

and those Luv Ya Blue days. But, professional football today just doesn't have that same thrill and excitement anymore. Sure, maybe up North it does since they don't have high school stadiums that hold 15,000 people, field turf, jumbotrons and the caliber of coaches and players we have in Texas.

But it's not just the facilities, what makes the game so special is the atmosphere of it all. It's the band, the drill team, the cheerleaders, the moms selling T-shirts, the school clubs hanging banners—the whole atmosphere is what makes the game great. The whole community comes together, people from all walks of life get together every weekend and share in the tears and cheers and root for their team to victory.

So this weekend and every weekend in the fall, Texas families put on school colors and head to the game. They grab some hot dogs and a coke and take part in one of Texas's finest traditions. You see some of those folks that you went to high school with and some of the same old guys sitting in the same seats they were in 20–30 years ago. The players, the coaches, the trainers, the cheerleaders, the drill team and all those people that volunteer their time to support the kids are all part of the excitement. Football in Texas is something special. It's the Texas Religion.

And That's Just the Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN NICK ANDRYUK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and gratitude that I stand before you today to recognize one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens, Captain Nick Andryuk. I have known Nick for many years, and he is one of the most passionate and involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to serving his country and to serving the young men and women of the First Congressional District. Since the mid-1970's, Nick has served the youth of the First Congressional District. Since 1985, he has done so as a member of my Military Academy Board. During this time, Nick has been a constant source of knowledge and insight for students interested in attending the Merchant Marine Academy and all other military academies. Recently, Nick informed me that he will be leaving northwest Indiana and relocating to Texas.

Nick Andryuk was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Following his graduation from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1974, where he studied structural design, Nick chose to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in marine engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering. Upon his graduation, Nick was commissioned as an ensign in the Naval Reserves, specializing in surface warfare. Always seeking to broaden his horizons, Nick would continue his educational and occupational pursuits over the years to amass an impressive résumé, which includes a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University Northwest and a Professional Engineering License from the State of Indiana.

During his time in the Naval Reserves, Nick held various positions, including: administration officer, training officer, executive officer, and eight additional commanding officer positions. In 1985, Nick was named an engineering duty officer, and finally, in 1995, he was promoted to the esteemed rank of captain. While serving in his capacity as a captain, a position he held until his retirement from the Navy Reserves in June 2004, Nick also served as an explosive safety chief inspector.

While he has served his country and community in various capacities throughout his lifetime, Nick came to be known for not only his wisdom and his willingness to serve others, but also for his strong work ethic, a trait he undoubtedly developed during his career at Inland Steel, later Ispat Inland Steel. For over 26 years, Nick served in capacities ranging from assistant engineer to section manager. Following his retirement from Ispat Inland Steel in 2001, he went on to work as a project manager and engineering consultant with Superior Engineering from 2001 to 2007. In September 2007, Nick accepted a position as vice-president of operations with Zimmerman and Jansen, a company located in Humble, Texas. While he will surely be missed in northwest Indiana, his efforts and the impact he has had on the lives of many students in the First Congressional District are to be admired. I am sure Nick will continue to share his vast knowledge with prospective academy students in his new location, and I wish him well on his endeavors.

Madam Speaker, Captain Nick Andryuk is a friend who has selflessly given his time and efforts to the young men and women of the First Congressional District, and he has served his country with the utmost eagerness and dedication as a member of the Armed Forces. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing him the best of success, health, and happiness in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TURN- ABOUT RANCH IN GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH, BILL

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a drafting error that involves a 25-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and land that is part of the Turn-About Ranch, which rehabilitates troubled youth.

An erroneous survey in January 1999 was the cause of this trespass conflict when Congress approved a major land exchange (P.L. 105–335) between the state of Utah and the border of the Grand Staircase-Escalante (GSE) Monument. This legislation makes a minor boundary change to resolve the trespass conflict. It would grant the owners of the ranch the right to purchase the erroneously surveyed land at a fair market value, enabling this important and effective program for troubled youth to continue unimpeded.

The Turn-About Ranch has graduated approximately 500 troubled and at-risk teenagers

through an intense program of training and rehabilitation. The ranch also employs about 35 Garfield County residents. The Turn-About Ranch has strong support from the local community, and the Garfield County Commission, as well as approval from the parents of the troubled youth.

The government-owned land administered by the BLM surrounds the congressional action by passing this legislation in Congress. The land was historically used for agriculture and grazing purposes. The Townsend family purchased the ranch and then leased the land to the Turn-About Ranch, Inc., for the sole purpose of rehabilitating the troubled youth, and restoring the values and self-esteem of these wayward teens.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a fair resolution to a technical problem. The Senate Energy Committee staff has expressed support for solving the problem, and the community is eager for this legislation to be passed. I hope Congress can implement this legislation and resolve this problem to continue helping our troubled adolescent teens.

INTRODUCTION FOR H.R. 3565, RE- QUIRING RATE INTEGRATION FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICA- TIONS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation that will require rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges. Specifically, this legislation, H.R. 3565, would amend Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide for rate integration of wireless long distance service within the United States, including the territories. This legislation, if enacted, would require uniformity in rates charged by cellular phone and other wireless service providers for calls and communications to and from Guam within the United States.

Section 254(g) directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "to adopt rules to require that the rates charged by providers of interexchange telecommunication services to subscribers in rural and high cost areas shall be no higher than the rates charged by each such provider to its subscribers in urban areas."

Pursuant to Section 254(g), the FCC promulgated a regulation (FCC Order 98–347) to cover Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) as an interexchange service. CMRS includes Personal Communications Service (PCS) and cellular services. In defense of their Order, the FCC noted that "if Congress had intended to exempt CMRS providers, it presumably would have done so expressly as it had done in other sections of the [1996 Telecommunications] Act."

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, however, subsequently vacated FCC Order 98–347, by ruling that interexchange telecommunication services do not encompass CMRS. In its ruling, the Court cited the phrase "interexchange telecommunications service" contained in Section 254(g). Since wireless telecommunications

technically do not use exchanges, the Court held that "it is by no means obvious that the Congress, when it used a phrase in which the word 'interexchange' is an essential term, was referring to CMRS."

It is, therefore, unclear from the language of the statute whether section 254 applies to wireless services. Section 254 does not include specific language regarding its applicability to wireless services. Nor does it specifically exclude such services. Moreover, the legislative history of Section 254(g) is not instructive as to Congress' intent regarding the applicability of the rate integration requirement to wireless services.

Ambiguity in the law therefore exists. As a result, cellular customers are subject to varying rates for calls made within the United States. This is particularly evident with respect to rates assessed to calls made to Guam and to the other U.S. territories under service plans offered to cellular customers within the 48 contiguous states of the United States. Again, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires rate integration for noncellular, landline communication services. The legislation that I have reintroduced today would simply extend this same requirement to wireless communications.

Rate integration for wireless interstate toll charges is important to businesses and individuals located on the U.S. mainland who engage in regular and reoccurring voice communication with other businesses and contacts located in the offshore territories. Family members and friends are among the customers who are assessed higher and different rates for cellular calls made to Guam or to the other territories. These differences in wireless rates exist despite the fact that the U.S. territories are included in the North American Numbering Plan, the numbering plan for the Public Switched Telephone Network of the United States.

This legislation would bring the uniformity and fairness in rates desired by those consumers located on Guam who aim to keep in regular contact with relatives, friends, and associates who reside in other parts of the United States through the latest technology. Additionally, as technology in telecommunication advances, laws should be updated and developed to keep pace. This legislation would update existing law to take into account advances in and the popularity of wireless telecommunications since enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The legislation would do so in a manner consistent with both a previous, but vacated, FCC Order and with rate integration requirements applied to other more traditional telecommunication technology.

I look forward to addressing the issue of rate integration for wireless services as part of any legislative effort to reauthorize the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR BARRINGTON IRVING

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friend Congressman

KENDRICK MEEK to introduce legislation to honor the achievements of Captain Antonio Barrington Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent to fly solo around the world. The historic achievements of this dedicated young man are worthy of the utmost respect and recognition by this great Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating his achievement and encouraging youth to pursue careers in aviation.

Barrington Irving was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1983 and soon after moved to Miami, FL. When Irving was 15 years old, he met Captain Gary Robinson, a Jamaican airline pilot who invited Irving to tour a Boeing 777. After this inspirational experience, Captain Robinson became a lifelong mentor, inspiring Irving to fly one day himself. Enduring the challenges of growing up in inner-city Miami, Irving never let his dreams of becoming a pilot be stifled. Irving worked miscellaneous jobs to save for lessons and diligently practiced on a home computer flight simulator. Irving also volunteered quite frequently in his community and eventually earned a joint Air Force/Florida Memorial University Flight Awareness Scholarship to study aviation and take professional flying lessons.

Madam Speaker, Irving took tremendous steps to pursue his dreams in aviation while still a student at Florida Memorial University. In 2003, he contacted companies, including the aircraft manufacturer Columbia, which agreed to provide him with a plane to fly around the world if he could secure donations and components. Over several years, Irving visited aviation trade shows throughout the country and secured more than \$300,000 in cash and donated components for a Columbia 400, one of the world's fastest single-engine piston airplanes.

On March 23, 2007, Irving embarked from Miami, FL, on a 24,600-mile flight around the world in an airplane named "Inspiration." He was 23 years of age while still a senior majoring in aerospace at Florida Memorial University at the time. Irving traveled the world as an ambassador of aviation, teaching young people in 27 cities about opportunities in aviation and the importance of academics. He returned from his journey on June 27, 2007, concluding his flight in Miami, FL.

Impressively, even before his around the world flight, Irving founded the non-profit organization Experience Aviation, Inc. to address the significant shortage of youth pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace. This non-profit has been extremely effective in garnering widespread community support and sponsorship to expose youth and underrepresented groups to opportunities in aviation. Irving continues to be dedicated to his community after his around the world flight and tirelessly works to inspire those around him to reach for their dreams.

Madam Speaker, this young man embodies the perseverance and dedication necessary to truly pursue one's dreams. Barrington Irving realized those aspirations and deserves acknowledgement for continuing to inspire so many. I urge my colleagues' support for this resolution as we work to demonstrate what can be achieved if you never let go of your passion and commitment to the community.

FINAL POST

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Members of the House of Representatives and the American public an article written by Chris Raymond for the *The Director* magazine. The article is a great description of what goes on at The Port Mortuary at Delaware's Dover Air Force Base, the first stop on the final journey for those who have given their life in defense of this Nation.

[From *The Director*, July 2007]

FINAL POST

(By Chris Raymond)

The Port Mortuary at Delaware's Dover Air Force Base exemplifies this nation's highest ideals and those underlying the funeral service profession as it cares for the men and women that sacrifice their lives in defense of our country—Chris Raymond.

Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals—William Gladstone, British Prime Minister.

On this night, the bodies wait quietly in the darkness, their caskets in a long line, positioned with military precision before a large steel garage door. A massive U.S. flag, perhaps 30 by 20 feet, hangs silently above them. In the morning, this flag will offer one final salute to each fallen soldier as the staff of the Dover Air Force Base Port Mortuary drapes each casket with a smaller American flag, a stack of which hang ready on a rack near the exit for this purpose, before carefully wheeling each outside onto a broad cement landing. From there, vehicles will transport each of these meticulously, lovingly prepared men and women to the planes that will fly them home to their grieving families and the military honors each has earned.

On March 23, 2007, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Cedric Thomas knelt before the simple urn containing the cremated remains of U.S. Army Specialist Ross McGinnis during his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Resting his hand atop the urn, Thomas, wearing his full uniform, hung his head for a few moments, saying his silent goodbyes, lost in his thoughts. Rising, Thomas offered one final salute to the 19-year-old who sacrificed his life so he could live.

A few months earlier, on December 4, 2006, McGinnis manned a machine gun atop a Humvee as he, Thomas and three other soldiers patrolled the streets of Adhamiyah, Iraq. From a rooftop, an enemy insurgent tossed a grenade at their truck. Whizzing past McGinnis, the grenade fell through the Humvee's hatch and lodged next to a radio. According to a later account written by Rodney Sherman and published in *The Clarion News*, Thomas recalls McGinnis shouting to his four comrades: "Grenade! It's in the truck!"

Thomas also told the newspaper, "[McGinnis] had time to jump out of the truck."

McGinnis did not desert his comrades, however. Instead, he jumped through the hatch and threw his body atop the grenade. Upon detonation, McGinnis died instantly. While wounded, the four other soldiers survived, thanks entirely to the heroic action of a teenager from Knox, Pennsylvania.