

Also, the bill does not require banks to issue "substitute checks" under the Check 21 law without any fee; instead it simply says that if the bank decides to charge for the substitute check, then the bank cannot insist that the consumer get that document in order to exercise the consumer's right to a ten business day timeframe to get back funds lost due to a check processing problem, such as a check being paid twice.

Banks benefit from faster check-processing facilitated by Check 21. They should also have to give their customers faster credit for deposits.

FIRST LIEUTENANT KEVIN R.  
DENECKE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Michigan State Police, First Lieutenant Kevin Denecke. On January 28th, F/Lt. Denecke retired as the Commander of the Manistique State Police Post in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, closing the final chapter of his career dedicated to serving the people of the State of Michigan. F/Lt. Denecke's 25 years as a law enforcement officer and leader stand as a shining example to us all.

A native of the Detroit area, Kevin R. Denecke graduated from Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn, Michigan in 1974. He then went on to attend Northern Michigan University in Marquette where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement and security administration, graduating cum laude in 1978.

In the fall of 1979, Kevin began his career with the Michigan State Police as a graduate of the 96th Recruit School, and was assigned to the Munising Post. Over the years he has served in communities across the State of Michigan as a shift supervisor, a narcotics officer, on the Governor's security detail, and as a unit commander.

In May 1989, he was promoted to Detective Lieutenant and became the commander of the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET). During his final tenure as commander of UPSET, his multi-jurisdictional street narcotics team covered twelve counties of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

After three years leading UPSET, Mr. Denecke was promoted to First Lieutenant, and made commander of the Manistique Post. Known as "the LT" to the officers at the post, F/Lt. Denecke has earned a reputation throughout his career as a strong leader who goes out of his way to help the officers under him grow and advance professionally.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a former State Trooper myself, I have had the pleasure of knowing F/Lt. Denecke over the years, particularly during his time undercover and when he was on the Governor's detail. I have always enjoyed his friendship, and admired his service to the people of Michigan's First Congressional District.

Although F/Lt. Denecke's career with the Michigan State Police has ended, he will continue to serve the public as the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's Upper

Peninsula representative. In this new role, he will be helping local governments reduce their personal and liability risks while better serving their residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking First Lieutenant Kevin R. Denecke for his 25 years of service to the people of the State of Michigan and in wishing him well in his new position. His commitment to community and to justice have been a model of public service. He will be missed by the Michigan State Police and the people he so competently and bravely served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM FEENEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, on the dates of February 8–10, 2005, I was absent from session attending to personal matters following the death of a family member. I was unable to attend 12 votes held during my absence. I would like to note for the record that had I been present I would have voted as follows:

"Yea," rollcall 20, February 8, H. Res. 46, on motion to suspend the rules and agree; "yea," rollcall 21, February 8, H.R. 315, on motion to suspend the rules and pass; "yea," rollcall 22, February 8, H.R. 548, on motion to suspend the rules and pass; "yea," rollcall 23, February 9, H. Res. 71, on consideration of the resolution; "yea," rollcall 24, February 9, H. Con. Res. 6, on motion to suspend the rules and pass; "yea," rollcall 25, February 9, H. Con. Res. 26, on motion to suspend the rules and agree; "yea," rollcall 26, February 9, H. Con. Res. 30, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended; "yea," rollcall 27, February 10, H. Res. 75, on agreeing to the resolution; "nay," rollcall 28, February 10, H.R. 418, on agreeing to the amendment (NADLER); "nay," rollcall 29, February 10, H.R. 418, on agreeing to the amendment (FARR); "nay," rollcall 30, February 10, H.R. 418, on motion to recommit with instructions; "yea," rollcall 31, February 10, H.R. 418, on passage.

HONORING ANNE MARIE FERGUSON OF THE LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of Anne Marie Ferguson to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians State Board of New York State.

Anne Marie Ferguson, the LAOH New York State President, has been a dedicated member for 36 years. She is a Syracuse native who graduated from Bishop Ludden High School and then went on to graduate from Maria Regina College in Syracuse.

Her many years of dedication to the LAOH resulted in her becoming a board member some 12 years ago. This in turn led to her election as State President in July 2003 where

she serves as a respected leader of this very important organization. The Hibernians clearly recognized the talent of this special person. I must also acknowledge with pride her continuing role as both mother and grandmother to her three children and two grandchildren. They are very proud of her with good reason.

It is an honor and a privilege to recognize the dedication of Anne Marie Ferguson to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians State Board of New York State. Her service and dedication to this organization is greatly appreciated.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, each year America hosts thousands of foreign students from around the globe. For those of us who develop a professional or personal relationship with any of these individuals, we are truly enriched by their different perspective on the world. My staff has been fortunate enough to host a young woman from Australia, Rhiannon Riches. Driven by her insatiable desire for knowledge and experience, Rhiannon has quickly become an asset to me, my staff, and the state of Delaware. Every day, her presence reminds us of the innumerable benefits available through cross-cultural exchange.

For over 100 years, Australia and the United States have enjoyed a unique partnership that has endured world wars, economic malaise, and our current battle with terrorism. This tradition continues through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which provides Australian students with the opportunity to experience American democracy first-hand through internships with Congressional offices.

The Uni-Capitol Program is the pro bono effort of former long-time House and Senate staffer Eric K. Federing. During the 1990s, Mr. Federing made extensive visits to Australian universities, where he lectured on government, politics, and news media. These visits were his impetus for the successful program that Uni-Capitol is today.

Currently, there are seven universities participating from across Australia. A dozen students travel to Washington, DC annually as part of the exchange, which has received support from both the U.S. and Australian governments. In 2004, Mr. Federing's firm, KPMG LLP, recognized the significance of the program with a Chairman's Award for Excellence in Volunteerism. However, according to Mr. Federing, the enthusiastic students who embrace this incredible opportunity are the true beating heart of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I know that our experience has not been unique. The other students and congressional hosts in 2005 should be congratulated for participating in this exchange: Julian Barendse (Melbourne University) in the office of Sen. CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska; Anna Birmingham (University of Western Australia) in the office of Rep. BOB NEY of Ohio and the House Administration Committee, majority; Kirstan Fulton (University of Wollongong) in the office of Rep. SAM FARR of California;

Alethea Giles (Macquarie University) in the office of Rep. JERROLD NADLER of New York; Sana Nakata (Melbourne University) in the office of Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida; Yvonne Oberhollenzer (University of Queensland) in the office of Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California; Lauren Reed (Deakin University) in the office of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, minority; Peita Richards (Macquarie University) in the office of the House Administration Committee, minority; Anthony Skews (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Science Committee, majority; Luke Toy (University of Canberra) in the office of Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut; and, Ariella Webb (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Small Business Committee, majority.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to our Australian friends for their unbridled enthusiasm, tireless work ethic, and friendship over these past two months. The relationships we have forged here will last a lifetime, and it is my sincere hope that every congressional office partake in a similar endeavor.

HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor Frederick Douglass, a great advocate of human rights. The Caring Institute along with the National Park Service is celebrating the 187th birthday of Frederick Douglass with an event called "Honoring Frederick Douglass: A Celebration of Black History." The celebration was held at Ford's Theatre on February 14.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery, and after eventually buying his freedom he went on to become a popular orator, author and publisher. He fought against discrimination of all types throughout his lifetime. Mr. Douglass played a great role in bringing about the abolition of slavery in America. He worked for women's rights as well, stating, "I would give women the vote, precisely as I insisted upon giving the colored man the right to vote. Right is of no sex—truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all and we are all brethren." Toward the end of his life, Mr. Douglass served as a recorder of deeds and marshal for the District of Columbia and also as an ambassador to Haiti.

I encourage my colleagues to remember this great man during this month honoring those who have played such an important part in our Nation's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to vote February 8 through February 10 of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 20 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 21 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 22 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 23 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 24 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 25 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 26 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 27 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 28 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 29 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 30 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 31 I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF BIKE  
COMMUTER ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman MARK FOLEY and I are introducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation covered by the qualified transportation fringe benefit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transportation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take advantage of this program may receive a tax exemption benefit totaling \$200 for participating in qualified parking plans or \$105 for transit or van-pool expenses. Employees may also opt to take cash compensation instead, which is subject to employment taxes. The Bike Commuter Act would extend these same Transportation Fringe Benefits to employees who choose to commute by bicycle, eliminating the disincentive for this alternative mode of transportation.

It's time to level the playing field for bicycle commuters. Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exist today. Nearly 500,000 Americans already ride their bicycles to work on a daily basis, and 52 percent of Americans want to bike more than they do. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation, demonstrating their significant potential for commuter use. Many Americans own one or more bicycles, but limit their use to recreational purposes. At a time when communities across the country are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, increase the safety of their neighborhoods, and decrease petroleum dependence, bicycles offer a wonderful alternative to driving for the more than 50 percent of the working population who commute five miles or less to work. In addition, since the adoption of ISTEA in 1991, Federal spending on bicycle facilities and infrastructure has increased dramatically, contributing to a significant improvement in the bicycling environment in a variety of communities.

This legislation is an important step in making the Federal Government a better partner for more livable communities. The Federal Government should further support these goals by providing transportation benefits to people who choose to commute in a healthy,

environmental, efficient and neighborhood-friendly fashion.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WILSON  
HARLEY, ESQ.

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a woman I am proud to represent in Congress, Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq. Ms. Harley was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award on February 15, 2005.

It is only fitting that Joyce Wilson Harley be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for she has a long career of dedication to public service.

Joyce's recognition today as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award is quite appropriate. As the first African American elected to the Board of Trustees for the Village of South Orange, Joyce has been a leader and a role model in the African-American community.

After completing her honors degree at the Douglass College of Rutgers University, Joyce went on to complete her Juris Doctorate at Rutgers Law School. In addition to serving as a Village Trustee in South Orange, Joyce was also elected Village President.

Prior to assuming her current position as Executive Director of the Newark Downtown District, Joyce has held numerous positions in the area of community and neighborhood development. One of her most prominent roles was during her tenure as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Multi City Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Under her leadership, NJ LISC expanded its investment in the 14 municipalities it serves to twice its original size.

Ms. Harley's devotion to community development extends far beyond simply completing the task at hand. Her efforts were instrumental in the state of New Jersey implementing a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit law. This law brings \$20 million in new investment in New Jersey's most distressed cities.

Beyond her post with the Newark Downtown District, Joyce also donates her time for other worthy projects. She is currently the president of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Emergency Services for Families. Ms. Harley is also a past president of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I am far from the first to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Harley. In addition to receiving numerous awards for her work as the Director of Community Development for First Union and Fleet Banks, Joyce has also been recognized twice by the New Jersey State Legislature.

The New Jersey State Council on the Humanities awarded Joyce its first ever Civic Leadership award. In 2003 the Women in Support of the Million Man March awarded Joyce the coveted Community Relations award for her leadership in facilitating the receipt of financial assistance by community groups throughout the state in order to complete much needed neighborhood revitalization projects.