

capillary waves will cause spontaneous holes in certain polymer thin films. Thomas has been playing the cello since he was four and was a soloist and principal cellist in the Long Island Youth Orchestra. Tom also participates in various math and science clubs, won the gold medal in Science Olympiad and plans on pursuing a career in engineering.

The achievements of Chris, Grace, Clyde and Thomas are due in no small part to the outstanding high school science program at Ward Melville High School that, for the second year in a row, produced the most Westinghouse Science Talent Search finalists in the Nation. In fact, the four were among the 11 contest finalists chosen from Long Island high schools, comprising more than one-quarter of the finalists chosen from all 50 states. The schools in my home area of Eastern Long Island produced fourteen semi-finalists in the Westinghouse Contest, including the four finalists and: Meredith Suzanne Croke of Miller Place, Jonathan Aaron Arbreit, James Joseph Cascione, Adam Brett Gottlieb, Joleen Okun, Alice Takhatajan, and Shellen Wu who are all from Setauket, Christine Anne Champey and Michael Teitelbaum of Smithtown and Robert Nalewajk from Stony Brook. All of these students deserve congratulations for their hard work and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, as America focuses on improving student achievement and preparing them for the high-tech, computer driven future of the 21st Century, the accomplishments of Christopher Michael Gerson, Grace Ann Lau, Clyde Law and Thomas Peterson show us that America's future is in trusted hands. Their classmates can take inspiration from their success and adults have seen what great things our children will achieve when we provide them the skills and support. And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting Chris, Grace, Clyde and Thomas and all of the other talented students across the United States who have been named finalists in the 1998 Westinghouse Science Talent Search Contest.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, while I was not a Member of Congress when the 1996 Telecommunications Law was passed, it's easy to see that competitive business strategies from long distance companies and FCC's ever-changing interpretation of this legislation are responsible for telephone competition being stymied.

I don't believe Congress anticipated major long distance companies concentrating on the more lucrative business customers while totally ignoring the local residential market. Congress also didn't foresee the FCC taking this law and changing it to the point where no Regional Bell Company has a chance of offering long distance service to their customers in the near future.

On multiple occasions state utility commissions have submitted favorable recommendations to the FCC, stating the 14 point checklist has been met and that Regional Bell Holding

Companies should be allowed into the long distance market. Each time the FCC has rejected the recommendation.

It's time for the issue to get off the regulatory treadmill. We're long overdue for full scale telecommunications competition to begin.

IN MEMORIAM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on February 23, in Annapolis, Maryland, men, women, and children will come together to remember and mourn family, friends, and neighbors who died because of domestic violence during the past year. The memorial service reminds all in attendance of the terrible price Maryland pays when homes become places of fear and terror instead of havens of love and safety.

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, which organizes the service each year, has worked diligently for more than 15 years for better and tougher laws against domestic violence, for increased funding for shelters for battered women and their children, for training judges and law enforcement personnel, and for educating the public about domestic violence and its consequences on our society.

In the last decade, we have made enormous strides on the state, local, and federal levels against domestic violence. Our state and local laws have been improved and strengthened. The Violence Against Women Act, which I sponsored, has not only changed the way we enforce domestic violence laws but also has provided needed funding to help states and local communities make a real difference in the struggle against domestic violence.

Early next month, I will introduce the second Violence Against Women Act. VAWA II, as it has been called, will continue the federal commitment to fund the National Domestic Violence Hotline, shelters and counseling programs, judicial training programs, and other services so important to our local communities. VAWA II will also address child custody, housing, legal assistance, medical training, insurance discrimination, protection for disabled women, and issues critically important to the health and well being of our families.

Mr. Speaker, let us join with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to recommit ourselves to ending domestic violence in our homes and in our communities in whatever way we can: as legislators, as advocates, as volunteers, as parents, and as friends. And let us remember that as legislators, the bills we write and the votes we cast will determine to a great extent whether our children and their children will live in a world where domestic violence is no more.

TRIBUTE TO JACK BIRNBERG

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce you to Mr. Jack Birnberg. Jack is a remarkable individual who has done much to improve the quality of life for the people of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Deeply concerned with the well-being of our senior citizens, Mr. Birnberg has been actively involved with the Daughters of Miriam Center for a number of years. Most recently, he served two terms as President of the Board of Trustees of that organization. Prior to that he was the Vice-President and a member of the finance committee for six years.

Jack is also an active member of the community at large. He is a former trustee of the Barnert Hospital and serves as a trustee at the Barnert Temple. Jack has also served as the Commissioner and President of the Board of the Children's Shelter of Passaic County and as a President of the Northeast Regional Association of Small Business Investment Corporation. He is also a former member of the Executive Council and the Board of Governors of the National Association of Small Businesses Investment Corporation.

Currently, Jack is a corporate banker. He is the Chairman of the Waldorf Group, Incorporated, of Little Falls and the Tappan Zee Capital Corporation. In addition, Jack is the Chairman of the Board of Olo Deerfield Fabrics, Inc. of Cedar Grove.

Although active in the community and the corporate world, Jack is also a dedicated family man. A resident of Wyckoff, Jack is married to the former Louise Rothstein. They are the proud parents of four sons, Michael, Steven, Jeffrey, and John. They have two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Jack Birnberg's family and friends, and the grateful residents of New Jersey as we commend Jack for his years of service to the community.

AUGLAIZE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere congratulations to the people of Auglaize County as they celebrate their county's Sesquicentennial Anniversary.

In reviewing the history of the county, it came to my attention that Dr. George Washington Holbrook was principally responsible for the county's existence. Indeed, when Dr. Holbrook arrived in Wapakoneta, Ohio, from New York in 1834, what we now know as Auglaize County was then located in Allen and Mercer counties. With the belief that the people of Wapakoneta and its neighboring communities deserved further recognition and representation, Dr. Holbrook convinced both local and state leaders of the need for a new county. Dr. Holbrook's efforts and dreams were realized on February 14, 1848, when the Ohio General