

to infringe on tribal sovereignty, rather, it is meant to encourage the tribes to work cooperatively with the states in order to formulate a mutually-agreeable compact on the subject of motor fuel taxation. In addition, this bill does not address the issues of gambling or cigarette taxes—it focuses only on the collection and remission of motor fuel taxes.

This bill will yield numerous benefits. First, it would help ensure that states have adequate funds for road maintenance and construction. Second, it would end an inherent unfairness posed by the sale of tax-free fuel on Native American lands. And, third, it would preserve jobs and keep businesses open. Many purchasers of motor fuel, both gasoline and diesel, are likely to travel to Indian lands, because they know they can avoid paying state motor fuel taxes. And, the motive to do this can be great for many drivers. In fact, in some states, the tax on gasoline can be as high as 34 cent per gallon and 28 cents per gallon for diesel.

The sale of tax-free fuel poses serious concerns for retailers who must pay the tax and who are located within a reasonable distance of the Indian reservation, because the Native American retail establishments, by selling gas at a lower price (i.e., without the tax) have the potential to put countless numbers of establishments out of business. For example, avoiding the tax on diesel fuel for a typical truck with a 250 gallon tank could mean a savings of \$70—a sufficiently large amount to justify a trucker traveling to Native American lands to refuel his or her truck. At the very least, a trucker could plan or time his, or her, routes to ensure that they purchase tax-free fuel on Native American lands.

I urge Members to consider the impacts caused by the non-collection and remission of motor fuel taxes on Native American lands and to cosponsor this legislation.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES  
SCHODOWSKI AND JOHN RINALDI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles "Big Chuck" Schodowski and "Li'l" John Rinaldi as they celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their television program, "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show."

First launched in 1978, "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show" has served as the vehicle to Cleveland's most beloved practitioners of broad comedy, providing late night laughs to generation after generation of Clevelanders. That the show continues to thrive in a competitive late night television landscape dominated by syndicated programming attests to the popularity of Big Chuck and Little John's crazy antics.

Charles Schodowski initially entered into Cleveland television as an engineer at WJW Channel 8 in 1960. By 1963, he was a writer and occasional, if nervous, actor on a popular show hosted by the legendary Ernie "Ghoulardi" Anderson. Big Chuck's problems with stage fright were apparently short lived, however. When Anderson left for Hollywood in 1966, the show's producers tabbed Big Chuck to co-host the show with popular Weatherman

Bob Wells, who was known as "Hoolihan the Weatherman." "The Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show," which featured a movie interspersed with short skits performed before a live studio audience, enjoyed a successful run until Wells' retirement in 1977.

Making his debut as "Bridget the Midget," John Rinaldi became a regular contributor on "Hoolihan and Big Chuck." Li'l John then joined Big Chuck as a co-host of "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show" in 1978. Today, "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show," the recipient of numerous Local Emmy nominations, is one of the longest running shows in the country.

My fellow colleagues, join me in congratulating Big Chuck and Li'l John for twenty wild years of ridiculous blond wigs, coconut creme pies, and that distinctive laugh track that is instantly recognized throughout the city of Cleveland. Let us all hope that those laughs keep on coming for twenty years more.

MINNESOTA SMALL BUSINESS  
LEADERS RECOGNIZED

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, small business reflects the quintessential element of American creativity, innovation, and free enterprise within our nation's economy. America's 23 million small businesses employ over 50 percent of the private workforce and are the principal source of new jobs. Small businesses generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product. We will recognize the contributions of our nation's small businesses during the week of May 31 to June 6 through ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

Prior to that national event, ceremonies will occur in our districts throughout the country. On Friday, May 29, I will be privileged to join with others gathered to honor Minnesota's leaders in the small business community, several of whom are constituents and friends.

Sue McCloskey has been named the 1998 Minnesota Small Business Person of the Year. This award, determined by the U.S. Small Business Administration, is based on sales growth, employer expansion, financial strength and response to adversity.

Sue, a personal friend of mine, is the president and founder of Office Plan, a remanufacturer of office furniture. Starting her business in 1991 with three partners and one employee, Sue currently employs 33 personnel and has an annual revenue of \$4.5 million.

Office Plan buys outdated cubicles and work stations from businesses located throughout the country and refurbishes them on a made-to-order basis. Environmental sensitivity is a hallmark of Office Plan. Work fabric is recycled or sent out to be made into industrial rags, and recycled products and environmentally sensitive materials are used in production whenever possible.

Recently, Office Plan faced a major catastrophe. All of the firms computers were stolen and important business information such as clients, billing and orders had to be reconstructed. With Sue's determined leadership, this was accomplished with minimal disruption. Our states and community take great pride in

Sue McCloskey's success and are pleased with this well deserved recognition.

Northland Organic Foods Corporation, under the leadership of Peter Shortridge, has been recognized as the Small Business Exporter of the Year. Northland specializes in exporting organic food including grain, soybeans, buck wheat and whole grains. Focusing on research, marketing initiatives, educational programs and customer service, Northland has opened new markets for U.S. businesses.

A positive benchmark for hallmark of the Northland Corporation has been its outreach to its customers. All staff members speak the language of the customers they work with and are knowledgeable about the respective cultures and business practices of the specific country to which they export.

Charles Jones, a Minnesota resident, employed with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been named the National Veterans Small Business Advocate. This award is presented to individuals who advance small business opportunities for military veterans.

Charles Jones is a vocational rehabilitation specialist. In that position, he helps disabled veterans to get the training and counseling needed to return to the world of work. Recognizing the potential for self-employment, Charles has worked with the Minnesota Small Business Development Centers to help disabled veterans to start a number of enterprises including: a gunsmith service, trucking, a restaurant and free-lance art. He obviously has worked very successfully to match a wide variety of business ventures to the interest of the vets.

Mr. Speaker, these are the recipients of this year's SBA awards. Thanks to their stewardship and dedication, the spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and flourishing in Minnesota. My congratulations to the award recipients and to all small businesses in the state of Minnesota.

HONORING JIMMY STURR AND HIS  
ORCHESTRA NINE TIME GRAMMY  
AWARD WINNERS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra, a musical group whose name in synonymous with polka music in America.

As a Member of Congress with a large Polish American constituency in Western and Central Massachusetts, I have learned firsthand from the people who I represent of this group's popularity and intergenerational appeal, and I am pleased to share their accomplishments with the House of Representatives today.

The rise in popularity of polka music in America is due in large part to the contributions of Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra. Sturr's style of polka music embraces musicianship. This Americanized genre of polka music, which features the trumpet, saxophones and clarinets, is their trademark and is enjoyed by generations around the globe.

Having just recorded their 99th album, the excellence of their recordings has earned the group 9 Grammy Awards and 13 consecutive

Grammy Nominations. The Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) has awarded Jimmy Sturr its most valued award, the "Commendation of Excellence"—the only one ever awarded in the polka field. Voted the "Number One Polka Band in the Country" for the past ten years, their recordings have earned both "Album of the Year" status in the polka music industry.

With his many successes, Jimmy Sturr still lives in the house where he grew up, and his office is located across the street from the high school he attended in the upstate village of Florida, New York which has a population of 1,800.

America is a melting pot that celebrates the richness of the cultures within its borders. Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra bring this richness into our modern lives. As we dawn on the 21st Century, I take this unique opportunity to honor Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra for their accomplishments. I look forward to learning of their many more accomplishments in the future.

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SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
1996 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, February 8, 1998 marked the second anniversary of the passage of Telecommunications Act of 1996. Though the Act was signed with great fanfare, the promised competition and lower rates for consumers have been slow to materialize.

Delays through court appeals and what have become unsurmountable regulatory hurdles for the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) have cost millions of dollars and valuable time in giving customers more options through competition. With the passage of the Telecommunications Act, came the assurance of lower rates and greater choices through competition. Where is the competition? Where are the lower rates? Why aren't they here?

By significantly reforming regulations over the industry, the new law promised that competition would drive rates down, produce better services, higher quality and consumers would be given more options. Well after two years, it is about time that all the hard work put into passing the Act start to pay off. Constituents don't know what the fourteen point checklist entails. They don't know what a Sec. 271 application is or what forbearance means. Why should they? But, what they do know is that their rates aren't coming down. Their choices haven't changed. Now that has to change.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the FCC and DOJ to remove the stumbling blocks to true competition. It is time to allow the Act to do what Congress intended for it to do, tear down the barriers to competition. Allow the industries to compete in each others' market. Allow consumers to have a say in who will provide their services. The time has come to focus on encouraging new services in new markets, rather than trying to protect the status quo.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND  
SYLVESTER THADDEUS GILLESPIE

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of the Reverend Sylvester Thaddeus Gillespie as the Grace United Methodist Church prepares to honor his service to the congregation on July 13, 1998. So often we reserve our strongest accolades and expressions of love for persons after they have passed away. I would like to break with that tradition in honoring a great preacher of the Gospel, the shepherd of the flock that is Grace United Methodist Church.

Reverend Gillespie, born in Starkville, Mississippi, received his B.A. from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and his M.Div. from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He also attended the Command and General Staff College of the U.S. Army in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1975 to 1995 Reverend Gillespie served as a U.S. Army chaplain, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was married to Barbara Bonney Gillespie, who passed away in 1994. Together they had two sons, Devokan and Damian.

In addition to serving as Army Chaplain, Reverend Gillespie has ministered to a number of congregations. These include Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Clearwater, Florida; John Wesley United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina; and the Wesley United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, California. In June 1991, he was appointed by Bishop Roy I. Sano to pastor Grace United Methodist Church.

Not only in Reverend Gillespie loved by his congregation at Grace Island, he is admired and respected by many others. He is often requested as a guest speaker by churches in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and for the Bishop Roy C. Nichols Preaching Series on Spiritual Renewal in Oakland, California. Just last year he received the Distinguished Leadership Citation for the development of a unique preaching/teaching ministry and church growth program from the Ebony Prophets of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

More than Reverend Gillespie's accomplishments as a minister, he is a compassionate man who always find time to comfort and assist those in need. He makes monthly visits to serve communion to shut-ins, lifts the spirits and prays with the hospital-bound, even spends time with members of his past congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation for Reverend Gillespie's great works.

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TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commemorate one of the great Ameri-

cans of our century, Mr. Francis "Frank" Albert Sinatra. At the same time I rise to express the sadness that has befallen Palm Springs, the Nation and around the world. He was the son of immigrant parents, an entertainer, a humanitarian, a husband and a father, as well as a long-time resident of California and the City of Palm Springs. We mourn because we have lost someone who embodied so many of the traits that we admire—talent, triumph over adversity, friendship and caring.

"Ole' Blue Eyes" was the best at his craft, and we shall always remember him for this. He overcame his Depression-era roots in Hoboken, New Jersey to set the standard of excellence in many fields. His professional accomplishments are numerous and of legendary proportion. He starred in more than sixty films and recorded countless albums. His extraordinary talents were acknowledged in many ways. He won the Academy Award for his role in the 1953 film classic, *From Here to Eternity*. He won nine Grammy awards for his musical accomplishments. Certainly the most important reward for any performer is the love and respect he gets back from the audience. By the measure, Frank may have been the most successful entertainer in history. It was said that he had more than 2,000 fan clubs across the country.

People should also remember that he was devoted to numerous humanitarian and charitable causes, often without seeking the credit or publicity that he deserved. He lent his name as well as giving millions of dollars for a variety of very worthy causes including Desert Hospital, Catholic Charities and a Palm Springs celebrity golf tournament to help the victims of child abuse. In addition, one of the leading medical institutions of its kind is the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center which I am proud to say is located in and serves the Palm Springs and Desert Resort communities.

I was not a Member of Congress last year when this distinguished body voted to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. Nevertheless, I can attest that this was a fitting honor for a man of his high caliber. Now, as a Member, I wish to take this opportunity to send my deepest condolences to his wife Barbara, all of the children, and the entire Sinatra family at this most difficult time. Worldwide, the fans of one of the greatest entertainers of our time will carry memories of Frank with us always.

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NAT BINGHAM, PACIFIC COAST  
VOYAGER

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, recently, I received the news that Nat Bingham, Habitat Director for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, had died in his Fort Bragg home. The loss of his life is a great loss for the many friends who knew and worked with Nat to protect threatened and endangered fisheries along our Pacific Coast. Nat's enthusiasm for his life's work was inspiring to all of us.

Nat was a most unusual human being. He was a fisherman who believed in sustainable fishing. Protecting fisheries from depletion