

fraud on Government programs even when the Government uses agents and other third parties to administer Government programs and contracts; Clarifying that the Government's new or amended complaint in a qui tam action relates back to the original qui tam complaint to the same extent it would relate back if the Government had filed the original complaint; Clarifying that plaintiffs do not need to have access to individual claims data or documents to bring a False Claims Act case; Amending the Act so that a qui tam case may be dismissed in light of prior public disclosures only upon motion of the Government, and only if the case is truly parasitic; Amending and clarifying the Act to specify how the Act's chief investigative tool—the civil investigative demand—may be used to investigate violations of the Act; and clarifying how the Act applies to Federal employees who discover fraud during the course of their employment, by providing the Government authority to move to dismiss the action of any Federal employee who brings a qui tam action under the Act without first having provided the Government fair notice and opportunity to pursue such wrongdoing through its own False Claims Act action or other appropriate remedy.

Fighting fraud against U.S. taxpayers is not a partisan issue. When we passed the False Claims Act amendments in 1986, we did so with a strong bipartisan coalition in both houses. I'm pleased to continue that tradition by introducing this bill today with Representative JIM SENSENBRENNER as my partner. I look forward to working with him to make these amendments to the False Claims Act law this Congress.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JULIA CARSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I raise to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently passed colleague and dear friend JULIA CARSON.

In 1996 JULIA's deep commitment to those she served led her to become the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House from Indiana. I had the opportunity to get to know JULIA during our freshman terms in the 105th Congress and build a relationship with her over the past 10 years that we have both served. Julia spent her time in Congress working for children's issues, women's rights and efforts to reduce homelessness. One of her biggest accomplishments in the House was passing legislation granting the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks, the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated city bus in Montgomery, AL. She leaves behind an unmatched record of service to the people and an unequalled legacy of leadership.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying respect to the family of JULIA CARSON and in honoring her career in service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO AARON N. MENICHETTI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron N. Menichetti a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron N. Menichetti for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL STRAUSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mr. William Arthur Strauss.

I first met Bill Strauss in 1963 when we were both pages here in Washington. Bill served at the Supreme Court; I served in the Senate. Our respective careers continued to revolve around the Nation's capital—mine in Congress, Bill's in the executive branch.

Bill boasted an education few can match: an undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1969, a law degree from Harvard, and a master's degree from Harvard's venerable John F. Kennedy School of Government. He returned to Washington with his young bride in 1973, joining the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now Health and Human Services) as a policy aide. He quickly moved up to the Presidential Clemency Board, directing a report on the impact of the Vietnam War on draft-eligible youth.

Bill Strauss continued his work for the Federal Government, moving to the Department of Energy in 1977. Subsequently, in 1980 Mr. Strauss became chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Government Processes.

Despite his long service in the Federal Government—or, possibly more aptly, as a result of it—Mr. Strauss discovered at a Memorial Day party in 1981 that he was blessed with the gift of improvisational comedy. Having performed successfully to a receptive audience of friends, Mr. Strauss realized he could make a living satirizing the goings-on within the Beltway.

During his office's Christmas party in 1981, Mr. Strauss, along with a group later christened the Capitol Steps, performed his first musical parody. Senator Charles Percy (R-III), his employer, and the rest of the staff knew instantly that Bill Strauss had a gift. The group

grew steadily over the years, blossoming into the now \$3-million-a-year industry with performances across the country.

Despite these notable achievements, Bill will probably be best remembered for founding the Critics and Awards Program, otherwise known as the Cappies. Bill was inspired to institute this regional institution, which honors exceptional high school dramatic and musical performances throughout the Washington, DC, metro area, after being diagnosed with an aggressive strain of pancreatic cancer. Every year, high school students gather at the Kennedy Center for a ceremony not unlike the Tony Awards in New York. I look forward to the Cappies every year, and hope this tradition continues for years to come.

I was saddened to hear Bill succumbed to cancer at his home in McLean, VA, on December 18, 2007. His legacy of both the Capitol Steps and the Cappies will keep his memory alive within the Capitol Beltway for many years to come. May the elected officials in this body never cease to give Mr. Strauss' company a plethora of material to keep the country laughing.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Mr. William Arthur Strauss, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 19, 2007]

BILL STRAUSS, 60; POLITICAL INSIDER WHO STEPPED OVER INTO COMEDY

(By Joe Holley)

Capitol Steps founder Bill Strauss was a Harvard-trained lawyer and Senate subcommittee staffer when he broke through the chrysalis of Capitol Hill conventionality to become a musical satirist.

Mr. Strauss, who died Dec. 18 of pancreatic cancer at his home in McLean, recalled the breakthrough in a phone interview shortly before his death at age 60.

It was Memorial Day 1981, he said, and he was hosting a party that ended with a jam session around the piano. Party-goers riffed on parodies of Reagan-era news makers.

Mr. Strauss discovered that night that he had a facility for impromptu silliness and satire. He began to wonder whether, at age 34, he might be able to make a living at it, even though his only musical training was a stint in his elementary school orchestra.

During the next several months, when not worrying about nuclear proliferation and other weighty matters, he wrote musical parodies. Enlisting other musically gifted Senate staffers, he scheduled the group's debut at the annual office Christmas party of Sen. Charles Percy (R-III). Mr. Strauss's employer.

The group christened itself the Capitol Steps, an allusion to the location of a late-night amorous moment enjoyed by Rep. John W. Jenrette (D-S.C.) and his wife, Rita.

Capitol Steps was a hit from the beginning. For the next few years, the group performed regularly for free at parties and in church basements. "We were clinging to our day jobs," co-founder Elaina Newport said. "Frankly, we were trying not to get in trouble."

Today, Capitol Steps is still performing, although not in church basements. It's a \$3 million-a-year industry with more than 40 employees who sing and satirize at venues across the country.

The group's success was "totally out of the blue," Mr. Strauss said. "Neither I nor anyone else was expecting it."

Mr. Strauss's more serious side found expression in six books he co-authored about

American generations and as co-founder of Cappies, a high school critics and awards program. He also wrote three musicals—"MaKiddo," "Stopsandal.com." and "Anasazi"—and co-wrote with Newport two books of satire, "Fools on the Hill" (1992) and "Sixteen Scandals" (2002).

"He packed several lifetimes into his 60 years," Newport said.

William Arthur Strauss was born in Chicago and spent most of his childhood in Burlingame, Calif., in the San Francisco area. He was a Capitol page in 1963, during his junior year in high school, and graduated from Harvard University in 1969. He received a law degree from Harvard Law School and a master's degree from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, both in 1973, but knew from his first semester in law school that he did not want to practice law. The summer his classmates took the bar exam, he and his wife were on a 40-day honeymoon trip across Africa.

The couple moved to Washington in 1973, and Mr. Strauss took a position as a policy aide for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services). He moved the next year to the Presidential Clemency Board, where he directed a research team writing a report on the impact of the Vietnam War on the draft-eligible generation.

A year later, he and Larry Baskir co-wrote "Chance and Circumstance" (1978), a book about the Vietnam-era draft. Their second book, "Reconciliation After Vietnam" (1987), was said to have influenced President Jimmy Carter to issue a blanket pardon to draft resisters.

Mr. Strauss worked at the Department of Energy from 1977 to 1979 and then was offered the position of general counsel of the Selective Service System. Political objections derailed the offer: Someone pointed out that in the preface to "Chance and Circumstance," he had admitted helping a classmate eat enough to be too heavy for the draft.

The day Mr. Strauss heard about his rejection, he learned of an opening as a committee staffer with Percy. When Republicans took control of the Senate a year later, in 1980, Mr. Strauss became chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Government Processes.

He had grown up listening to political satirists Tom Lehrer and Stan Freberg and had written a few political poems in college, but making a living with Capitol Steps was, in Mr. Strauss's words, "a big entrepreneurial leap."

He would never lack for material, however—from Sen. Gary Hart and "Monkey Business" to Vice President Dick Cheney ("The Angina Monologues"). In the late 1980s, he perfected his backwards talk routine, "Lirty Dies," just in time for President Bill Clinton ("Clinton's Libido Loco") and Monica Lewinsky ("My Mama Told Me: You'd Better Sleep Around").

Made up mostly of Republicans, with a few Democrats and independents—"to spread the blame a bit," Newport said—the troupe, at Mr. Strauss's insistence, has always tried to be equal-opportunity satirists. "Generally people wanted to be in the show," he said, even when they were the ones being spoofed.

As Capitol Steps was taking up more of his time, Mr. Strauss was exploring American history through the cycle of generations. With co-author Neil Howe, he wrote "Generations" (1991), "13th Gen" (1993), "The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy" (1998), "Millennials Rising" (1999), "Millennials Go to College" (2003) and "Millennials and the Pop Culture" (2005).

In 1999, Mr. Strauss received a diagnosis of an aggressive strain of pancreatic cancer.

The diagnosis prompted him to form the high school Critics and Awards Program, known as Cappies. "I decided this would be my calling, performing less and concentrating on starting this program," he said.

Cappies arranges for high school students to attend and review each other's shows, with top reviews published in local newspapers. Sixty Washington-area schools are involved with the program, as well as 17 additional schools in the United States and Canada. Top Cappies winners perform shows at the Kennedy Center, and student creative teams, under Mr. Strauss's oversight, have written two musicals. The most recent, "Senioritis," has been made into a movie that is to be released in March.

"He had so many different projects in the air," said Judy Bowns, his Cappies colleague for nine years, "and the amazing thing is that they were completed with a standard of excellence that was mind-boggling."

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Janie Strauss of McLean; four children, Melanie Yee and Rebecca Strauss of McLean, Victoria Hays of Fairfax County and Eric Strauss of Reston; and one granddaughter.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this reckless energy policy, which will do absolutely nothing to make us energy independent, or lower energy costs. This bill sets us on a dangerous path and ties our hands in a regulatory mess to ensure that we cannot produce domestic energy.

Like my colleagues, I believe we should find solutions to address the growing demand for energy. The biggest concern facing the farmers and ranchers of this country is increased input costs from higher fuel prices and fertilizer. The U.S. fertilizer industry relies upon natural gas as the fundamental feedstock for the production of nitrogen fertilizer. The rest of the U.S. farm sector also depends on significant amounts of natural gas for food processing, irrigation, crop drying, heating farm buildings and homes, the production of crop protection chemicals, and, let's not forget, ethanol biofuel production. In addition to the farm sector, the forest products industry relies more on natural gas than any other fossil fuel, and energy amounts to the third largest manufacturing cost for the industry.

Unbelievably, this legislation contains no new energy supplies in it and does nothing to relieve the burdens of increased costs on producers who provide the food and fiber for American consumers. It seems that the majority's plan to move toward energy independence includes limiting domestic energy production and imposing new government mandates that will prove to be costly and burdensome to the American people.

This legislation would dramatically expand the Renewable Fuels Standard RFS, by increasing it to 36 billion gallons by 2022. This initiative is extremely ambitious and could be achieved by tapping all sectors of agriculture including plant and wood waste, vegetable oil, and animal fat and waste which would result in the production of 21 billion gallons of cel-

lulosic ethanol. While I am in favor of finding new markets for agriculture products, what good is finding new markets for agriculture commodities when the cost of production is too much for our farmers and ranchers?

We should develop a policy that is technology neutral and allows the market to develop new sources of renewable energy. The RFS provisions create an unrealistic mandate for advanced biofuels technology that doesn't yet exist and creates hurdles for the development of second generation biofuels by placing restrictions on alternative fuels, renewable fuel plant production, and, most important, limits the harvesting of our homegrown feedstocks. These restrictions will undoubtedly lead to a consumer tax to help bridge the gap in production that will occur if this policy is put into place.

Even with the advancement of cellulosic ethanol, the expansion of the RFS would still require 15 billion gallons of renewable fuel to come from the only current commercially available option: grain ethanol.

Last year, 20 percent of the U.S. corn crop was used for ethanol production and that amount is expected to rise significantly over the next few years. With feed stocks meeting most of our renewable fuel initiatives, the livestock sector is facing significantly higher feed costs. Corn and soybeans' most valuable market has always been, and will continue to be, the livestock producers. We must ensure that there are not unintended economic distortions to either grain or livestock producers as a result of these sectors prospering from other markets.

The benefits of reduced reliance on foreign energy sources, stable energy prices, and new markets for agricultural products should not be replaced with a risk of adding even more increased input costs for livestock producers and creating even higher food prices for consumers.

In addition to the above mentioned concerns, I'm also deeply disappointed that the Renewable Fuels Standard would essentially shut out one of the largest potential sources of feedstock for renewable fuel, forest biomass. In total, forests have the potential to sustainably produce 370 million tons of biomass for energy every year. This is approximately two and one-half times the amount of forest biomass we currently consume in traditional forest products. This amount of forest biomass could produce 24 billion gallons of ethanol per year, according to very conservative estimates. This could supplement, not replace, existing forest products markets.

Unfortunately, H.R. 6 would not allow forest biomass grown on public lands to be used to meet the Renewable Fuel Standard, unless the biomass was removed near buildings, public infrastructure, or areas people inhabit regularly. This greatly reduces the opportunity for any substantial market in the energy sector for the byproducts of hazardous fuels reduction. These markets could help lower the costs of reducing wildfire risks and improving forest health on public lands. With the restrictions in H.R. 6, very little of these byproducts could be used to meet the Standard. Currently, we have serious issues in our public forests, with over 90 million acres at risk of wildfire, insects, and diseases. H.R. 6 would do nothing to help address these concerns.

Additionally, H.R. 6 stipulates that, with respect to private forests, only forest biomass