

U.S. engagements will save lives—both U.S. and indigenous and use U.S. resources judiciously so that failed states don't deteriorate.

In December 2005, the Defense Department issued a directive, 3000.05, that places Stability Operations on par with Combat Operations. These are significant first steps and I commend the Administration, however, much more needs to be done. The first improvement I would recommend is that the State Department not Defense Department be the lead agency for planning and implementing the overall strategy for rebuilding a failed state.

I commend my colleagues on the Subcommittee who have done the best they can with an allocation this year that is \$2.4 billion lower than the President's request. Those budget constraints prohibited them from funding the Conflict Response Fund, which would allow State Department reconstruction officials to immediately draw down such resources as necessary to rapidly initiate programs like democratic and electoral reform economic and infrastructure development so that the indigenous population sees tangible improvements.

The second improvement I would recommend is stronger support from the State and Defense Departments for the Master's degree in Stabilization and Reconstruction, being offered by the Naval Postgraduate School in my district. This is the only school in the country where U.S. military and foreign officers are being educated with U.S. civilian agency personnel and the NGO community so they can better understand their respective roles in the classroom rather than the battlefield.

I am glad we are gaining a better understanding of the threat of failed states, so that we can confront the challenges of these threats to U.S. national security.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Markey amendment which would ensure that this bill contain the necessary provisions to ensure the neutrality of the Internet.

The Internet has revolutionized so many facets of our daily lives. Using the Internet, we can send and receive e-mail messages instantly, purchase merchandise, check our banking records, look at photos posted on a website created by a friend or family member, legally download a song or a movie, or check the latest headlines from a news source.

I agree with my colleagues that the underlying legislation does not provide sufficient safeguards to consumers to ensure that their access to websites and services on the Internet are not restricted. We must ensure that the Internet remain equally accessible to everyone. Net neutrality is supported by the Consumers Union, Amazon.com, Google,

Yahoo, and the Service Employees International Union to name just a few.

There should not be a fast lane and a slow lane for using the Internet. I urge a yes vote on the Markey amendment.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, & Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006.

The technology in wireless and traditional wire-line capabilities has far outpaced our current telecommunications laws, and the COPE Act serves to update these regulations. This bill provides for the streamlining of video franchising at the federal level, to speed up the process of granting new franchises into these markets, providing badly needed competition in the marketplace, and lowering prices for telecommunications in America.

This legislation updates the rules ensuring that satellite providers are treated equally to local cable franchises; and addresses new technologies that did not exist when the last telecommunications laws were written, such as ensuring that voice-over internet providers provide 911 emergency services to their customers. The COPE Act also contains build-out requirements for these new franchises, as well as protecting our rural infrastructure by ensuring that these providers contribute fairly to the Universal Service Fund.

In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission released four network neutrality principles: (1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; (2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice; (3) consumers are entitled to connect their choices of safe legal devices; and (4) consumers are entitled to competition among networks, applications, services, and content providers. H.R. 5252 enacts these neutrality principles into law, sending a strong non-discrimination message to Internet providers. North Carolina's economy has prospered from open Internet access, and H.R. 5252 ensures that we continue to enjoy that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, no legislation is perfect. I would like to have seen stronger language regarding build-out requirements than was included in the bill, and I supported amendments that gave local authorities even greater oversight than the original language provided.

However, this legislation represents a significant step forward in the information age. I urge support of H.R. 5252.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 233, for passage of a bill introduced by my colleague Representative LATOURETTE. The bill, I believe reasonably addressed the impasse in labor contract negotiations between our Nation's air traffic controllers and the Federal Aviation Administration by creating procedural fairness and encouraging good faith bargaining for both parties. While I attempted to vote "yea" on the bill, the electronic voting system did not record the vote I intended to cast. I ask that the record reflect that had my vote been recorded, it would have been "yea" on rollcall No. 233.

RECOGNIZING QUAKERTOWN HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, STA- TION 17 IN CELEBRATING THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of Quakertown Fire Company No. 1 which celebrates its one hundred and thirtieth anniversary this year.

Since its humble beginnings in 1876 as the Quakertown Hook and Ladder Company, station 17 has protected the residents of the Quakertown area with distinction and pride.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Quakertown Pennsylvania, which is located in the northern portion of my district, was a small and quiet farming community. And in its early years, I doubt the fire company needed to answer many calls. However, the Quakertown of today is a vibrant suburban area and station 17 has seen an increase of nearly 400 calls a year in the past 40 years. The need to expand and recruit on such a large scale would likely hinder the performance of the department, but the fire company has continued to grow and enlist generation after generation of fire fighters.

Firefighters have always been an integral part of American history. The safety of the citizens of Bucks County has been the top priority of the Quakertown Fire Company, and they have at all times served selflessly to that end.

Mr. Speaker, volunteerism is an American institution. Station 17 has always operated with volunteer firefighters, and I wish to congratulate and thank the current 50 volunteer members, who do an exceptional job. It is a special group of people that would voluntarily dedicate so much of their own time and effort towards the common good, and Quakertown is fortunate to have such a large and committed team of volunteers working for them.

How many people, Mr. Speaker, would jump out of bed in the middle of night at the sound of their alarm with no questions asked and go to a complete stranger's house only to battle a blazing inferno for hours upon hours, and

still go to work the next morning? Well I am proud to say that Quakertown has at least 50 of these extraordinary men and women, and we thank them all.

To these heroic men and women of station 17; thank you for your work, your time, your dedication, and your sacrifice.

S. 193, THE BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT: CONGRESSIONAL MALFUNCTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the passage of S. 193, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. I object to the passage of this bill because of my strong belief that in any legislative attempt to express disapproval of what some consider to be objectionable speech or acts, we must be careful not to infringe upon the Constitutionally-protected right to free speech. This legislation is an overreaction to the 2004 Janet Jackson "wardrobe malfunction."

I am a grandmother of four and I am concerned about what is making it onto the airwaves. I understand that many find the content and language used in some programs intolerable, especially for children. However, because I am also a strong proponent of the First Amendment and oppose inappropriate restrictions on free speech, I must weigh concerns about questionable content against the need to protect free speech.

I think we also need to be careful about passing a bill that gives "Big Brother" a heavy hammer to punish those who violate his notion of decency. I believe that increasing fines to \$325,000 per incident would have a chilling effect on creativity, lead to second-guessing of material, pulling programs, and other forms of censorship. As I have said before, we run a great risk when our legislation threatens to undermine both our Constitution and our creativity.

If we are serious about improving broadcast content, which is what I think people really want to do, then we need to address the fact that large media conglomerates are allowed to gobble up independent stations that are much more sensitive to the communities they serve. Large media conglomerates are the main sources of indecent programming. Since 1999, 80 percent of the indecency findings have been against two media giants: Clear Channel and Viacom.

Not only do they lack knowledge of local community standards, but they also drown out the diversity of voices and viewpoints. Our constituents would be better served if we were voting to limit the over-concentration of media ownership, not to increase fines.

While I do not support S. 193, I am glad that my colleagues agree that the even more problematic H.R. 310 is not the route to take. Censoring artists with outrageous fines and threatening broadcasters' licenses should something "indecent" make it on the airwaves would have caused even more damage to our First Amendment than the bill before us today. Regardless, I think S. 193 opens the door to future attacks at one of our Nation's funda-

mental freedoms and I urge my colleagues to vote no.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LAREDO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the Ursulines, an order founded in Italy by Saint Angela Merici in 1535, were the first religious women to come to the New World. The sisters, who had been in New Orleans since 1727, were the first order to volunteer for service in the new State of Texas, establishing a long-held presence in the communities of Galveston, San Antonio, Dallas, Pecos, and Laredo.

Whereas, Mother Saint Joseph Aubert, one of the esteemed Ursuline sisters, at the request of Bishop Claude Dubuis, went to Laredo in the State of Texas with Sister Teresa Pereida to establish a convent and a school for the education of the young women in the City of Laredo in May 15th, 1868.

Whereas, the convent for the Ursuline Sisters was built on January 15th 1869, and the Sisters began to educate girls of every age and condition. This was the beginning of their contribution to the education of the youth of the City of Laredo, Texas, for over a hundred and thirty-eight years.

Whereas, the Ursuline Sisters established St. Peter's Memorial School in 1989, Ursuline Academy in 1940, and were a part of the faculty at Our Lady of Guadalupe Elementary School, and Blessed Sacrament School.

Whereas, the new era of Ursuline education was begun through Ursuline Academy, which became a well-recognized center of education, serving as a college preparatory high school. Many graduates of Ursuline Academy went onto higher education, obtaining advanced degrees due to their excellent education provided them by the Ursuline Sisters.

Whereas, loyal to their Ursuline calling and tradition, despite all the difficulties and challenges of their journey, the Ursulines remained committed to their ministerial call in the City of Laredo in providing education to the youth of the City of Laredo until their departure from the City of Laredo this spring.

Whereas, at the end of their service in the City of Laredo for a hundred and forty years, the Ursuline Sisters of Laredo will be forever remembered for their educational commitment to the youth of Laredo, and their religious service to the City of Laredo. In the Spirit of Saint Angela, their founder, they will continue to be women of peace and reconciliation in our world today, living and working for peace through justice in all their relationships toward all peoples and cultures, and towards the earth and all creation.

Be it hereby resolved, That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends the Ursuline Sisters for their religious service to the community of Laredo, and their remarkable history of providing quality education for the youth of Laredo, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. EDGAR AND MAGALI FERNANDEZ: 36 YEARS ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. and Mrs. Edgar and Magali Fernandez. For nearly four decades, they have been pioneers and leaders in the field of early childhood care and education, which is of crucial importance to our society and to every parent of young children.

Their careers have culminated in the establishment of the South Florida Association for Child Care Management (SFACCM), a non-profit professional organization which was established in 2000. On Saturday, June 10, 2006, SFACCM will hold its first summer institute, a one-day seminar for those seeking to become early childhood education professionals.

SFACCM, which is an affiliate of the Florida Association for Child Care Management, is a professional organization of education providers dedicated to ensuring quality in early learning through advocacy, education, and accreditation. Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez's leadership of SFACCM has served as an inspiration to countless other educators and has helped set high standards in early childhood care. Those helped by SFACCM's programs number in the thousands.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez have long realized the importance of early childhood education as key to success in adulthood; it creates a strong foundation for our society and helps families and businesses to thrive. Edgar and Magali Fernandez truly value the need for the quality care and learning that our children deserve.

I know that my colleagues join with me in expressing our sincere appreciation for the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez to our community and to our state. Their endeavors to ensure the quality and affordability of early childhood care and education are having a huge, positive impact on the lives of countless children—our most important national resource. Congratulations to them both on 36 years of caring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 223, 224, 225, and 226. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the King (IA) amendment, the Kingston amendment, and the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5441, the FY07 Homeland Security appropriations bill.