

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND, INC. TORCH AWARDS FOR MARKETPLACE ETHICS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

MR. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to this year's Better Business Bureau of Central New England Torch Award For Marketplace Ethics recipients from my hometown area of Worcester County.

Mr. Speaker, the mission of the Better Business Bureau of Central New England, Inc. (BBB) created in 1942, is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.

Ten years ago, the BBB established its annual Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics to recognize companies for their outstanding commitment to exceptional standards in relationships to their customers, employees, suppliers, competitors, shareholders, and surrounding communities. These awards are helping to illuminate the importance of corporate conscience and responsibility to upholding a fair and honest marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, two companies are being honored today by the Better Business Bureau for their commitment to marketplace ethics: Apple Home Care Associates, Inc. of Holden, MA. (provider of hospital equipment and supplies; established in 1990; 12 employees; President, Ms. Joni Milluzzo) and Sarkisian Builders, Inc. of Rutland, MA. (building contractor; established in 1962; 6 employees; President, Mr. Pat Sarkisian).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Apple Home Care Associates, Inc. and Sarkisian Builders, Inc. for this outstanding recognition of their business ethics and solid reputations within the communities they serve. It is through the efforts and leadership of companies like these that businesses throughout Massachusetts, both large and small, are reminded that ethical behavior in the marketplace counts.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1898: THE TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2005

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

MR. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in 1898, the United States engaged in a brief military conflict with Spain. To pay for the three month skirmish, lawmakers enacted a luxury tax that would only tap money from the super wealthy. Today, that same luxury tax lives on, but instead of taxing only the rich, it hits the pocket books of almost all Americans, both rich and poor. The tax is the federal phone tax. A pesky three percent surcharge on all phone calls made in the United States. Today I am introducing a bill to ensure its days, like those of the Spanish empire before the 1898 war, are numbered.

H.R. 1898, the "Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2005," will repeal the antiquated tax on telecommunication services.

While a "luxury" tax on telecommunication services might have made sense in 1898, there is no question that telecommunications services today are necessities, not luxuries.

Today, Americans depend daily on land line telephones, cell phones and dial-up internet services to communicate. However, we continue to take money from Americans by classifying these services as a "luxury." Today, more than 100 million American households are paying for a tax on their telecommunications services.

The tax is not only applied to local services, but on specialty features including call waiting, caller ID, local toll charges, long-distance calls, wireless services and directory assistance. This tax burdens our communication abilities and is destructive to technological innovation. It must be repealed immediately.

Telephone tax revenues once used to pay for the Spanish-American War are deposited in the General Fund. Unlike the gas tax, which directs revenues to the Highway Trust Fund, no specific account exists to redirect money collected from the telephone "luxury" tax. Other items subject to a "luxury" tax include airplane tickets, beer and liquor, firearms and cigarettes. Obviously, a telephone is a necessity, and thus does not fit with this list of "luxury" items.

It is time to hang up on the telephone tax. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation to permanently repeal the federal telephone excise tax.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANNE J. MATULA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

MR. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a unique and distinguished woman from Portland, Texas: Dr. Anne J. Matula, who is greatly admired for her leadership in education and who is retiring from her work in education and service.

Dr. Matula is the former Dean of Business Career and Technology Programs at Del Mar College. Presently, she serves as an assistant to the Vice President of the university, and as an adjunct instructor at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Her deep conviction and strong character were apparent even when she graduated as the valedictorian from Odem High School. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree, Summa Cum Laude (the highest honors) and a master's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&I. Following that, she completed a Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at the Texas A&M Universities at Corpus Christi and Kingsville, Texas.

Her educational background clearly supports her firm belief in education. Thriving to pursue this endeavor, she devoted a major part of her life to teaching. She began her teaching experiences at H.M. King High School in Kingsville, TX and Gregory-Portland High School in Gregory, TX. Just right after, she began teaching at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi as an instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor. Later on, she became an adjunct

instructor at the college as needed. Dr. Matula served a tenure of 23 years at Del Mar College, which she led with incomparable competence. She was also an adjunct instructor at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi.

Her participation in a number of civic organizations, such as the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and the San Patricio Economic Development Corporation, reflect her commitment to help the community. She has given many years of service on boards and forums, including the Junior League of Corpus Christi Advisory Board, the Regional Community Leaders Forum, the National Conference for Community and Justice, and the Board of Trustees of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District, on which she served for five elected terms. Dress for Success South Texas is another important board on which she served and of which she was the founding member.

She has also been distinguished for her membership in various professional organizations, such as the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (Gamma Psi Chapter), Phi Alpha Kappa, the Texas Association of School Boards, the Texas Community College Teachers Association, and the Texas Association of College Technical Educators (TACTE).

As a woman of great talent and dedication, Dr. Matula has been recognized and presented with various awards and prominent recognitions. It is a pleasure and privilege to honor Dr. Matula, whose passion and dedication to help others is immeasurable. Her years of commitment to higher education make her a distinctive and unique voice in our community. Dr. Matula is loved by all the students whose lives she has touched and will remain in their hearts as a prominent figure in their education and future success.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Anne J. Matula on the occasion of her retirement.

WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

MR. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a critically-important public health issue, cardiovascular disease among women.

I recently attended a women's heart health symposium in my district and was surprised to learn that heart disease is the number one cause of death for American women. Heart disease kills more than 366,000 women each year, more than all types of cancer combined. One of every 5 women has some form of cardiovascular disease. One woman dies from it every minute.

There are also troubling trends for women who survive heart attacks. I was astonished to learn that 38 percent of women who have heart attacks will die within one year of having that heart attack. Forty-six percent of women who have heart attacks will be disabled with heart failure within 6 years of having a heart attack. These statistics are simply unacceptable.

There is good news, however. There are some simple steps both women and men can take to greatly reduce their risk for heart disease. We can lower our risk for heart disease

simply by not smoking, exercising regularly, and eating a nutritionally-balanced diet because smoking, high blood pressure, obesity, and sedentary lifestyles are major risk factors for heart disease in us all, particularly women.

As former Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I am pleased to have been able to help double funding for the National Institutes of Health and support the work done by its National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which currently is sponsoring a public awareness campaign on women and heart disease called "The Heart Truth." This initiative is designed to spread the word that heart disease is not just a man's disease, motivate women to take their heart health seriously and encourage them to lower their risk for cardiovascular disease.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should help raise public awareness about women's heart health issues and support policies which promote the early diagnosis and proper treatment of women with cardiovascular disease. I hope that our colleagues join me in bringing attention to the importance of women's heart health. Our mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters depend on it.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CRACKDOWN IN CUBA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I have long been staunch supporter of human rights throughout the world. Consistent with my strong record opposing human rights abuses around the world, I deplore the draconian actions President Castro has taken to curb the civil rights

of Cubans. Unfortunately, it is impossible to have a legitimate debate an human rights abuses in Cuba because of the extreme politicalization of U.S.-Cuba policy that the Bush Administration has championed.

If we are truly serious about instilling a democratic influence and respect for the rule of law, U.S. policy should permit unrestricted travel to the island that is only 90 miles from our shores. Cuban Americans should be able to freely visit their loved ones, tourism should be allowed to flourish, cultural and educational exchanges should be encouraged, and agricultural trade should be unrestricted, thereby creating new markets for U.S. farmers and growers. Unfortunately, the current policy towards Cuba is not only counterproductive to American economic interests, but actually helps prop up President Castro by continuing to isolate Cubans from the rest of the world.

The House of Representatives should be pressing far greater political and economic freedoms for Cubans that would truly improve their human rights instead of meaningless resolutions that reinforce a flawed strategy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 10

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Park Service's funding needs for administration and management of the national park system. SD-366

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal recognition of Indian tribes. SR-485

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's translation program. SD-226

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 895, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents. SD-366

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion. 345 CHOB