

family. We are all humbly indebted to Hugh's service, and a grateful Nation honors his memory.

RECOGNIZING NAVAL HOSPITAL PENSACOLA FOR BEING A TOP PROVIDER OF PATIENT SATISFACTION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Naval Hospital Pensacola in my district for being named the best mid-sized Department of Defense hospital in the nation for patient satisfaction.

Last month, the 2006 annual TRICARE conference focused on Department of Defense health facilities that excel in providing healthcare to active service members, retirees, and their families, and I am proud to know that those who so bravely serve our country can come to Northwest Florida for quality healthcare.

I also want to commend Naval Hospital Pensacola's Commanding Officer, Captain Matt Nathan, for leading the hospital over the last 2 years and ensuring that his staff deliver the best services possible to those in need. This award reflects as much on the staff that oversee the day-to-day operation of the hospital, including patient care and follow-up. Naval Hospital Pensacola has long been a top provider of customer satisfaction because of this outstanding staff, and I am proud to see them along with Captain Nathan take the hospital to the number one spot.

I am confident that all of those who work at Naval Hospital Pensacola will continue to strive toward the best healthcare for our active and retired service members and their families well into the future. It is this kind of health care that should serve as a model for how we should take care of those who dedicate their lives toward the freedom of this great Nation and the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Naval Hospital Pensacola as being the top medium-sized Department of Defense hospital in our Nation, and I wish them great success down the road.

HONORING PROVENA ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Provena St. Joseph Medical Center as they receive the "Salute To Accomplishment" award from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Provena St. Joseph Medical Center is located in Joliet, Illinois and serves my 11th District Congressional constituents.

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center was founded in 1882 and is located in downtown Joliet. In 1964, the hospital moved to its

present location at 333 North Madison Street on Joliet's west side. Today, the Medical Center has a medical staff of more than 400 physicians representing over 50 medical specialties and employs over 2,200 professional, technical and support personnel.

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center has received numerous accreditations including the following departments: Ultrasound Department, Neurology Lab, Vascular Lab, Cancer Care Center, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, and the CT Scan Facility. Jeff Brickman, President and CEO of Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, has stated that, "At Provena St. Joseph Medical Center we strive to provide the community with the highest quality of patient care every day." The many awards and accreditations received by Provena St. Joseph are a testimony to the truth of this statement.

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center is affiliated with the Provena Family Health Centers located in Coal City, New Lenox and Plainfield. The Medical Center is a division of Provena Health which has a history of providing health care to everyone regardless of their ability to pay for services. The heart of their mission is to "build communities of healing and hope." Provena St. Joseph Medical Center truly lives up to the standards of its founding fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other facilities in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

THANKING HELGA BROWN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLDERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EHLDERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in February 2006, I rise to thank Ms. Helga Brown for 23 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

A native of Bad Reichenhall, Germany, Helga has served this great institution in mail processing, sales clerk, and payment processing positions within the offices of the Doorkeeper, Clerk, and the Chief Administrative Officer. She began her career at the House on February 24, 1983 in the Folding Room, where she assisted House offices with the preparation and packaging of mail. In 1988, after 5 years of hard work in the Folding Room, she transferred to the Office Supply store, where she started as a sales clerk. Helga's knowledge, enthusiasm and friendliness endeared her to her customers and coworkers. She always went the extra mile to assist House staffers and Office Supply Store visitors with their purchases or questions. Helga moved from the Office Supply sales floor to the payment processing department, where she quickly learned the new MCBA and FFS payment processing software. She proved to be an excellent worker in this area too, doing everything necessary to provide swift and correct payments to supply vendors.

In addition to making prompt and accurate payments, Helga also assisted with the reconciliation of cash sales.

After 10 years in Office Supply, Helga briefly served as receptionist at Office Systems Management within House Support Services, again providing superior service to the House community. Her outstanding work prompted Office Supply to seek her out again, and she returned there to process payments. The Vendor Management department of House Support Services also recognized her abilities, and she finally transferred permanently there on August 1, 1999. Even years after her transition from the sales floor to the accounts payable section of Office Supply and Vendor Management, customers remembered how well she had helped them in the past, and would often seek her out for guidance, or just for a friendly chat. She has managed the processing of the majority of the countless payments for office supplies ordered by House Offices through Vendor Management. She painstakingly researched delivery documentation and invoices in order to ensure accuracy and swiftness of payments. Always a cheerful volunteer for special projects, Helga eagerly went above and beyond the call of duty. One of these special projects was a temporary detail back to her old position in Office Supply to assist with daily deposits and accounts. Her standard of excellence, dedication, professionalism, and pleasant disposition have earned her the admiration and respect of all of her customers and coworkers.

Helga will be greatly missed by the many friends and acquaintances that she has made throughout the entire House community over the years. We thank her for a job well done, and we wish her many happy years of retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, just one day before the start of Black History Month, we lost one of our Nation's most important civil rights pioneers—Coretta Scott King. Black History Month is an appropriate opportunity to mourn her death, celebrate her extraordinary life, and reflect on the extraordinary partnership of Mrs. King and her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Although Dr. King was the heart and face of the civil rights movement, Mrs. King was its backbone. She marched alongside her husband in Selma to demand voting rights for African Americans. She marched with him again in Washington to demand a Federal law protecting the civil rights of all Americans. And she marched with her husband in Memphis one day before he was killed, to provide relief for the sanitation workers facing entrenched discrimination.

After Dr. King's murder in 1968, Coretta Scott King fought with enormous grace and determination to keep her husband's legacy alive. She founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change to further his dream of racial equality, and fought tirelessly to establish a national holiday to honor her late husband. Although it took her 15

years to accomplish this goal, Congress finally enacted a law in 1983 designating the third Monday of January as Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

Since her husband's death 38 years ago, Mrs. King continued her work as a civil rights activist, an advocate for women's rights, and a leader in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. She fought for the ideals that made this country great, and became the epitome of American strength and perseverance during a difficult struggle for civil rights.

In the spirit of Coretta Scott King, let us rededicate ourselves to give all Americans the opportunity and justice they need to meet the challenges of today. Through perseverance and a deep belief in God and humanity, we can go a long way to achieving a more perfect America.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PHONE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the "Law Enforcement and Phone Privacy Protection Act of 2006."

This bipartisan legislation provides new, explicit, and strengthened protections for the privacy of confidential telephone records, including calling logs. It establishes specific criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or disclosure of these records without consumer consent.

Few things are more personal and potentially more revealing than our phone records. The records of whom we choose to call and how long we speak with them can reveal much about our business and personal lives. A careful study of these records may reveal details of our medical or financial life. It may even disclose our physical location.

To avoid unwanted invasions of their personal privacy, millions of Americans already voluntarily list their phone numbers in the "National Do-Not-Call" registry. Many Americans also keep their telephone number unlisted.

Currently, Federal law recognizes the right of Americans to maintain this kind of privacy by providing some limited protections for the confidential information contained in calling logs. Phone companies and others who have a legitimate interest in having this information may not release it without either consumer consent or a determination that certain narrowly prescribed conditions exist.

Unfortunately, recent investigations by law enforcement authorities, including the Chicago Police Department and the FBI, and numerous media reports have shattered the notion that this data is safe.

These reports demonstrate that current Federal statutes are woefully inadequate to protect these records. They reveal that numerous companies and individuals offer to sell confidential phone records information to virtually anyone with no questions asked.

The price for selling this sensitive private information is shocking. It averages about \$100. Essentially, these companies sell the confidential personal information of American citizens as a commodity. Many of these companies have operated on the Internet under a variety

of names. There may be several thousand additional companies or individuals across the U.S. who traffic in these records but who do not conduct business openly on the Internet.

Alarmed at the easy access to these records, the Chicago Police Department and the FBI have reportedly warned their personnel to take steps to safeguard their phone numbers. The potential danger to undercover operatives concerns law enforcement officials.

In recent weeks, several States have taken civil enforcement action against these kinds of companies filing suits that allege violations of various State unfair and deceptive trade practices statutes. In these suits, the evidence shows that these companies typically use a variety of fraudulent devices to obtain these records from employees of phone companies. The most common method is referred to as "pretexting." A pretexter calls the phone company and poses as someone who is authorized to receive the information lawfully—perhaps the actual phone customer or another employee of the target phone company. I certainly agree this conduct is an unfair and deceptive practice. I applaud the state and federal officials who are investigating and civilly pursuing these companies.

However, I believe civil enforcement alone is not enough. New federal criminal penalties are needed to deter and punish these dishonest individuals and businesses—and to put them out of business permanently. The "Law Enforcement and Phone Privacy Protection Act of 2006" imposes serious criminal penalties—up to 20 years in prison—for anyone who knowingly and intentionally obtains or attempts to obtain the confidential phone records of a telephone company using a fraudulent scheme or device.

The bill further imposes up to 5 years imprisonment on anyone who:

First, either sells, transfers, or attempts to sell or transfer such records without authorization; or

Second, purchases such records knowing they were obtained without authorization.

Most importantly, the bill provides enhanced criminal penalties for anyone who: (1) engages in large-scale operations to violate the law; or (2) discloses or uses such fraudulently obtained information in furtherance of various crimes of violence or intimidation. This latter provision ensures that the bill targets the worst offenders.

The release of sensitive information like a phone record to an unauthorized individual can compromise a person's safety. Consider the tragic case of Amy Boyer, a young woman who was murdered in 1999.

In Ms. Boyer's case, the murderer hired Docusearch.com to conduct a search and identify Amy's Social Security Number and place of employment. Docusearch hired a subcontractor, who posed as an employee of Ms. Boyer's insurance company, called Amy, and confirmed her place of employment. Shortly thereafter, the killer drove to her workplace and gunned her down as she was leaving. For its service, Docusearch charged her murderer \$109.

The unauthorized trade in this information not only assaults individual privacy but, in the wrong hands, can lead to violence and in the most extreme instances, even death. We must act to deter these acts by providing that anyone who seeks to wrongfully acquire or disclose these records faces serious criminal consequences.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the other cosponsors in supporting this bill. It is urgently needed to preserve consumer's privacy rights and to protect the personal safety of law enforcement personnel and victims of domestic violence. Enactment of this bill will send a clear and emphatic signal that these breaches of privacy will no longer be tolerated. I look forward to the House passing this legislation without delay.

PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY THROUGH THE REPEAL OF THE ANTISECESSION LAW

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. In addition to the enactment of the anti-secession law, China's rapid military buildup has given the Taiwanese people a sense of fear. China's deployment of more than 700 missiles along the southeast coast indicates that China still stubbornly clings to a military solution of the Taiwan issue. In response to China's provocative actions, we need to emphasize that military intimidation over Taiwan is not a solution to the cross strait relations.

China must respect the aspirations of Taiwan's 23 million people who want the freedom to determine their own future. China has no justification to change the status quo either through the anti-secession law or military intimidation. Last spring, the House of Representatives went on record in expressing our grave concern over China's anti-secession law by passing H. Con. Res. 98 authored by Chairman HYDE in a vote of 424–4. I was proud to vote for this legislation, and I commend my fellow colleagues for the overwhelming decisive nature of the vote in demonstrating the House's sincere interest in preserving peace in the Taiwan Straits through the ending of the anti-secession law.

In other important issues, China must not block Taiwan's attempts to gain international recognition or return to international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated properly and with respect by the international community. Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations has deprived the identity of 23 million people.

President Chen is a man of peace and he has reaffirmed his commitment to maintain the status quo on many occasions. In the last six years, he has kept his pledges and offered many goodwill gestures to China. His goal of reducing tension between Taiwan and China remains unchanged. Let us hope that China will reciprocate Chen's olive branch by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan and resuming dialogue on an equal footing and without pre-conditions.