlands. He served as a Catholic chaplain to the Newman Center at the University of California at Davis from 1962 to 1965 and continued working with Catholic youth as chaplain of the Newman Center at American River College and as an educator at St. Francis High School in Sacramento.

In 1972 he accepted an assignment as a faculty member and director of campus ministry at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, CA. Later, Father O'Sullivan was called back to serve in the Diocese of Sacramento as associate pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Clarksburg.

In 1974 Father O'Sullivan was asked to establish a new parish in the Pocket area of Sacramento and was appointed by Bishop Alden J. Bell to be the founding pastor of St. Anthony Parish. During the past 30 years, he has presided over the parish's phenomenal growth. His natural charm and openness to people from all walks of life surely was responsible for much of that growth. The parish now has over 2,000 families and is highly regarded across the Sacramento region.

During his tenure as pastor, Father O'Sullivan oversaw the building of the church, a religious education center and later a rectory. Additionally, a multipurpose Memorial Center was built in 1996 and the parish offices were expanded in 2002. Father O'Sullivan had the foresight to suggest that the church be structured around a central point of assembly that would unify the parishioners. The result was a central plaza where parishioners gather before and after Mass and where community events are now held. In addition, Father O'Sullivan has encouraged St. Anthony members to extend their outreach beyond the parish boundaries by participating in numerous social programs in Sacramento.

Father O'Sullivan has served the Diocese of Sacramento in various capacities beyond his role of pastor. He has been dean of the City Deanery, director of continuing education of priests for the diocese, a member of the Council of Priests and the Priest's Personnel Board and an advisor in the Diocesan Synod process. He also took a sabbatical to study at the University of Louvain in Belgium, one of the great centers of Catholic learning.

Father O'Sullivan has been a visionary leader in implementing the reforms and vision of

the Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council. He urged his parishioners to not be afraid of discussing controversial issues, because he is certain that a healthy church is one that allows for the free exchange of ideas. Throughout his tenure, he has proven to be an effective consensus builder, a pragmatic thinker and a tireless worker, who has earned the respect and admiration of those who have worked with him.

Mr. Speaker, as Father O'Sullivan's parishioners, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate his great service in the ministry, I am truly honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. We all have greatly benefited from having Father O'Sullivan's strong leadership in our community. His dedication to the people of Sacramento spans decades, many churches and thousands of families. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Father O'Sullivan continued success and happiness in all of this future endeavors, wherever his retirement may lead him.

COMMEMORATING THE UNITED NATIONS AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Nations at its 60th anniversary and honor the organization for its many contributions to humanity over the last 60 years.

The United Nations came into being on October 24, 1945, when 50 countries pledged to work to promote international peace, security and human rights after suffering through two World Wars and the Holocaust. Sixty years later, we have, indeed, avoided another global war and seen the U.N. protect the lives of millions by creating the circumstances for peace in some 170 disputes around the world.

The 21st century is profoundly different than the world in which the United Nations was created. Threats of terrorism, natural disaster, and poverty heighten the role that the United Nations plays in securing peace and stability worldwide. The United Nations promotes democracy where it has not existed, helping to build democratic institutions and hold elections in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. The United Nations operates 17 peacekeeping missions in regions of strategic importance to the United States, such as Sudan, the Middle East, the India-Pakistani border, and Haiti.

Then there are the important works of the United Nations affiliated organizations. The International Atomic Energy Agency is leading a global effort to secure nuclear materials and guarantee that they are used for legal and peaceful reasons. The World Food Program provides life-saving food assistance to millions of famine stricken people every year, while the

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

Food and Agriculture Organization helps improve the long-term sustainability of providing good nutrition in developing countries. Efforts of the World Health Organization and UNICEF have drastically improved vaccination rates for preventable diseases in children. International conventions and programs undertaken by United Nations agencies have helped to strengthen the rights of women, refugees, and victims of human rights abuses, and 10 United Nations agencies are helping to treat and prevent the AIDS epidemic in 130 countries.

I congratulate the United Nations on the anniversary of its 60th year, and encourage the United States and Congress to further their support for a strong and effective United Nations.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ABC-CLIO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor 50 years of reference publishing and involvement with local community schools and libraries by the Santa Barbara publisher, ABC-CLIO. ABC-CLIO is a privately held company founded by the Boehm family and is now in its second generation of ownership. The company's corporate headquarters is located in Santa Barbara, California, with additional offices in Denver, Colorado, and Oxford, England.

Committed to serving the history profession and its teachers, as well as students and scholars of history, ABC-CLIO annually publishes approximately 80 encyclopedias, guides, and handbooks. Since 1991, this acclaimed reference book-line has won over 60 best-reference awards from the American Library Association and Library Journal.

The best-known publications by ABC-CLIO are the abstracting and indexing services, Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life, which together represent the largest bibliographic history database in the world. Its award-winning social studies databases reach students in thousands of schools nationally.

I commend Eric H. Boehm, Inge P. Boehm, Fritz Fellner, and John A.S. Grenville for founding Historical Abstracts 50 years ago. This pioneering publication connects the international community of historians, making writings of the international history community known and accessible to historians and history students worldwide.

ABC-CLIO is also committed to serving our local community by actively participating in Partners in Education, United Way, and numerous other local programs. ABC-CLIO and CEO Ron Boehm have supported the nationally recognized Computers for Families, which is the flagship program for Partners in Education, since its inception eight years ago.

I commend ABC-CLIO on its 50th Anniversary and recognize them for the important role they play in our community and our world by ensuring that historical scholarship is accessible to historians and students across the globe.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VISITING
NURSE ASSOCIATION OF HOLYOKE, MA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Visiting Nurse Association, Inc for 100 years of service and care to the community of Holyoke, MA. Officially organized on November 28, 1905 at the Second Baptist Church of Holyoke, the District Nurse Association, as it was then known, began raising money to bring nursing to residents who were unable to access healthcare because of their humble origins.

In 1918, the association became incorporated and eventually, under the first supervisor, Emma Schenker, changed the name and became the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.

In the early years this community-based nursing service evolved under the guidance of the National League for Nursing as a charter member. It established scholarships to promote the availability of nurses and found funding to continue the level of care needed for the city of Holyoke's blue collar workers and their families.

By 1956, 51 percent of the Holyoke Visiting Nurses funding came from the United Way, then known as the Holyoke Community Chest. In 1965 the agency became certified by Medicare and Medicaid and later purchased property for a permanent residence, both of which further stabilized their presence in the community of Holyoke.

The Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association went on to receive accreditation from the National League of Nursing in 1979. In 1984 they diversified into three affiliated subsidiaries so as to better serve their clients, and in 1990 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts licensed and certified Hospice Life Care specializing in caring for a patient's final stages of life.

During the early 1990's the VNA, with growth of 20 percent, was given official accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. Later in the same decade, because of service expansion to other geographic areas in the region, the VNA experienced unprecedented growth for a total of 211,334 visits and the serving of 2,912 patients by 400 employees in 1 year.

With the beginning of the new millennium, budget cuts from Medicaid and Medicare caused the VNA to reorganize, reduce workforce and office space, and to freeze wages in order to survive. Then in October of 2000 the Medicare Prospective Payment System changed the reimbursement environment and relieved the financial constraints on the agency.

Presently with advances in technology and the ability to monitor patients 7 days a week, the VNA is able to benchmark against State and national norms for quality of care and patient/customer satisfaction. In 2004 the agency received the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Pacesetter Award for Non-Profit Operational Excellence.

In conclusion, the VNA for the past 100 years has maintained the primary theme of affordable patient care by making 2 million visits

to over 30,000 patients. I am proud to recognize the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association for their dedication and commitment to the care of the residents of this region.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL
COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H.R. 800, the virtually identical House version of this legislation, I rise today to clear up any questions that might arise when trying to understand the intent of S. 397 and what its enactment would accomplish. The Protection of Lawful Coercion in Arms Act will eliminate predatory lawsuits that would otherwise cripple an entire industry.

First, let me make two points about what the bill will not do. Nothing in the bill is intended to allow "leap-frogging" over the gun dealer to the manufacturer. The negligent entrustment provision applies specifically to the situation where a dealer knows or reasonably should know that a dangerous person is purchasing a firearm. When the manufacturer has done nothing but sell a legal, non-defective product according to the law, the negligent entrustment provision would not allow a plaintiff to pass of the gun dealer to get to the deeper pockets of the distributor or manufacturer.

The amendment in the Senate offered by Senators FRIST and CRAIG regarding "administrative proceedings" removed any confusion or misinformed rhetoric regarding the "administrative proceedings" section. This legislation will have no effect on the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms or any administrative agency to revoke licenses or otherwise engage in administrative proceedings to punish bad acting manufacturers, distributors, or dealers, or otherwise enforce the laws and regulations that apply to them. While I do not think the amendment was necessary because neither my bill nor S. 397 as introduced by Senator CRAIG did so, now there can be no question. ATF is authorized to begin enforcement proceedings when a violation of our Nation's Federal gun laws has occurred.

I want the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to clearly reflect some specific examples of the type of predatory lawsuits this bill will immediately stop. The bill was drafted to require courts where these cases are pending or filed to dismiss them on their own motions, what the lawyers call *sua sponte*. One of the primary purposes of this legislation is to not force defendants to incur the additional costs and delay of filing motions and arguing, and certainly not to go through costly trials and appeals of cases that the bill requires be dismissed forthwith. The predatory lawsuits that this bill will stop are an abuse of courts and law-abiding businesses and individuals.

A clear cut example is the case of the City of New York v. Beretta USA Corp. et al, currently set for trial on November 27 in Federal court in Brooklyn, NY. The plaintiff has asserted that industry members have created a "public nuisance." The lawful sale of a highly regulated product later misused by criminals is not a public nuisance, and has never been