

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. FRANK MELOY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Dr. Frank Meloy and the positive impact he's had in Altoona and Logan Township in Blair County, Pennsylvania as both a professional educator and a dedicated public servant.

Dr. Meloy is a retired administrator with the Altoona Area School District. During his 42 year tenure with the district, he rose from the ranks of Special Education Teacher to Assistant Superintendent—a position he held for twenty years.

Dr. Meloy received his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Education degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Doctor of Education from Temple University.

In addition to his esteemed career in education, Dr. Meloy has been an elected Supervisor in Logan Township since 1996. At the end of his current term in 2013, he will have served eighteen continuous years on the Township Board of Supervisors—the majority of those years as Chairman.

Under Dr. Meloy's fiscal leadership, tax rates in Logan Township have remained among the lowest in the county, and he has saved his municipality thousands of dollars by refinancing several bond issues. He has been extremely instrumental in transforming the Township's system of fire protection into a modern, well-equipped and cost-effective unit. Dr. Meloy also has been the Township's representative on numerous committees and boards during his term, and has been recognized for his active volunteerism by several community organizations including the PA Homeless Children's Initiative, the Blair Bedford Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, and the Kiwanis Club of Altoona.

Dr. Meloy will be honored on December 12, 2013 at his last official meeting as a Township Supervisor. I congratulate him on this recognition, and thank him for his distinguished careers in education and public service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3309, INNOVATION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL ACCESS AND JOB PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise to speak on the rule governing debate for H.R.

3309, and about innovation in America—the great job creator. H.R. 3309 is a bill before its time as the America Invents Act was signed into law barely two years ago. Many of the major provisions of this landmark legislation which many on the Judiciary Committee and in this body voted for have not even been put into practice.

It is well documented that our innovation ecosystem—founded on patents—drives economic growth and job creation in the United States. From the hustle and bustle of downtown Houston, Silicon Valley, Chicago, New York, and even here in Washington, DC, Americans want to keep our cherished system as strong as possible. For the future of our economy, we cannot risk jeopardizing it. And while the AIA was unquestionably pro-innovator legislation, its post-grant challenge provisions also unquestionably shifted the balance of rights toward implementers and away from patent holders. The question is—just how much has that balance shifted?

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3309 contains a provision that concerns me greatly. Section 3 of the bill directs a court to award attorney fees and costs to prevailing party in patent infringement cases.

This provision, commonly called “Loser Pays,” is prevalent in England but has heretofore been unknown to the American legal system. And for good reason. Loser pays laws ensure that only the wealthiest members of society or large corporations can afford to undertake a civil action and also unnecessarily punishes individuals with serious and meritorious claims for seeking access to justice. Loser pays policies fail to recognize that a person or a business can have a legally legitimate dispute regarding fact and law, and yet still ultimately lose the case. Loser pays policy sets a dangerous precedent and may prevent individuals from pursuing even the most meritorious civil liability claims.

If “loser pays” is implemented it could be a roadblock for people pursuing whistleblower, consumer mortgage, employment discrimination and other civil rights cases. The real losers under a “loser pays” system in patent cases is the individual inventor and small businesses seeking to vindicate their constitutional right to the exclusive use of the discoveries and inventions.

Mr. Speaker, we should proceed with caution and engage in a deliberative process that takes the time to rehash and listen to all stakeholders.

Many small innovators—today's Priceline.coms, Yahoo's, Google's, Facebook's, Eli Lilly's, Twitter's, akin to yesteryears Edisons—have not had time to make their views heard.

I thank the Rules Committee for making in my amendment that modifies the Manager's Amendment to ensure that more small businesses are protected by providing that the customer stay exception applies to all small businesses with annual revenues under \$25 million.

A number of the provisions in this bill may be well-intentioned, but they have undesirable

consequences for the patent system as a whole. They have the potential to undermine the enforceability of all patent rights, no matter how valuable the patent, and thus potentially incentivize infringement.

That is why I offered three amendments in the Judiciary Committee and three in the Rules Committee yesterday.

My first amendment would have modified section 9(a) of the bill to preserve the right of an applicant to file a civil action to obtain a patent in district court “upon a showing of good cause or where justice so requires.” I offered this amendment in response to information I received during my discussion with stakeholders, including the Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit, which hears all patent claims.

I thank the Committee also for making in my amendment which requires the PTO Director, in consultation with other relevant agencies, and interested parties, to conduct a study to examine the economic impact of the litigation reforms contained in the bill (sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act) on the ability of individuals and small businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities to assert, secure, and vindicate the constitutionally guaranteed exclusive right to inventions and discoveries by such individuals and small business. This amendment supplements and improves the bill, which requires PTO to conduct 4 studies and submit reports to Congress. The required studies are:

I also joined with Ranking Member Conyers of the Judiciary Committee on an amendment that strikes Section 3(b) which requires that courts reward attorney's fees and expenses to the prevailing party. I urge Members to support this amendment as well.

Mr. Speaker, innovation is the engine that drives our economy. Let us not act rashly in passing legislation that will harm the ability or lessen the incentive of innovators to make the discoveries and create the products that will power our economy in the 21st century.

HONORING GREEN GROVE M.B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and historical church, Green Grove M.B. Church.

Green Grove M.B. Church is one of the oldest churches in Belzoni, Mississippi. The 11th Mississippi Freedom Trail marker was unveiled at the church because of Rev. George Lee. Rev. Lee was an early participant in the Civil Rights Movement. Also, Rev. Lee was a vice president of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, a co-founder of the Belzoni branch of the NAACP, and a powerful public speaker.

In 1955, Rev. Lee addressed a crowd of 10,000 people that gathered for a voter registration rally in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Two weeks later, Lee was assassinated and no one was ever charged for his murder. Rev. Lee's funeral was held at Green Grove M.B. Church where the marker is erected. This was the 11th Mississippi Freedom Trail marker to be unveiled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Green Grove M.B. Church their determination and dedication to serving others and giving back to its community.

RECOGNIZING DOVER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dover High School of Dover, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Dover High School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and Dover High School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WELLINGTON BOONE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an incredible man of faith, with a true calling and heart for serving the Lord, Bishop Wellington Boone.

Bishop Wellington Boone was ordained into ministry in 1973, and in this same year, he married his childhood sweetheart, Kathryn. Today, Bishop Boone not only celebrates 40 years of ministry, but 40 years of loving marriage with his wife.

In today's world, it is unique and certainly admirable to see a couple celebrate 40 years of marriage. Their long-lasting marriage is a testament not only to their commitment to each other, but to their dedication in serving the Lord.

Bishop Boone's 40 years of leadership and service in ministry is also a tremendous accomplishment, and one that deserves recognition. Through his work, Bishop Boone has faithfully led others in their quest to glorify and serve the Lord.

Mister Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Bishop Boone as he celebrates 40 years of ministry, and 40 years of marriage with his lovely wife, Kathryn. I extend my personal congratulations to them both, and wish them many more joyful years ahead in both their ministry and marriage.

HONORING DR. ANN C. NOBLE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ann C. Noble, an Emerita Professor, Sensory Scientist and Flavor Chemist from the Department of Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis. I honor her today in conjunction with the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, which will be hosting an all day symposium in her honor on January 31, 2014.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Noble's research has contributed greatly to the advancement of viticulture and enology. Some of her most notable research conducted while at U.C. Davis was the application of multivariate statistics to sensory data and the creation of a standardized language to describe wine, known as the Wine Aroma Wheel. In addition to this important research, Dr. Noble has also published over 150 papers and book chapters and has taught many students at U.C. Davis through her course, titled "Wine Types and Sensory Evaluation".

For her work, Dr. Noble has been honored by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, Decanter magazine, Women for Wine Sense and IntoWine.com. Significantly, Dr. Noble was the first female faculty hired into the Department of Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis.

As founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Wine Caucus, I am incredibly proud of, and grateful for, the contributions Dr. Noble has made to viticulture and enology in California. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Dr. Noble for her significant and lasting contributions to the American Wine Industry.

IN SUPPORT OF FARM BILL CONFERENCE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my colleagues currently negotiating the Farm Bill through the Conference process to get the job done on behalf of our nation's farmers and agribusiness community.

I understand and respect the challenges facing the House and Senate in these final steps to getting a bill across the finish line. I also understand the significant differences between the two bills before us. But, it's time to get a deal done. We have waited long enough.

I have the privilege to serve on the Agriculture Committee and I join my colleagues in supporting the House-passed bill that equips our farmers with the tools and certainty they need to produce an affordable and stable food supply while making significant reforms and cutting wasteful spending. I am proud of the bill the House passed and support many of the provisions contained therein.

I join with my farmers back in the Eighth District of North Carolina in encouraging our negotiators to finish this work so we can get

a Five Year Authorization complete. It's time to get this bill to the President's desk. Our farmers and agribusiness community have waited long enough and our local economies depend on it.

HONORING BILL ERICKSON

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Erickson from Eaton, Colorado. A longtime dairyman, Mr. Erickson was recently honored with the Colorado State University Alumni Association 50 Year Club's Public Service Award for his work with 4-H, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) youth organization which promotes science, citizenship, and healthy-living through hands-on learning activities. Mr. Erickson has been involved with 4-H for 60 years.

Mr. Erickson became involved with 4-H as a child and has since served the Colorado agricultural community in a variety of leadership roles. He is a long-standing member of the Weld County Farm Bureau and has also served as president of both the Weld County 4-H Leadership Council and the Colorado 4-H Leadership Council. Now 84, Mr. Erickson continues to be involved with 4-H and serves on the Agriculture Committee for the Greeley Chamber of Commerce.

I am extremely grateful for Mr. Erickson's dedication to agricultural development and the youth of Weld County. Please join me in congratulating him on receiving this award.

HONORING BRINSON FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable funeral home, Brinson Funeral Home.

Brinson Funeral Home was established in 1939 by Booker T. Brinson, Sr. and Ruby Brinson at 723 Aloe Avenue in Cleveland, Mississippi. They worked diligently in the farming industry in Sunflower County to be able to purchase their funeral home. In the early 80's their son, John Brinson, took over the business. John wanted to maintain the legacy and vision of his parents, who believed that every family they serviced was special and deserved the best during and after their bereavement.

The Brinson Funeral Home staff of funeral directors and morticians understands that it is "A Home That Service Built".

Mr. Brinson throughout the years has maintained the authenticity of the facility, while using the latest technology and educational tools, the funeral home continues to be a thriving establishment in the community. Brinson Funeral Home sponsors, contributes and participates in numerous youth and charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brinson Funeral Home for their dedication in being a corner stone in the City of Cleveland and Bolivar County Mississippi.