

PERMANENT INTERNET TAX
FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act. This legislation makes permanent the ban on state and local taxation of Internet access. This is vital to ensuring continued economic growth powered by the Internet and digital economy.

I am encouraged by the bipartisan support for this legislation and am hopeful that it will be enacted into law before the November 1 expiration date.

As a former state legislator and Minnesota House Majority Leader, I am a strong believer in states' rights. In addition to the legislation before the House today, I would also like to highlight the efforts of my colleagues JASON CHAFFETZ, STEVE WOMACK, SUZAN DELBENE, JACKIE SPEIER, and other members of the Judiciary Committee.

They are working diligently on similar states' rights legislation to address federal law for sales made over the Internet. This is important, because purchasing items on the Internet should not offer tax breaks that are not extended to brick and mortar retailers. States should be encouraged to compete with one another by keeping tax rates low, not by promoting one form of commerce over another.

The Internet Tax Freedom Act has helped e-commerce grow to over \$220 billion this year. And with 20 percent annual growth projected through 2017, it's time to update outdated federal interstate commerce laws to ensure all retailers are treated the same.

The tax code should not pick winners and losers. As commerce is conducted on the Internet, we should ensure there is an even playing field for all businesses.

In fact, I've heard from many retailers in my home state of Minnesota about the importance of this legislation to their ability to compete on a level playing field.

Madam Speaker, I'm hopeful this body will also consider this legislation before the end of the year.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,591,980,437,201.71. We've added \$6,965,103,388,288.63 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FOR CYPRUS REUNIFICATION

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for ending the separation of Cyprus which has existed since 1974. It is time to finally end the 40 year division of Cyprus and I am hopeful that the Cyprus settlement talks will accomplish that critical goal. The reunification of Cyprus is among the most pressing foreign policy matters that exist in the world today.

A reunited Cyprus would finally end the occupation and injustice that has existed on the island for far too long. Only by solving this crisis can Greek and Turkish Cypriots live side by side in peace, and work together to improve stability and prosperity in the region. It is critical that Congress express its support for a resolution and that our country stand ready to provide assistance in any way it can. A united and unified Cyprus is in America's interest, with many benefits to our economy, bilateral relations and national security.

I urge all parties involved in reunification talks to continue working towards a lasting solution. While there is not yet light at the end of the tunnel, there are some bright spots peeking through. I look forward to the negotiations moving forward and hope that one day soon, a divided Cyprus will only exist in the history books.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of July 7, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Wednesday, July 9, 2014: H.R. 4923—Energy and Water Development and related agencies Appropriations Act 2015 Amendments: rollcall No. 371—McAllister Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 372—Hahn Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 373—Gosar Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 374—Wenstrup Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 375—Swalwell Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 376—Byrne Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 377—McClintock Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 378—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments “aye.”

Thursday, July 10, 2014: rollcall No. 379—McClintock Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 380—Bonamici Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 381—Speier Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 382—Titus Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 383—Schiff Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 384—Quigley Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 385—Chabot Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 386—Titus Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 387—DeLauro Amendment “aye”; rollcall No. 388—King Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 389—Lankford Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 390—Cassidy Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 391—Providing for consideration of H.R. 5016 “aye”; rollcall No. 392—Providing for consideration of H.R. 5016 “nay”; rollcall No. 393—

Burgess Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 394—LaMalfa Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 395—Stockman Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 396—Stockman Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 397—McKinley Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 398—Blackburn Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 399—Gosar Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 400—Hudson Amendment “nay”; rollcall No. 401—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions “aye”; rollcall No. 402—On Passage “nay.”

Friday, July 11, 2014: H.R. 4718—rollcall No. 403—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions “aye”; rollcall No. 404—On Passage “nay.”

CONGRATULATING DANSBY SWANSON, 2014 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES' MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Marietta native, Marietta High School Alumnus, and Vanderbilt second baseman, Dansby Swanson, on his accomplishments in the 2014 NCAA College World Series.

Swanson was awarded the College World Series' Most Outstanding Player Award and was an incredible asset in helping Vanderbilt clinch its first College World Series Championship.

Throughout the 2014 season, Swanson became one of the key players on Vanderbilt's tremendously talented roster and was key in Vandy's 3-2 victory over the University of Virginia in the final to cap off a landmark 50 win season.

Just a sophomore, Swanson batted .323 with five runs scored and two RBI in Omaha—the most impressive performance of any player in the tournament.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I applaud Dansby for his achievement and look forward to his future successes. I extend my enthusiastic congratulations to him on achieving the highest level of recognition possible in the NCAA College World Series.

HONORING MARVIN HAMMOND

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Marvin Hammond, a friend of mine for more than 50 years, passed away this past Saturday in Knoxville, Tennessee. Marvin was one of the finest men I have ever known.

Marvin was 71 and had a long and successful career as an executive for the Knoxville Utilities Board and as the top official of the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District.

I first got to know Marvin when he was the manager of Holston High School athletic teams. I played a lot of sports and sold programs, popcorn, and soft drinks at many games for the University of Tennessee and Knoxville professional teams. Marvin was at many of these games.

When I was 15, I got my first hourly-pay job working as a groundskeeper at the Holston-Chilhowee ball park. Marvin was 19 and was my first boss. I made \$1.00 an hour, and he always joked that I was overpaid.

After high school he became a trainer in the Cincinnati Reds minor league system. I was batboy for the Knoxville Smokies and would see him when his team would come to town. He was always proud of his association with several players who later made it to the big leagues. He especially treasured his longtime friendship with manager Dave Bristol.

The Knoxville News-Sentinel relates a story about how Marvin helped a Cub Scout troop that I led. He spent a full day and went to great lengths to help me and the Cub Scouts, none of which he knew other than my son, John.

He campaigned for me in my first race for Congress. I will never forget a campaign trip one Saturday to Polk County, Tennessee. Lance Cavett was with us and he kept fussing at Marvin about his ridiculously high KUB bill and how he just couldn't believe it.

Marvin became very concerned and then asked Lance how high this terrible utility bill was. When Lance replied that it was \$36, Marvin, who was driving, nearly ran off the road.

I was pleased that on the Monday before he died, I had about a 30-minute visit with Marvin at his Hospice room. He held my hand for almost the entire visit.

He seemed so alert and pleasant that I left thinking and hoping that he would recover. Unfortunately, that was not to be.

That day, we talked over old stories and old friends. He assured me that he was not in any pain and that God had greatly blessed him in many ways.

He told me of what he considered to be a miracle during his final illness. He said he had become addicted to pain pills and told his doctor he wanted to stop taking them.

He said his doctor told him that would not be possible—that no one could stand the pain he would experience. Marvin insisted, saying he was turning it over to the Lord. He said from that moment, he became miraculously pain-free.

Marvin had accepted that his death was near and told me he was thankful that he had been given time to say good-bye to his family and friends. He faced his death in a courageous, loving way, showing great Christian faith, and setting a wonderful example for everyone.

Marvin Hammond was a good and kind man. I was told that over 300 friends visited him in his last days and hundreds more attended his receiving of friends and funeral.

This Nation would be a better place if we had more men like Marvin Hammond. To me, he was a great man.

I commend to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the stories about Marvin Hammond that ran in the Knoxville News-Sentinel on July 14, 2014, and the Shopper News on July 16, 2014.

[From knoxnews.com, July 14, 2014.]

FORMER HALLSDALE POWELL CEO MARVIN HAMMOND DIES AT 71

(By Josh Flory)

A prominent former leader of a North Knox County utility district died on Saturday.

Marvin Hammond, 71, was the former president and CEO of the Hallsdale Powell

Utility District, and previously a longtime executive with the Knoxville Utilities Board.

Darren Cardwell, Hammond's son-in-law and the current general manager of HPUD, said Monday that Hammond had been in worsening health for several months, and had been receiving hospice care.

Cardwell described Hammond as a mentor, coach and boss, saying that even when they disagreed, they could still "have a family life, too, and not carry the two together."

"That taught me a lot over the years in how to grow and be more of not only a husband and father but how to be a leader in the business," Cardwell said.

Knoxville attorney John Valliant said that in the last days of his life, many people would ask Hammond how they could help, and he would respond by telling them about other people with needs. "He was giving people instructions as to how he wanted them to help other people, and he was dying," Valliant said.

Hammond's leadership at Hallsdale Powell wasn't without controversy. His tenure coincided with a significant growth phase for the utility, which also drew sharp criticism from some customers over rising utility rates.

In 2012, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett criticized a \$125-an-hour consulting contract approved for Hammond after he stepped down from the HPUD post. That contract was later terminated.

Valliant said Hammond was a selfless person. "You know people gave him a lot of grief over the rate increases at Hallsdale Powell, but they didn't realize that the EPA was breathing down his throat," he said.

Hammond was well-connected in local political circles, and counted U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr. among his friends. In a written tribute in 2008, Duncan recalled his first hourly-pay job as a 15-year-old groundskeeper at Holston-Chilhowee Ball Park, saying that Hammond was his 19-year-old boss.

"I remember another time when I was a judge, Marvin found that I was Cubmaster of a Cub Scout troop," Duncan wrote. "He told me he could get several canoes from another church and he knew some people who owned a dairy farm 45 miles away with a big lake on it. He spent his whole day getting the canoes, helping the boys tour the farm, do the canoe rides, cook out, and then load everything back up for the return."

Receiving of friends will take place on Tuesday, July 15, from 4:30 to 8 p.m., at Salem Baptist Church, with funeral services to follow.

[From the Business Shopper news]

MARVIN HAMMOND PROMOTED YOUNG PEOPLE, COMMUNITY

(By Sandra Clark)

Marvin Hammond was the right leader for Hallsdale Powell Utility District when the board of commissioners hired him as only the second general manager in the district's 50-year history.

Did he move too quickly? Maybe. Did he move HPUD in the right direction? Absolutely.

Under his leadership, HPUD upgraded its wastewater plant, upgraded its Beaver Creek water treatment plant, replaced leaking pipes throughout the district, and built a second water plant on Norris Lake.

Under his leadership, HPUD invested in people—whether it was teaching laborers to read and write or encouraging kids to return to college for advanced degrees.

In the picture on this page, Marvin is congratulating Cody Humphrey who had just received his MBA from Lincoln Memorial University while working full time at Hallsdale Powell. Cody, now older, still works for HPUD. He was at Monday's board meeting.

Board chair Kevin Julian paid tribute to Mr. Hammond at that meeting.

"His vision for Hallsdale Powell was already set when I came on the board," Julian said. "Marvin had big shoulders and he took the criticism for rate increases, but he did what he thought best based on 30 years experience in the utility business."

"When it all plays out, people will appreciate his vision. He will be missed."

When business leaders in Halls were trying to block commercial development on the land that later became Clayton Park, Hammond was there at County Commission to speak.

Developers said their engineers had said filling the wetland on Norris Freeway was OK.

Hammond pointed out that the Titanic was designed by engineers, while Noah's Ark was not.

Everybody smiled and the developers were sent packing.

When Darren Cardwell was promoted to succeed Hammond, he said he hoped to be a blend of his predecessors: Allan Gill and Marvin Hammond.

When Marvin's kidneys malfunctioned, he refused dialysis, saying he did not want to put his family through the strain. "I'm ready to go," he told everyone who came to visit. He lived at Tenna Hospice for less than two weeks, dying July 12, and held court with a steady flow of visitors and friends.

Sen. Lamar Alexander telephoned Marvin and asked if there was anything he could do.

"Get EPA off our backs," Marvin told him, concerned about Hallsdale Powell employees and customers until the end.

"Dad will be remembered as a Godly servant leader, a generous southern gentleman, and one who was always showing genuine Christian love for his fellow man, especially for the less fortunate among us," his family wrote.

"Dad was a proud alumnus of ETSU where he was member of the baseball and football programs in the 1960s. He also played minor league baseball for the Macon Peaches. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and held the coveted Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver awards."

"He squeezed every ounce of life he was given whether he was working, fishing, or hunting. He was proud to be known as a conservative, "deep water" Baptist and as an unworthy man saved and blessed by God's grace and love."

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Duncan remembers Hammond as his first boss at the Holston-Chilhowee Rec Center. Jimmy was 15 and earned \$1 per hour. Marvin was 19 and "told me what to do."

Survivors include wife Kay Hammond; children: Jeff and Missy Hammond, Lisa and Darren Cardwell; brother James (Jim) Hammond; grandchildren: John and Xan Hammond, Amber and Colby Cardwell, and Megan Pratt; great-granddaughter Lucy Rae Pratt.

Services were Tuesday at Salem Baptist Church, led by the Rev. John Holland with eulogies by Bill Landry, John Hill and John Valliant.

HONORING AUSTEN JAMES KNEPPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austen James