

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington from my congressional district due to illness on April 5, 2005, and missed Rollcall vote numbers 91–93. Had I been present I would have voted “aye” on all three votes:

Rollcall Vote Number 91: H. Res. 108—Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania;

Rollcall Vote Number 92: H. Res. 120—Commending the efforts of the Armed Forces and civilian employees in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004; and

Rollcall Vote Number 93: H. Con. Res. 34—Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bajan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to expand broadband access into rural areas so that millions of Americans in this country are not left behind in our increasingly information-dependent society. I am introducing this bill with my colleague from Colorado, Rep. JOHN SALAZAR, and I greatly appreciate his support.

History has shown us that improvements in information-sharing have resulted in increased productivity, a better-educated society, and the growth of technology. The development and mainstream use of the Internet has changed how we conduct business and how we provide community services, and has revolutionized information sharing throughout the world.

The benefits the Internet has provided are invaluable. However, access to this technology has created a divide between haves and have-nots in our country. High speed broadband Internet is commonplace in most urban and suburban areas. Yet although nearly a quarter of the nation's population lives in rural America, rural access to broadband is either nonexistent or extremely costly.

Many rurally based industries are dependent on the rapid transfers of information. Being able to utilize broadband technologies would increase their productivity, efficiency, and in turn, profits. For example, accurate and timely weather predictions allow farmers to better gauge the necessary rate of fertilizer application necessary or use of irrigation to maximize their crop yield. Broadband technologies make in-depth predictions of temperature and rainfall accessible by any farmer throughout the world.

Hospitals are dependent on being able to send and receive information in order to save lives. However, many rural hospitals can barely afford to provide basic health services to their patients, let alone pay for access to broadband technology if it is even available.

Schools in rural areas are also at a disadvantage without access to the Internet. As students leave these schools to study at universities or to compete in the workforce, they start at a disadvantage to other students who have been educated from kindergarten with constant access to the information available online.

Comparisons have been drawn between broadband and the rural electrification. It took assistance from government and industry to bring electricity to rural areas in the 1930s. That kind of assistance is what is needed today to bridge the digital divide. Congress passed legislation in 2002 establishing a grant and loan program within the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to help fund broadband deployment in rural areas. But the broadband program is oversubscribed and underfunded. The president's FY06 request is down 34% from FY05 levels of \$545 million.

We need to push for funding for the RUS broadband program, but that isn't enough. Providing access to broadband technologies in rural America is an expensive endeavor for telecommunication companies. The cost of establishing a network to rural areas is hard to recover simply through subscriber fees. Most companies require an incentive before making such an investment. My bill, similar to the bill my colleague from Colorado, Senator SALAZAR, recently introduced, provides that necessary incentive.

First, my bill provides a tax incentive for companies that invest in broadband access in rural regions of our country. Specifically, broadband providers can expense the cost of equipment for, installation of, or connection to broadband services in the first year of service. It also encourages the development of “next generation” technology, typically more expensive, through the same type of incentive.

My bill also supports research in technologies that enhance broadband service and provide more effective and less expensive service to rural areas. It directs the National Science Foundation to conduct research into both the availability and access of broadband technologies. Research into advanced technologies that can provide telephone, cable television, and Internet service will enable the same equipment to provide these services and hopefully reduce costs in the process, allowing increased access.

Finally, my bill creates an office in the Department of Commerce to coordinate federal resources relating to rural broadband access. In the past, several agencies have been involved with the development and deployment of broadband. This office will provide a central point within the government to monitor this effort and reduce overlap within other agencies.

I believe this is important legislation that will provide rural regions the tools they need to increase economic opportunity and improve their quality of life. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE McLAUGHLIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannine McLaughlin for her unyielding

patriotism and support of our great country. Our Nation is fortunate to have people like Jeannine who support our country in unique, but very important ways.

During the summer on 2004, while building a new home in LaGrange, Illinois, Jeannine committed an extraordinary patriotic act: she asked for her house to be built only with products made from American companies.

Throughout the design and building process, Jeannine put forth an extreme amount of time and energy in researching even the minutest details of her home; all in hopes of realizing her American dream home. From the locks on her doors, to the tiles on her bathroom floors, Jeannine assured that all that could be made by American companies in America was used in her home.

Jeannine sacrificed time and money for her American-made home. She endured a ten percent increase in the building costs of her home. Even the smallest fixtures in the house were at times double the cost of those from international competitors. As the labor of her dreams are realized, Jeannine McLaughlin now looks at her home with pride as she knows her home is as American made as any home can be.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jeannine McLaughlin for her unparalleled dedication to our country. We wish her well in her new, truly American home.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, with profound sadness, I rise today to honor the life of former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin. Senator Heflin served in the U.S. Senate on behalf of the State of Alabama for 18 years. He was a nationally known and popular Senator, who fought tirelessly for the people of Alabama. He passed away on March 31, 2005 at the age of 83.

Before his election to the Senate, Senator Heflin was Chief Justice of the Alabama State Supreme Court. As Chief Justice, he was the lead author of the Alabama Judicial Code, which reformed Alabama's outdated legal system. His grass roots efforts established a model for future constitutional reform not only in Alabama but across the nation.

During his time in the Senate he was known for his sharp wit and deep understanding of the issues being addressed by Congress. He had an innate ability to describe difficult and complex subjects in such a way that most anyone could understand and form an opinion on them.

Senator Heflin was a strong advocate for civil rights, the Marshall Space Flight Center, Redstone Arsenal, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and southern agriculture along with many others. His work helped lay the foundation for the new technological economy of North Alabama.

Senator Heflin was respectfully referred to by his colleagues as “The Judge,” because of his position as Chief Justice and his long tenure as Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee. It was said that he ruled over the

Chamber with an iron fist and demanded his fellow Senators live up to higher standards.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Heflin commanded respect from his colleagues, and made the least among us feel as important as anyone else. He was a friend to me during and after his time in Washington. He will be missed by all who knew him.

On behalf of everyone in North Alabama, I respectfully rise to honor and pay tribute to a great American leader.

FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF
TIBET

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with indignation over the situation in Tibet. In 1949, Tibet was invaded and occupied by The People's Republic of China. In the course of the invasion and occupation, an estimated 87,000 Tibetans were arrested, deported to labor camps, or killed.

The situation has not much improved over the past sixty years. Tibetan freedom of choice is still not tolerated by the People's Republic of China and harsh punishments await any who diverge from Chinese mandates.

Each year thousands of innocent people are thrown in prison or killed under a corrupt and cruel system. Even peaceful opposition is met with exacting penalties. In fact, Buddhist monks and nuns are regularly shipped to detention for exercising their religion.

The people of Tibet live in constant fear they will be imprisoned, tortured, or killed for peacefully expressing their political and religious beliefs, or in the best case scenario, they will simply disappear in the dark of the night.

We must help the Dali Lama and the people of Tibet in their quest to live free from oppression. We must all work towards a peaceful resolution to this situation so not one more Tibetan is carried off by the night.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY ELLEN
SHEETS OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mary Ellen Sheets of Lansing, Michigan, who recently was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the International Franchise Association.

Mary Ellen Sheets, founder/CEO of Two Men And A Truck, is the first businesswoman to be honored with this prestigious award which has an illustrious honor roll of recipients, including Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza Inc., and J. Willard Marriott of the Marriott Corp., as well as leaders in other franchise organizations such as Subway, Jiffy Lube International, Pizza Hut Inc., and Holiday Inn Inc.

Mary Ellen's teenaged sons started a moving business with a pickup truck in the early 1980s. After the boys left for college, cus-

tomers kept calling so in 1985, this creative mother paid \$350 for an old moving truck and officially opened Two Men And A Truck.

When she first sketched the now-famous company logo, a simple graphic of two stick men in a truck cab to catch readers' attention, Mary Ellen never guessed it would lead to such phenomenal entrepreneurial success. From that simple beginning, her business was catapulted into a vibrant, growing franchised company with 152 locations in 26 states.

While becoming a successful entrepreneur, Mary Ellen Sheets never forgets about her community. This very successful businesswoman also makes time to serve on the boards of Lansing Community College, Michigan Freedom Foundation, Michigan Law Abuse Watch, and Edward Sparrow Hospital. She chaired the 2004 United Way Campaign in Lansing, and has been recognized numerous times, including as one of Michigan's Top 25 Women Business Owners, and Lansing Business Person of the Year.

Mary Ellen Sheets epitomizes the American dream. She rose from a small beginning to become a very successful businessperson who believes in giving back to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this very special woman and community leader, who is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL ROGERS

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Paul Rogers, who recently passed away following an extended illness. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and community. The following is a brief biography of Brother Rogers and some of the accomplishments of his long and fruitful life:

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. His father, Andy W. Rogers, was a Deacon at the West End Church and Trustee for the purchase of the Central building in 1941. The Rogers family were charter members at Central (McMinnville). It was here Paul received his early training and encouragement to enter the ministry.

Upon receiving his baccalaureate degree from David Lipscomb University in Nashville and master's degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion in Searcy, AR, he embarked on a long and fruitful career in the ministry. Brother Roger's first sermon was delivered at Central Church of Christ in Birmingham. He began preaching in November, 1952 every Sunday at the Old Jefferson Church of Christ in Smyrna, Tennessee and preached there until graduation from Lipscomb in 1956. He worked as Associate Minister at Church Street Church in Lewisburg, Tennessee 8 months in 1956 and moved to Centerville Church of Christ in January 1957.

Brother Rogers was the Minister of the Centerville Church of Christ, Centerville, Tennessee for more than 48 years. No preacher in the fellowship of Churches of Christ has a longer tenure at his congregation and at no rural church quite as large as the Centerville church according to Jim McInteer, president of

21 st Century Publishing, a book publisher affiliated with the Churches of Christ. In these years, worship attendance has grown from 350 to 700; annual contribution from \$19,000 to \$600,000.

The congregation has built a new church building, new church camp valued at \$1,000,000; off-street parking for 300 cars; \$200,000 Outreach Center for benevolence and senior citizens work; a 75-unit, \$2,500,000 apartment complex, Tulipwood for senior citizens, and a new \$1,200,000 Educational and Fellowship Complex recently constructed. He has also conducted over 800 funeral services in Hickman County, Tennessee.

He was the first president of the Centerville Elementary PTA, past Chairman of Hickman County Library Board, served on Bluegrass Regional Library Board, chairman of Centerville Beautiful Commission, former President of Centerville Kiwanis Club, served on City Industrial Board, served on the Board of Trustees at Clover Bottom Developmental Center for the Retarded in Nashville, Tennessee, and served on Board of First Farmers and Merchants Bank, Centerville, Tennessee. Brother Rogers was awarded Honorary Membership in Hickman County Jaycees for service to the community, selected as Alumnus of the Year in 1975 at Harding Graduate School of Religion, voted Centerville Man of the Year for 1978, selected as Alumnus of the Decade at David Lipscomb College in 1982, received the Distinguished Christian Service Award from Harding University 1988, honored by Tennessee State Legislature in 1983 for long ministry and service in Centerville, honored by Tennessee House of Representatives in 1992, honored in 1997 by Tennessee State Senate on 40th Anniversary with the Centerville Church for the longest full-time tenure among churches of Christ in Tennessee history, selected in December 1999 by the Gospel Advocate as one of "100 Trailblazers of the 20th Century" among Churches of Christ, and in 2004 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hickman County Chamber of Commerce to name a few.

Brother has given lectures at David Lipscomb University, Faulkner University, Freed-Hardeman University, Abilene Christian University, Oklahoma Christian University, Harding University, Harding Graduate School of Religion, Western Christian College, Blue Ridge Encampment, Training for Service Series in Chattanooga, North Alabama Training for Service Series in Florence, Alabama, Training for Service Series in Memphis, Training Series in Evansville, Indiana. Yosemite Bible Encampment, Yellowstone Bible Encampment. He served on the Board of David Lipscomb University 1986-2003 and was secretary of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation at David Lipscomb University.

His minister includes; touring Israel and studying archaeology there in 1969, working on the London, England Campaign in 1963, and preached in India in 1975. He also traveled and preached behind the Iron Curtain in 1977, made three trips to the Holy Land, and frequent mission trips to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Brother Rogers was the author of the following books and booklets: My God and My Service; My God and My Marriage; Things Surely Believed Among Us (4th printing in 2004); Let the Earth Hear His Voice; When Freedom is Gone; Comments on Revelation;