

also went on to earn an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement from Laredo Community College.

Mr. Agredano went on to work for the Laredo Fire Department for 7 years. For the past 25 years he has been an employee of the United States Post Office.

As a long life resident of Laredo, TX, Mr. Agredano went on to be elected to the Laredo City Council in 1998 and re-elected in 2002 in which he ran unopposed.

Councilman Agredano has been married to Geraldine Valdez for the past 21 years. He has 8 wonderful children and 3 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the hard work of Councilman Alfredo Agredano.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO
JUDGE JOAN HUMPHREY
LEFKOW AND FAMILY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere sympathy to Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow and her entire family after the tragic deaths of her husband, Michael F. Lefkow, and her mother, Donna Grace Humphrey.

The city of Chicago and the entire nation have been shaken by these horrific murders. While we watched the headlines every day this week, we ask ourselves how such terrible crimes could have taken place, and we hope those answers come sooner than later.

Michael Lefkow spent his life fighting to protect civil rights for all Americans—marching with Martin Luther King, Jr., arguing cases before the Supreme Court, and representing the poor and underserved in his law practice. To all who knew and loved him, Michael was a dedicated family man and an active member of his church who used his time and his expertise to make life better for so many others.

Judge Lefkow is also a dedicated public servant, committed to her family and her community and with a reputation for fairness in her judicial decisions.

I want to particularly express sympathy to Michael Lefkow's daughter and Donna Humphrey's granddaughter, Laura, who attended high school on the northwest side of Chicago, won my district's entry in the Congressional Arts Contest in 2003, and volunteered in my Washington office during the summer of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers and thoughts are with Judge Lefkow, Laura, and the entire Lefkow family in this difficult hour.

AMTRAK FUNDING

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my dissatisfaction with the President's Fiscal Year 2006 budget that zeroes out funding for Amtrak, eliminates funding for high-speed rail, and provides \$360 million to the Surface Transportation Board to maintain ex-

isting commuter operations should Amtrak shut down.

The shutdown of Amtrak would cause wide disruption and hardship. Millions of passengers—many of whom can't afford a car or a plane ticket—would be stranded. Millions of travelers would be added to already congested roads and airports.

Residents of 106 U.S. cities, which have no air service and are well over 25 miles away from the nearest airport, would have to find new transportation alternatives.

Amtrak's 20,000 workers would be out on the streets looking for new jobs. Local economies and businesses that have benefited from Amtrak's service would suffer.

Amtrak serves my state of Ohio with four long-distance trains: The Capital Limited (daily Chicago-Cleveland-Pittsburgh-Washington, DC); The Cardinal (tri-weekly Chicago-Cincinnati-Washington, DC-New York); The Lake Shore Limited (daily Chicago-Cleveland-Buffalo-Boston-New York); and The Three Rivers (daily New York-Philadelphia-Akron-Chicago).

During Fiscal Year 2004 Amtrak served the following Ohio locations:

City and ridership: Akron—7,930; Alliance—2,324; Bryan—6,204; Cincinnati—11,632; Cleveland—35,394; Elyria—2,651; Fostoria—1,935; Hamilton—1,483; Sandusky—4,098; Toledo—59,661, and Youngstown—4,417.

Total Ohio Ridership: 137,729.

Amtrak expended \$9,567,180 for goods and services in Ohio in Fiscal Year 2004. Much of this money was spent in the following locations: Cleveland, \$2,458,778; and Columbus \$1,540,264.

During fiscal year 2004, Amtrak employed 88 Ohio residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Ohio were \$4,609,915 during this period.

The Railroad Retirement and Unemployment programs, which cover employees of all railroads, freight and passenger, would be depleted. According to the Railroad Retirement Board, without the participation of Amtrak, employer and employee payroll taxes would need to be increased from the current 16 percent to 27 percent in 2027. Those tax increases, however, would ultimately be insufficient and serious cash flow problems for Railroad Retirement would begin in 2031.

Cash reserves for the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account would be exhausted by 2006, and nearly \$297 million would have to be borrowed from the Railroad Retirement account to make up for losses. Ultimately, Amtrak's unemployment benefit costs would be borne by other railroads. In Fiscal Year 2004, Ohio had a passenger rail ridership of 137,729.

While the United States once had a passenger rail system that was the envy of the world, a lack of capital investment has stalled the advancement of corridor development throughout the country.

Dependent upon an annual federal appropriation, Amtrak's national network is constantly threatened by under-investment, lack of a clearly articulated federal rail policy, and an uncertain future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my outrage over a budget that cuts out a program that carried 25 million passengers in 2004; operates a nationwide rail network, serving over 500 stations in 46 states on 22,000 miles of track with approximately 20,000 employees; and operates 300 daily intercity trains, ap-

proximately 850,000 commuters each day depend on operating agreements with Amtrak, Amtrak-owned infrastructure, or shared operations.

INTRODUCTION OF "INFORMATION PROTECTION AND SECURITY ACT" AND "SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills aimed at protecting the privacy of personally identifiable individual information and making it more difficult for unauthorized persons to obtain access to such data.

In *Bonfire of the Vanities*, the novelist Tom Wolfe wrote about "The Bororo Indians, a primitive jungle tribe who live along the Vermelho River in the Amazon Jungles of Brazil." According to Wolfe, the Bororos believed that "there is no such thing as a private self." Instead, they "regard the mind as an open cavity, like a cave or a tunnel or an arcade, if you will, in which the entire village dwells and the jungle grows." Wolfe compared this to the situation faced by his protagonist, Sherman McCoy, who was caught in the middle of a public scandal in the last quarter of the 20th century.

In the 21st century, we now face the prospect of a world in which all of us—not just someone in the midst of scandal—will be forced to live without a private self: with the entire "village" able to obtain access to some of the most personal aspects of our lives.

In the emerging surveillance society of the 21st century, the data mining and information brokerage firms, much like Wolf's Bororo Indians, believe that there is no such thing as a private self. These companies are collecting and selling a vast array of personal information about the American public. For a fee, these companies will tell you someone's Social Security number, their address, phone number, driver's license number, driving record, any criminal record information, court records, insurance claims, divorce records, and even credit and financial information.

Recent press reports indicate that ChoicePoint, an information broker and data mining firm, had allowed a group of Nigerian con artists to get access to names, Social Security numbers, and other personal information about 140,000 Americans, including roughly 1,100 Massachusetts residents. Apparently this is not the first time that ChoicePoint has allowed criminal identity thieves to get access to such information. Two years ago, a similar problem reportedly occurred at the same company.

Unchecked, these companies take advantage of the most valuable possessions that Americans have: their personal identities. Companies like ChoicePoint are playing Russian roulette with the personal information and identities of millions of Americans. If we don't take steps to protect America's consumers soon, it is not a question of whether or not more Americans will lose their privacy—it is question of when will the next ID theft scandal hit. We must take immediate action to protect consumers from more information breaches.

The "Information Protection and Security Act," which I am introducing today in the House, and which Senator NELSON of Florida is introducing in the Senate, would do three basic things:

1. Subject information brokers like ChoicePoint to federal regulation by the Federal Trade Commission, and specifically, require such brokers to comply with a set of new fair information practice rules that the FTC would be required to issue within 6 months of enactment.

2. The FTC rules that the bill mandates will require information brokers to better secure the information in their possession, grant consumers the right to obtain access to and correct information held by the broker, require information brokers to protect information from unauthorized users, and prohibit users of an information broker to obtain the information for impermissible or unlawful purposes.

3. The bill's requirements will be enforceable through the FTC, which would be empowered to bring civil actions to punish and fine violators; the State Attorney's General, who could bring similar actions; and consumers, who would be empowered to bring a private right of action.

My second bill, the "Social Security Number Protection Act," would bring a halt to unregulated commerce in Social Security numbers. This bill would make it a crime for a person to sell or purchase Social Security numbers. Under the bill, the FTC would be given rule-making authority to restrict the sale of Social Security numbers, determine appropriate exemptions, and to enforce civil compliance with the bill's restrictions. The bill would also authorize the States to enforce compliance, and provide for appropriate penalties.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and the Senate to see to it that these two bills are enacted into law.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE CARTER CASTEEL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carter Casteel for her service to the people of Texas.

Carter Casteel was born in Monahans, Texas. She comes from a family with a tradition of public service; her mother was Monahans city secretary during the community's early founding, and was one of the first women elected to office in West Texas.

Ms. Casteel studied at the University of Texas, where she majored in government and history. She received her Masters from Southwest Texas State University, and moved with her husband and children to New Braunfels.

After a stint as a public school teacher in Comal, she attended law school and began practicing law in 1985. She was elected to the office of Comal County Judge in 1990, and served there until 1999. She was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2001, and works to represent the Texas Hill country and its interests.

In addition to her public service career, Carter Casteel has found time to run a suc-

cessful law practice, Casteel and Casteel, with her son. She has also been involved in a wide variety of community organizations, including the Comal County United Way, Communities in Schools, Habitat For Humanity, and the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Committee. She had the honor of being appointed to the Battleship Texas Advisory Board by President George W. Bush, and has served as President of the Comal Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career, Carter Casteel has been an advocate for education, tax reduction, preservation of natural resources and the community values for which the Hill Country of Texas is known. She has done a great deal of good for her community, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to offer her my thanks.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE HENSEL

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. George Hensel, a recipient of the West San Gabriel Valley Boys and Girls Club Humanitarian Award. This prestigious award is being given to Mr. Hensel to recognize his lifetime achievements and accomplishments.

Mr. Hensel was born and raised in East Los Angeles and served our country honorably as a Merchant Marine from 1942 to 1950. Mr. Hensel has a long history of leadership in the community including: Chairman of the Board of Directors at Beverly Community Hospital; founding President and Board Member Emeritus of Beverly Community Hospital Foundation; Chairman of the Board of Directors at Woodbury University; President and Founder of the California Driving School Association; President and Co-Founder of Driving School Association of the Americans; member of the Board of Directors at Don Bosco Technical Institute; member of the Board of Directors of the Montebello Police Activities League; Chairman of the Montebello Planning Commission; Director of the West San Gabriel Valley Boys and Girls Club; advisory board member of the Salvation Army; Chairman of Assemblyman Jack Fenton's Citizen's Advisory Committee; member of District Attorney Evelle Youngers Citizen's Advisory Committee on crime; President of the East Los Angeles Rotary Club; and President of the Montebello Toastmasters Club. Mr. Hensel remains a Rotarian with 43 years of perfect weekly attendance.

The above community involvement is in addition to Mr. Hensel's significant achievements in his professional and personal life. He has received numerous honors and recognitions culminating in this recognition for his lifetime of accomplishments and community service. His loving family consists of 6 children, 20 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Hensel's contributions are a shining example of positive community involvement and service. It gives me great pleasure to honor Mr. George Hensel for a lifetime of service, dedication and philanthropic involvement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY MCKENNA

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ray McKenna of East Hartford, a community sports leader, champion, and friend, who passed away Tuesday, March 1, 2005.

A hometown hero, Ray defined integrity, commitment, and generosity of spirit and vision to his family and the East Hartford community. For kids like me growing up in East Hartford, the man from Burnside—Ray McKenna was a legend. At East Hartford High, Ray demonstrated his competitive nature in athletics and excelled at basketball, football and baseball. In 1939, he was the instrumental cog in East Hartford's first Connecticut state basketball championship. With a sense of duty to his country, Ray enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was stationed in the Philippines and the Aleutian Islands. Upon his return, Ray organized a local fast-pitch softball team, the legendary Burnside Dovelettes in 1947. For 30 years, he lead the Dovelettes to the top of the semipro league with a record of 1,831–339. While employed by the East Hartford Post Office, Ray formed the Marco Polo Explorers basketball team and coached them to 13 New England Basketball Association titles. In 35 years, the semipro team held an unparalleled record of 1,123 to 245. Ray also founded and directed the annual Tap-Off Club Hall of Fame dinner to honor East Hartford athletes for 28 years. Although Ray retired from the Post Office in 1985, his long interest in sports continued and he became Sports Editor for the East Hartford Gazette—the most widely read column in the town.

The impact Ray has had on the town of East Hartford is inspirational. In 1984, East Hartford honored Ray's devotion to athletics by dedicating a local sports field in his name. For over two decades, Ray McKenna Field has been the home for baseball teams of all ages, including the Hartford Hawks. In 1985, Ray was presented with the Gold Key, the most prestigious sports' award in the state of Connecticut. The Gold Key is awarded by the Connecticut Sports Writer's Alliance to those like Ray, who have made noteworthy contributions to athletics in Connecticut. Representing one of Connecticut's finest, Ray was also inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame at the University of Rhode Island in 2003.

With all his good works and awards of recognition, Ray will most be remembered for his honest love of the game. He lived everyday giving back to his community and inspired the best in all of us. To Ray, true victory was the result of discipline, confidence, and heart. His giving nature, generous laugh and Irish wit will be missed by all those who knew him. For my family and myself, we will forever treasure and value this wonderful man who so loved the game, the competition, and the camaraderie of sports and made it the centerpiece of his life in East Hartford, the state of Connecticut and throughout the Nation.

Our hearts go out to the entire McKenna family, especially his beloved wife Josephine,