

upon the leadership to move this legislation as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHAD BLOCK
FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Chad Block, businessman and volunteer firefighter, for his heroic acts on the afternoon of March 24, 2007.

On this date Mr. Block passed by a car accident where a box van was on fire on Route 202 in Bucks County, PA. Acting quickly, Mr. Block positioned his vehicle to prevent other cars from reaching the fire. Suddenly, the fuel tank exploded on the box van sending it down the road toward an outlet store full of customers and workers.

Without hesitation or regard for his own life, Mr. Block pulled a wheel chock from his own truck and placed it under the wheel of the burning van stopping its movement. Moments later, as the heat from the burning van overcame the wheel chock; the burning van began to move again down the road. Without hesitation, Mr. Block placed his own truck in the path of the burning van until fire crews could secure the van and extinguish the fire.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Block's bravery goes above and beyond what we expect from our citizens; but as a dedicated volunteer firefighter with concern for the safety of his community, he acted fast and with great daring. He acted without regard to his own life to ensure the safety of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chad Block for his heroism.

CONGRATULATING THE DALAI
LAMA UPON BEING AWARDED
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dalai Lama upon being awarded the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest and most distinguished civilian award. The honor must be approved by at least two-thirds of the Members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in order to be awarded. Over 100 awards have been conferred since its creation in 1776, including recipients General George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Nelson Mandela.

His Holiness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, has exemplified the spirit of the award, demonstrating tremendous compassion and tolerance. Through his selfless advocacy of peace and human rights, the Dalai Lama has lived as an example of what one committed individual can accomplish. His efforts to better the lives of the Tibetan people have not gone unno-

ticed, and I am truly honored to play a role in this special day. I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me in honoring His Holiness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MS. HELEN SPENCER AS THE CITY CLERK OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of Helen Spencer, who for the last 40 years has engaged in committed, dutiful service to the City of Fort Walton Beach, FL, as the City Clerk.

Helen Spencer's dedication to the City began in 1967 when she became a secretary in the Fort Walton Beach Police Department. In 1970, she was promoted to stenographer. In 1974 and for the next 7 years she was a high level secretary, and on April 29, 1981, she was promoted to Executive Secretary for the Fort Walton Beach Police Department. When the position of City Clerk of Fort Walton Beach was vacated she was quickly chosen to fill the spot as interim city clerk. After only a few months of service to the City, the City Council asked her to fill the position permanently.

As the city clerk, Mrs. Spencer manages a multitude of functions. She oversees the official City records, prepares City elections, manages the city's leases and deeds, and prepares countless minutes and agenda packages for the City Council. However, Mrs. Spencer's dedication to the community ranges beyond her occupation. She participates on the Local Issues Committee, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and serves as vice president of the Sugar Beach Sertoma Club.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Helen Spencer on her 40th anniversary with the City of Fort Walton Beach, FL. Mrs. Spencer truly possesses an extraordinary understanding and a unique perspective of the City's history. She is a committed, innovative, and loyal resident of Fort Walton Beach, and we are forever grateful for her service.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON PROTECTING CONSUMERS THROUGH THE PROPER FORBEARANCE PROCEDURES ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill entitled the "Protecting Consumers through Proper Forbearance Procedures Act of 2007", which I am introducing today. This legislation is intended to correct persistent problems in procedure created by two words in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Section 10 of the Communications Act permits a telecommunications carrier to file a petition with the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, asking the FCC to forbear from applying certain statutory or regulatory requirements to it. The FCC may grant forbearance if it finds that doing so is in the public interest.

It is certainly within the prerogative of Congress to create a statutory regime that permits a regulatory agency to forbear from applying a statutory requirement, so long as the agency finds that consumers will continue to be protected and well served. The problem in this circumstance is that the statute states that the carrier's petition will be "deemed granted" if the FCC does not act within a prescribed timeframe. In other words, if the clock runs out before the FCC has reached agreement on the merits of a petition, the petition is automatically granted.

This untenable situation must be corrected. It can and has led to undesirable results.

First, the FCC last year permitted one forbearance petition to be "deemed granted" without issuing an accompanying written order, thereby making it impossible for Congress or the courts to ascertain the scope of relief granted or the legal rationale supporting the agency action. In this situation, which could easily occur again, it is difficult for Congress to conduct proper oversight of the implementation of the Communications Act, as well as oversight of the telecommunications industry.

Second, the "deemed granted" language results in unsound decision-making at the FCC. Faced with contentious, complicated issues as set forth in these petitions, the FCC now routinely waits until the last possible minute—in some cases literally the 11th hour—to make a rushed decision. All the while, during the FCC's deliberations, the threat of an automatic grant of forbearance from statutory provisions hovers over the proceedings. Such a disjointed process is not likely to result in public policy that benefits consumers.

This bill simply removes the "deemed granted" language from the statute. Carriers are still free to seek forbearance, and the FCC may still grant forbearance where appropriate. But the "deemed granted" language must be removed to safeguard the ability of Congress and the courts to conduct appropriate oversight, to protect consumers, and to restore transparency to the decision-making process.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAKEWOOD
HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Lakewood Hospital, which has proven to be a leader in northeastern Ohio's health care community.

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital provides high quality and innovative treatment to more than 130,000 patients annually from throughout Cuyahoga County. The hospital's affiliation with the Cleveland Clinic and other regional hospitals offers individuals access to state-of-the-art technology and individualized care.

Lakewood Hospital is not only a vital community resource for treating illnesses and injuries, but it also works to keep individuals healthy through educational wellness programs, public health screenings and other community outreach programs.

Lakewood hospital has introduced "A Century of Touching Lives" as the theme of its year-long centennial anniversary celebration. This theme reflects the tradition of caring and personal patient experiences that have become Lakewood Hospital's legacy.

To recognize the important relationship between the hospital and local schools, Lakewood Hospital plans to sponsor a year-long series of health education programs. It will also celebrate "Nurse's Week" and "Hospital Week" to recognize the contributions of nurses and other employees throughout the hospital's history.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Lakewood Hospital for its 100-year commitment to high quality, community-based health care.

HONORING THE ANN ARBOR
HANDS-ON MUSEUM ON THE OC-
CASION OF ITS TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a world-class learning and educational institution: The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. On October 20, 2007, the Hands-On Museum will be Celebrating 25 Years of Discovery.

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum serves as a focal point for informal science education in the greater Ann Arbor community, occupying 40,000 square feet in an old firehouse. From exhibits that tangibly display the effects of gravity, photography, anatomy, geology, music and many other scientific phenomena, to a live bee colony spread throughout the building; the Hands-On Museum brings learning to life. Special events like the Big Freeze and National Engineering Week are just part of what make the Hands-On Museum such a wonderful place; one which allows children and adults to experience learning first hand, together.

The history of this great institution is filled with instances of well meaning people building it from the ground up. In 1982, a small, but extremely dedicated group of individuals came together to create the Hands-On Museum in the old brick firehouse in downtown Ann Arbor. They did this because they wanted a place for their children and many others to come and learn, while having fun at the same time. These volunteers were able to raise enough money to open the museum and ensure its future funding. These first efforts eventually led to the further expansion of the Hands-On Museum and in 1986 it received a Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant, which allowed it to open up new exhibits on the third and fourth floors of the firehouse. The Hands-On Museum initiated its own \$6.5 million Capital Campaign fund, in 1993, which allowed it to expand by purchasing adjoining buildings and introducing new programs. Ever-evolving,

recent renovations were finished in October 1999 funded with additional gifts and donations. Thanks in large part to the work of many generous donors, the Hands-On Museum has seen over 3.1 million visitors to date.

The Hands-On Museum is a remarkable institution and has been widely recognized, including being named "Best Museum" in 2003 by the Detroit Free Press. It was also named both "Best Museum" and "Best Kids' Activity" by Ann Arbor News readers in 2006. Along with these awards, the Hands-On Museum has also received national recognition by the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Association of Science and Technology Centers.

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum has now served to educate several generations of children. It is truly a treasure for residents of the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and the State of Michigan. I applaud the Hands-On Museum for all that it has done; all that it means to the children who walk through its doors; and for all that it will do to educate both current and future generations of children.

HONORING TINA MACKENZIE OF
HUMBOLDT COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tina Mackenzie, executive director of Six Rivers Planned Parenthood of Eureka, California, who is being honored for her contribution to one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Tina Mackenzie is being recognized for her outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as the 2007 Democrat of the Year. Her commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Ms. Mackenzie was born in Philadelphia to a family of seven children. She received a Bachelor of Arts in social work from Ohio State University and a teaching credential from Humboldt State University. She first joined Six Rivers Planned Parenthood's Board of Directors in 1976. She joined the staff in 1978, serving as the agency's Public Affairs Director and Coordinator of Surgical Services.

For the past fifteen years, Ms. Mackenzie has served as the executive director at Six Rivers Planned Parenthood. She has been a tireless champion for reproductive rights and women's health issues. Under her guidance, SRPP has won seven affiliate excellence awards from the Planned Parenthood Federation. The agency operates in three rural counties and serves over 17,000 patients annually. Under Tina's excellent leadership, a new health and education center was completed in 2007, preceded by a very successful \$2.6 million capital campaign.

Tina Mackenzie has been an active, productive and dedicated community leader for over 30 years. She received the North Coast Non-Profit Leader of the Year Award in 2007 and has been recognized by the California Assembly with the Community Builder Award. She is a member of the North Coast Co-Op Commu-

nity Funding Committee, an associate of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Katrina Task Force and a member of the Planned Parenthood Global Partners Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Tina Mackenzie for her courage and her determination and for her abiding concern for the health of women and children.

HONORING J. ROY GABRIEL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Roy Gabriel for his years of distinguished service to the California Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. J. Roy Gabriel passed away, unexpectedly, during a Farm Bureau advocacy trip to Washington, DC the week of October 1st.

Roy Gabriel was a native of Fullerton, California. He graduated from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo with a degree in agricultural business management and received a technical certificate in crop production. Mr. Gabriel worked as Assistant Secretary of the California State Senate prior to beginning his career with the California Farm Bureau in 1973.

In Mr. Gabriel's 35 years with the California Farm Bureau he worked closely with many government officials, farmers and farm laborers to promote agriculture and to provide a more conducive environment for every one involved. As the Director of Labor Affairs, Mr. Gabriel represented the Farm Bureau on a number of issue areas; including labor policies, workplace rules and housing issues. He was passionate and knowledgeable in all issues related to agriculture business and was involved with many agriculture groups outside of the California Farm Bureau.

During the 1980's, Mr. Gabriel, served as the general manager of an organization known as ALFA. This organization assisted immigrant farm workers with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and successfully assisted over 50,000 people in applying for legal immigration status. Governor Pete Wilson appointed Mr. Gabriel to serve as Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations in 1998. However, he returned to the California Farm Bureau after Governor Wilson termed out of office in 1999.

Mr. Gabriel was a committed advocate for family farmers and ranchers across the State. He worked both as Director of Labor Affairs for the California Farm Bureau Federation and as Chief Operating Officer of the Farm Employers Labor Service. The Washington, DC trip earlier this month was an advocacy trip in support of Federal immigration reform legislation. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and three adult children; John C. Gabriel, Kristi A. Gabriel and Christopher R. Gabriel.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously J. Roy Gabriel. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Gabriel for his extraordinary service and dedication to his community.