

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KEN BLACKWELL MAKES THE CASE FOR A FAIRER, SIMPLER TAX CODE

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, one of the best and most persuasive advocates of a fairer, simpler Tax Code is my good friend, former colleague on the Cincinnati City Council, and present treasurer of the State of Ohio, Ken Blackwell. Today, I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an op-ed article written by Mr. Blackwell that appeared in the April 16, edition of the Wall Street Journal.

Mr. Blackwell, who has served as a member of the National Commission on Economic Growth and Tax Reform, chaired by former Congressman and HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, makes a very strong case on behalf of a Tax Code that should be so simple that anyone can figure it out. He notes the exorbitant costs incurred by individuals and businesses in complying with the maze of regulations in the Federal Tax Code.

Ken Blackwell calls filing our tax returns "one of life's most nerve-wracking, gut-wrenching and mind-numbing chores." Millions of Americans agree. I commend the article to my colleagues, and I commend Ken Blackwell for his continuing service to our Nation.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 16, 1996]

THERE'S NOTHING EZ ABOUT IRS FORMS

(By J. Kenneth Blackwell)

The message in that letter should be a loud wake-up call for the government. The American people, who experienced the misery of Tax Day yesterday, think our current tax system is far too complex and confusing. It is choking the ability of businesses and families to grow and prosper. It is time to uproot the current disgraceful system and replace it with a clear, simple tax code.

Mr. Sabus was one of thousands of people who sent letters to the National Commission on Economic Growth and Tax Reform, chaired by Jack Kemp. The commission, on which we both served, came up with six principles that should guide the national debate on tax reform. One of those principles is that the new tax code should be so simple that anyone can figure it out. Unfortunately, that guideline has been all but ignored by pundits and reporters who've been debating the merits of getting rid of the home-mortgage deduction and other aspects of the flat tax.

The point that they are missing is that much of the public's disgust with the current income tax is caused by its complexity. The cost of compliance is astronomical. The Tax Foundation estimates that in 1994 businesses spent more than 3.6 billion hours, and individuals spent more than 1.8 billion hours, in preparing tax returns. That equates to approximately three million people working full time 12 months a year just to comply with the tax laws! The total annual cost of tax compliance is \$192 billion—an amount equivalent to General Motors' entire output for 1994.

There are other costs that are not included in the Tax Foundation's numbers. One of

these is the cost of dealing with an audit or some other contact with the IRS. In 1990, the IRS conducted 1.2 million audits, and sent 4.9 million computer-generated notices to taxpayers regarding their returns or payments. The IRS filed 1.1 million liens and 2.6 million levies, and penalized a third of all employers for payroll tax deposit errors. Needless to say, taxpayers spent a considerable number of hours in these contacts with the IRS in addition to the time they spent preparing their tax returns.

Why does it take so much time and energy to comply with the federal income-tax laws? Consider the sheer size of the tax code and regulations and the number of times changes that occur. From 1954 to 1994, the number of words in the sections of the Internal Revenue Code relating just to income taxes increased to more than 800,000 from less than 200,000. And there were constant amendments to the tax code. Every amendment requires new forms, new instructions, new record keeping and new calculations.

Who can understand all of this? Certainly not the average family or small business. Not even professional tax preparers. Money magazine's annual survey of return preparers suggests that as few as 10% of the professional preparers can come within 10% of the correct tax when asked to complete a return for an individual taxpayer with moderately complicated facts. The tax code is so complicated that the IRS itself, according to a 1987 General Accounting Office survey, gives taxpayers the wrong information 47% of the time.

Critics of tax reform frequently suggest that the tax law is not that complicated because most individual taxpayers file the simplest returns, a Form 1040EZ or a Form 1040A. Unfortunately, even the simplest returns are not that simple. The IRS notes proudly that it should take taxpayers "only" two hours and 42 minutes to complete the 1040EZ. Why does it take so long to fill out a form that is just a little bigger than a postcard? The instructions for the 1040EZ are 36 pages long! And the instructions for the Form 1040A are 79 pages.

Furthermore, although taxpayers may end up filing a Form 1040EZ, many are still likely to keep (or try to keep) the records that would be necessary were they to file a longer form. For example, they may keep records of charitable contributions, mortgage interest, child care expenses, medical expenses, state and local taxes, tax return preparation fees, and work-related expenses such as union dues or professional association fees.

The problems with filling out tax returns are far more serious for businesses than for individuals. Each business must deal not only with the burdens of determining its tax liability, but also function as a record keeper and private tax collector for the IRS. Businesses must send the IRS (with copies to the taxpayer by first class mail) more than a billion reports annually. While this information is essential for our tax system to function, we must be cognizant of the costs imposed on businesses by such mandates.

As we said in the tax commission's report, filing tax returns will never be anyone's favorite pastime, but neither should it be what it has become: one of life's most nerve-wracking, gut-wrenching and mind-numbing chores. The current tax code is exceedingly expensive to comply with, increasingly dif-

ficult to enforce and oftentimes impossible to understand.

Long ago the authors of the Federalist Papers warned, "It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood." A simpler tax system will let Americans get a handle on their taxes, a grip on their government and a hold of their future.

HONORING THE MOSS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Moss Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

CONGRESSMAN TOM CAMPBELL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH STANFORD UNIVERSITY

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, in 1983, I commenced teaching at Stanford University. In 1987, I was awarded tenure in the law school as a full professor. I still maintain that position, though I am currently on leave. When I served in Congress from 1989 to 1993, I made my continued relationship with Stanford a matter of public record, and I wish to do so again.

• 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.

In connection with my tenured professorship, I am allowed to own a house on Stanford property, to rent out a cottage on that property, to receive salary for any semester in which I teach a full course load, to receive a stipend for less than a full course load, and to receive contributions to my retirement account commensurate with my compensation.

When I served in Congress before, I received a statement from the ethics committee granting me permission to continue in the above described relationship, both in that and in future Congresses. I have requested similar permission from the ethics committee since joining Congress again.

I have prepared this statement to make public, and also to deliver to any agency or person when appropriate in connection with my work as a Member of Congress so that, should the matter of business affect Stanford University, the recipient can weigh my advice or opinion knowing of the interest that I may have. However, I do assure any such recipient, and my constituents, that I have never, and will never, decide a matter of public policy that affects Stanford University differently because of my relationship with Stanford. Also, my wife, Susanne, is an employee of the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. I offer the identical statement with regard to any action of mine that might affect that university as well.

INJURED WORKERS REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I join with Mr. BILBRY as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3203, H.R. 3204, and H.R. 3205, legislation that would begin to reform the appeals process for injured Federal workers; require the administrative agency responsible for adjudicating claims select physicians that are impartial; and require that physicians who have been certified by a board of medical specialties be selected to provide for second opinions for these claims.

This legislation would create a much needed timeframe for the decisionmaking process for a workers compensation claim. This legislation would require that the initial decision made by the Secretary of Labor regarding any claim filed by a Federal employee be made within 90 days of the filing of said claim. If for some reason, a decision regarding compensation is not reached within 90 days, the claimant would be given full and normal salary payment until a decision is reached.

These measures would specify that an employee filing an injured workers claim must submit to an actual physical examination by a physician designated or approved by the Secretary of Labor or his designee when ordered by an administrative law judge. When surgery is required, a second opinion would be required except in life-threatening situations.

If there is any reason for disagreement between the physician for the Secretary of Labor and the claimant's physician, a list of three physicians of the appropriate board certified specialty would be given to the claimant to choose from, and a final exam would be con-

ducted to reach closure on any medical and legal issues. All information would be shared with the claimants physician.

The fees set for this process would be set by the Secretary of Labor and would be the same as those allowed to the claimant's physician. All medical bills shall be paid within 60 days of billing, except during the initial claims process and in that case within 60 days of acceptance of the claim.

Further, it would be required that if a claimant is not satisfied with the initial decision regarding his claim he/she may request an oral hearing within 180 days of the date of the initial decision. Under this legislation, once the hearing request has been filed, a hearing must take place within 90 days of the date requested. Any decisions regarding the issues being appealed would have to be rendered within 30 days of the hearing or benefits shall be reinstated if denied.

When conducting a hearing the claimant would be able to cross examine all witnesses and present any evidence they feel necessary for consideration of the claim. If the claimant prevails in the appeal, their attorney or representative would receive 15 percent of the benefits awarded to the claimant.

In a case in which vocational rehabilitation is required, the Secretary would provide these services to any permanently disabled claimant who requests them or whose physician requests them. The claimant would be able to choose the vocational service provider and, Federal employees would be given first priority of placement to injured Federal workers positions commensurate with their pay at the time of their injury and disability.

Mr. Speaker, these legislative changes will bring about much needed reform in the way Federal worker's injury claims are handled. I look forward to working with Mr. BILBRY in bringing this measure before the whole House of Representatives as soon as possible.

MEGAN'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of H.R. 2137, a bill known as Megan's law. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation and I commend my colleague, Mr. ZIMMER, for his work on behalf of innocent children nationwide.

As a resident of New Jersey, this particular bill is a painful reminder of the brutal tragedy that took an innocent child's life almost 2 years ago. Mr. Speaker, I know that we cannot bring back 7-year-old Megan Kanka, for whom this bill is named. We can, however, ensure that in the future our sons and daughters are protected from known sex offenders that prey on them.

We often speak of parental responsibility and the importance of making informed decisions concerning the well-being of our children. This bill is about empowering parents with information to do just that.

H.R. 2137 would require that States make public pertinent information on individuals previously convicted of sex crimes or kidnaping.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our communities have the right to know if their children are at

risk. As a former Federal prosecutor and the father of two children, I want to know if a convicted child molester has moved into my neighborhood. Had Maureen and Richard Kanka been informed that a known pedophile lived around the corner, Megan would probably be alive today. Instead, she was raped and murdered right across the street. If only they had known.

It is also important to point out that in my home State of New Jersey, our version of Megan's law is being challenged on the grounds of its constitutionality and has been temporarily halted by a court injunction. I am hopeful the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will uphold this legislation and place the safety of our children above the protection of their offenders.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no greater fear than harm coming to my children. I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to parents of Megan Kanka and those who loved her. We must not allow this little girl's life to be taken in vain. How many children must fall victim before action is taken.

Again, I thank my colleague from New Jersey and the Judiciary Committee for their leadership on this important bill. I strongly support passage of H.R. 2137 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THE HILHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Hilham Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

CAPS THE ECONOMY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, every year since President Clinton took office, Americans have watched their paychecks dwindle and their tax bill skyrocket. My Republican colleagues and I want to reverse this trend. We want to enable families to earn more and keep more of what they earn.

The President's tax-and-spend policies mean the Government gets more and families get less. Last year, families earned \$803 less in after-tax dollars than in 1992. In 1993, the President and his colleagues passed the largest tax increase in American history. Taxes are now the highest they have been in peacetime history and almost every American household and business feels the impact.

My Republican colleagues and I have worked diligently to put American families first. We passed tax cuts for families. We passed a balanced budget that would lower interest rates. We passed genuine welfare reform that would have saved taxpayers billions of dollars. Why have America's families not seen any of these savings? President Clinton vetoed all of them.

We have successfully passed a line-item veto and cut foreign aid. We have passed regulatory reform—overregulation costs American households \$6,000 a year. Further, my Republican colleagues and I will press on and pass health insurance reform to ensure families are able to keep their coverage if they lose or change jobs, get sick, or move.

I am committed to helping America's families get ahead and putting an end to the Clinton assault on hardworking taxpayers. It is time Washington started working for them, instead of making them work for Washington.

NATIONAL PROPANE SAFETY WEEK

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, for over 70 years, the propane gas industry has been making significant contributions to American life with remarkable degrees of dependability, efficiency, and above all safety. To highlight the industry's sincere concern with safety, the National Propane Gas Association sponsors National Propane Safety Week, which is being held this year from May 6 to 10. Today I would like to recognize this focus on safety and bring it to the attention of my colleagues.

Throughout the week, activities are being held to promote safety including safety demonstrations and antitampering messages, and public service announcements. Helpful tips on using gas grills, handling cylinders for recreational vehicles, what to do if a homeowner smells gas, and how to handle a pilot light that won't light, are also being shared.

All across the country, manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors regularly help in educating the over 60 million consumers of propane on the wise use of this gas. Consumers

use this common fuel to heat their homes, and barns, dry their crops, and fuel their vehicles and machines. National Propane Safety Week plays an important role in reinforcing the safety education of those who already have access to this pertinent information, as well as making it available to those who do not.

A home safety audit, called Gas Check, is another initiative strongly recommended by the National Propane Gas Association throughout Safety Week. This year's focus is on the importance of regular appliance system check-ups to ensure the safe operation of all gas-fueled household appliances. Attention to the safety needs of consumers like these should be recognized and appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress my support for all of the propane dealers in my district who put safety first, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I would also like to commend the National Propane Gas Association and its constituent dealers for their efforts to promote public awareness about propane safety issues through their sponsorship of and participation in National Propane Safety Week.

MARK RYBECKI AND THE FOOD SOURCE NETWORK OF MYRTLE BEACH, SC

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day in the fight against hunger around the United States. The Congressional Hunger Center and Victory Wholesale Grocers of Dayton, OH, presented the third annual Victory Against Hunger Awards to recipients from across the Nation.

On behalf of the First District of South Carolina, I take special pride that one of our own is a recipient of this important award. The Food Source Network of Myrtle Beach, SC, headed by Chef Mark Rybecki, is a 1996 Victory Against Hunger Award recipient.

The Food Source Network is an unique program among those dedicated to eradicating hunger around the country. First, because it was founded by chefs. And second, because it is the first type of program in its area—there are no other such programs within a 150 miles of the Grand Strand area of South Carolina.

Mark Rybecki and the Food Source Network volunteers take food that is left over from restaurants and other food providers, and give it to organizations that feed people in need. This perishable food rescue program enables organizations around Horry County—like the Red Cross, Citizens Against Spouse Abuse [CASA] and Meals on Wheels—to feed more people.

I want to commend the Congressional Hunger Center for their advocacy on behalf of those in need. And I want to thank Mark Rybecki, and the Food Source Network, for doing everything possible to help those in need.

HONORING THE MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer fire fighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give go graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

PERSIAN GULF SYNDROME HEALTH BENEFITS EXTENSION ACT OF 1996

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which extends priority healthcare to Persian Gulf war veterans who served in Israel and Turkey. My bill is entitled the "Persian Gulf Syndrome Health Benefits Extension Act of 1996." The bill has received bipartisan support from my colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Men and women who served during the Persian Gulf war in Israel and Turkey were originally excluded from the definition of in-theatre operations. Many of these soldiers suffer from similar undiagnosed medical problems that may be related to service during the Persian Gulf war.

Throughout my service on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have emphasized the need to alleviate the suffering of those individuals afflicted with the Persian Gulf syndrome.

FDA AND FOOD SAFETY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am not a chemist. I am not an expert in determining product safety. However, there seems to be conflicting reports about a situation brought to my attention by a constituent. I have serious concerns when the health of children is involved. If there is a possible health risk, then I believe that the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] needs to look very closely at this situation keeping the welfare of children in mind.

In June 1994, my office was contacted by one of my constituents, Mael Kersavage, the president of Contemporary Beverages, Inc. Mr. Kersavage said that his company, based in Knoxville, TN, was a distributor of health-oriented beverages.

Contemporary Beverages, in conjunction with another firm, developed a sparkling fruit juice beverage in order to offer schoolchildren a healthier alternative to sugar and caffeine laden soft drinks.

Mr. Kersavage further states that both the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] allowed this beverage to be served in school cafeterias nationwide. The beverage was endorsed by the USDA as a beverage that could be served in schools during meal-times.

Since Mr. Kersavage served as a distributor for this product, in March 1994, he was contacted by an East Tennessee school system which complained that the beverages appeared to have a strange odor, cloudy appearance, and foreign objects floating in the bottles.

After personally inspecting the beverages, Mr. Kersavage was extremely concerned that these contaminated beverages were being offered to schoolchildren. He instructed the school system and his company subdistributors to immediately discontinue dispensing the beverages.

Mr. Kersavage learned that approximately 10,000 cases of the contaminated beverages had been distributed throughout the Southeast. He then contacted the FDA in June 1994.

After persevering through the FDA's labyrinth of bureaucracy, which was exemplified by being continually transferred from one FDA office to another, he finally was able to present documentation with regard to the contaminated beverages. Mr. Kersavage requested that the FDA recall this product. However, the FDA told Mr. Kersavage that it was the responsibility of the manufacturer to recall the products.

For more than a year, my office and Mr. Kersavage consistently contacted the FDA, and Mr. Kersavage provided evidentiary information, including samples of the contaminated product. I, as well as Mr. Kersavage, were concerned about any potential danger to schoolchildren consuming the beverages.

I believe that the FDA should protect the health of our school children. Therefore, I think that when instances, such as the one I have described, are brought to the attention of the FDA it should take immediate and appropriate actions to ensure that products consumed by

schoolchildren are safe, and the discretion to recall the product should not be left up to the manufacturer.

SONS OF ITALY FOUNDATION
BUILDS AMERICAN LEADERS

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, on May 2, I had the privilege of attending the Eighth Annual National Education and Leadership Awards Gala, sponsored by the Sons of Italy Foundation at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium.

Over the years this ceremony has grown in prestige, a result of the leaders it has honored and the cause it has served. Among its honorees have been the late Sil Conte, a friend to many of us in Congress; Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the most incisive judicial minds we've had on the High Court in my memory; and Louis J. Freeh, who is building on the tradition of professionalism at the FBI.

This year's honorees follow in that line of great American leaders. Alfred Checchi, the cochairman of Northwest Airlines, is known as an executive who combines a good head for financial analysis with a heartfelt commitment to the well-being of his employees and the communities that Northwest serves.

Al's management talents have succeeded in restoring the luster of a great American airline. For 6 years, Northwest has been rated first in on-time performance and has had the fewest customer complaints of the seven largest airlines. These performance records are a tribute to Al's ability to motivate those who work with him.

Joe Paterno is one of the greatest coaches in the history of football. At Penn State, he has compiled a record of 278 wins, 72 losses, and 3 ties—which makes him the winningest active coach in the collegiate ranks. But he is also a coach whose concern for his players extends beyond their careers on the gridiron. He urges them to learn art, literature, and music, and to bring their knowledge and values to the families they raise and the communities they serve.

Both honorees provide excellent role models for this year's 12 winners of the National Leadership Grant Competition. What impressed me about these young people is that they drew so much strength from their families and communities.

There's no doubt in my mind that America will continue to flourish and prosper in the 21st century. It will do so because great American institutions like the Sons of Italy will help strengthen the bonds that hold us together as a society by building on a heritage of close families and strong communities.

The Sons of Italy Foundation knows full well that the key to providing thoughtful leadership in America is to provide its sons and daughters with good educations. This year, more than \$60,000 worth of scholarships were awarded to outstanding college-bound graduating high school students and full-time students in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. Since 1968, more than \$21 million in scholarships have been handed out by the Sons of Italy at the national, State, and local levels.

Among those who should be congratulated for this fine program are Joseph E. Antonini, who chaired this year's National Education and Leadership Awards Gala, and Paul S. Polo, Sr. and Valentino Ciullo, chairman and president respectively, of the Sons of Italy Foundation. I commend their efforts to recognize the outstanding Italian-American leaders of today and to support the outstanding Italian-American leaders of the future.

HONORING THE LA VERGNE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the La Vergne Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catches fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

IN HONOR OF FATHER ROGER
KAFFER

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Joliet UNICO Citizen of the Year—Father Roger Kaffer.

At the 40th annual banquet in Joliet, Father Kaffer was given the distinction of Citizen of the Year for his dedication and efforts toward making Providence High School a top rated educational institution.

When first given the responsibility for Providence in 1969, the school was in financial despair and on the verge of closing. Father Kaffer changed that through innovation, perseverance, and hard work.

Father Kaffer set out immediately on fundraising, student recruitment, and a public relations campaign on behalf of the faculty and

school. The result of his efforts: an increase from 490 to 836 student by 1984; expansion of the Sacred Heart Gymnasium; construction of the theology wing, Bishop Blanchette Library, and the Christopher Cooper Computer Center.

It was through his hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and ability to lead that all of these goals were realized and instead of Providence High School's doors closing in 1969, countless numbers of students were able to receive a fundamental Catholic education from one of the finest schools in Illinois.

In 1985 Father Kaffer was named auxiliary bishop of Joliet by Pope John Paul II and his era at Providence ended. However, his wisdom and commitment to the school will always be part of its legacy. Truly a man of God, Father Kaffer serves as a role model for all of us and how we must all work together for the good of the community.

Congratulations Father Kaffer on being named UNICO's Citizen of the Year and best wishes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
REGULATOR TERM LIMIT ACT

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will begin to ensure the accountability of our Nation's independent regulatory agencies by imposing term limits on their members. In my view, any entrenched Government body, whether legislative or regulatory, loses accountability and responsiveness. By imposing term limits, we will bring independent regulatory commissions in step with the current movement to energize Government bodies by turnover, thereby making them more accountable to the American citizens.

The Regulator Term Limit Act of 1996, would limit an individual to two terms as a member of any independent regulatory commission. This bill had its genesis in the recently enacted ICC Termination Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-88), in which Congress adopted the suggestion of Surface Transportation Board Commissioner Gus A. Owen to limit the STB Commissioners to two terms. Mr.

Owen, himself a long serving Commissioner, saw the need to end the entrenchment which is all too common in regulatory agencies.

Independent regulatory agencies perform quasi-legislative or quasi-judicial functions. They make their decisions based on findings of fact, supported by evidence, and drawn from a record open to public scrutiny. To fulfill their mission, independence from the executive or legislative branch is essential. Their public accountability, however, is frustrated if the decision makers become entrenched. We should guarantee their accountability by requiring that Commissioners serve no more than two terms. In addition, in the Jeffersonian citizen-legislator spirit, we will be providing more opportunities for talented people to serve their Nation when Commissioners return to private life.

As original cosponsors, I would like to thank Mr. CLINGER, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. UPTON, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. HORN, Mr. BONO, and Mr. ZELIFF. Their efforts are much appreciated and I look forward to continued input on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that helps ensure good government by preventing the entrenchment of independent regulatory commissioners through the imposition of term limits.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 1996, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 10

- 9:30 a.m.
Small Business
To hold hearings on proposed legislation relating to Small Business Investment Company reform. SR-428A
- 10:00 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 1317, to repeal the Public Utility Holding Act of 1935 and transfer certain regulatory functions from the Securities and Exchange Commission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Public Service Commissions of various States. SD-538
- Governmental Affairs
Business meeting, to mark up S. 704, to establish the Gambling Impact Study Commission. SD-342
- Select on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters. SH-219

MAY 14

- 9:00 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine challenges faced by an aging society. SD-430
- 9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1997 for the Federal Aviation Administration and the Airport Improvement Program. SR-253

- Energy and Natural Resources
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the management and costs of class action lawsuits at Department of Energy facilities. SD-366

- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for foreign assistance programs, focusing on narcotics. SD-192
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine proposals to revise the false statements statute, focusing on the case *Hubbard v. United States*. SD-226
- 2:00 p.m.
Armed Services
To hold closed hearings on certain pending military nominations. SR-222

MAY 15

- 9:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine how the Commodity Futures Trading Commission oversees markets in times of volatile prices and tight supplies. SR-332
- Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Department of the Interior. SD-138
- Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SD-366
- Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine Russian organized crime in the United States. SD-342

- Rules and Administration
To resume hearings on proposals to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for a voluntary system of spending limits and partial public financing of Senate primary and general election campaigns, to limit contributions by multicandidate political committees, and to reform the financing of Federal elections and Senate campaigns. SR-301

- 10:00 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine issues relative to combatting violence against women. SD-226

- 2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. SD-192

- Appropriations
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Executive Office of the President and the Office of Personnel Management. SD-138

MAY 16

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 621, to designate the Great Western Trail for potential addition to the National Trail System,

H.R. 531, to designate the Great Western Scenic Trail as a study trail under the National Trails System Act, S. 1049, to designate the route from Selma to Montgomery as a National Historic Trail, S. 1706, to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for assistance for highway relocation with respect to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia, and S. 1725, to create a third category of long-distance trails to be known as national discovery trails and to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first national discovery trail. SD-366

- 10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Foreign Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for foreign assistance programs, focusing on the New Independent States. SD-106

- Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the United States Coast Guard. SD-192

MAY 17

- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Corporation for National and Community Service. SD-192

MAY 22

- 9:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on S. 1166, to improve the registration of pesticides, to provide minor use crop protection, and to improve pesticide tolerances to safeguard infants and children. SR-328A
- Rules and Administration
To resume hearings on issues with regard to the Government Printing Office. SR-301

MAY 23

- 10:00 a.m.
Judiciary
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SD-226

MAY 24

- 9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-192

JUNE 5

- 9:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine proposals to reform the Commodity Exchange Act. SR-328A

- 10:00 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on S. 1237, to revise certain provisions of law relating to child pornography. SD-226

SEPTEMBER 17

CANCELLATIONS

and the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice.

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

S-146, Capitol

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

334 Cannon Building

MAY 9

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Immigration and Naturalization Service

2:00 p.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for the Small Business Administration.

S-146, Capitol