

fees assessed on trades of NASDAQ and exchange-listed stocks, so that when the Commission had collected all the money it needs for the year, the fee would simply shut off. All we are saying with this bill is that once the SEC has collected sufficient money to fund itself, then investors do not have to pay any more fees.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, my bill would offer more flexibility than under current law and ensure that the SEC always has sufficient money to carry out its important mission of protecting investors. The bill provides that for any year in which the SEC does not collect enough fee revenue to cover its budget, the Appropriations Committee can temporarily raise the transaction fee rate through an Appropriations Act to ensure that sufficient money is collected to fund SEC functions for that fiscal year.

I urge all Members to support this important legislation which would save a substantial amount of money for millions of American investors, and guarantee that the SEC always has enough funding to carry out its critical function of protecting shareholders.

CONGRATULATING THE NOAA
CORPS ON ITS 81ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 81st anniversary of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps. Known as "America's Seventh Service," the officers of the NOAA Corps are an integral part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who serve with distinction throughout this multi-disciplinary scientific organization. I am proud to congratulate the NOAA Corps for 81 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

The NOAA Corps was designed to allow for flexibility in the assignment of professionals to remote, hazardous, or otherwise arduous duties throughout the wide range of vital environmental and stewardship activities encompassed by NOAA. Corps officers today combine such unique qualifications as: research ship and aircraft operations; technical expertise with advanced academic backgrounds in hydrography, geodesy, fisheries sciences, meteorology, and oceanography; and leadership in technical program and data management contributing to the coherence, integrity, and effectiveness of the administrative structure of NOAA.

The dedicated scientists, engineers, and officers of the uniformed NOAA Corps have a long and decorated tradition of providing mobility, flexibility, operational, and professional skills in the unique response capability to our Nation. The Corps houses experts in nautical charting and hydrographic surveying. These functions are vital to our national interest to ensure the continued safe navigation of trade. NOAA Corps pilots provide critical operations when conducting low-altitude penetration missions of hurricanes and tropical storms in support of weather research and prediction. Corps officers supply the data collection and management that are requisite to ensuring accurate fisheries stock, turtle, and marine mammal assessments.

The Corps has contributed on many occasions over the recent decades in providing valuable scientific and engineering skills, especially in times of national emergencies. The Corps made immediate vital contributions during both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. NOAA provided ship, aircraft, and technical skills during the Golf War to assess the oil-based environmental damages caused by Iraq. Shore personnel contributed scientific expertise in hazardous materials management, while a NOAA ship carried scientists in the Gulf to evaluate the extent of environmental damages. In another recent example, NOAA Corps officers and ships provided crucial survey support in response to the TWA Flight 800 recovery effort. The Corps swiftly located the wreckage of TWA Flight 800 and created highly detailed map products which greatly facilitated the retrieval of wreckage by Navy divers.

Today, the NOAA Corps expertly performs its missions, whether in charting our Nation's coastline, assessing our fisheries stocks, or flying into hurricanes for scientific research and the humanitarian need to produce better safety warnings for the protection of life and property. NOAA Corps officers serve in NOAA research laboratories and program offices throughout the Nation and in remote locations around the world. These officers remain ready to apply their science and service skills to the many problems facing the United States in the management and study of oceanic and atmospheric resources.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the men and women of the NOAA Corps on this 81st anniversary. The expertise and flexibility that the Corps has demonstrated in the past will serve the Nation for years to come. The NOAA Corps has reached a celebrated milestone, and I wish it an even greater future.

HONORING ST. FRANCES OF ROME

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, St. Frances of Rome celebrates its centenary this year; one hundred years of neighborhood building in the Bronx.

In 1898, using a tent with a cross atop it, St. Frances of Rome was founded in the mostly Irish, German and Italian Wakefield section. Three years later a wooden church building was erected and soon after the growth of the parish caused a Mission Church to be established in the nearby Woodlawn area. Further growth in the parish led to it being subdivided and the Mission Church became St. Barnabas Church.

By the mid 1920's property was acquired for a more permanent church and in that same decade the school for St. Frances of Rome was started. The basement church was opened on Easter Sunday in 1926 with the rectory being constructed about the same time. In 1928 Father Moore, the first pastor of the church and a man of vision and energy, died. The great cross on the church is dedicated to him and the street outside was renamed Moore Plaza.

In the following years the growth of the parish continued under hardworking pastors who tended their flock with great care and concern.

The building continued with the present upper church, an additional school building constructed. The parish adapted to a newer congregation by expanding daycare and programs for the homebound and elderly and establishing a food pantry.

I salute the parish of St. Frances of Rome. What it has given to the growth of the Bronx and to New York City cannot be measured in mere numbers. The spiritual unity it has conferred on us has made us a community.

HONORING DAN AND BOBBIE
JENSEN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to come to the floor today to honor Dan and Bobbie Jensen of Fort Collins, Colorado. They offer an example of honesty and integrity, which my colleagues in Congress, and all Americans, would be wise to emulate.

Raising two beautiful girls, Dan and Bobbie are dedicated to their family. Whether it was cheerleading, a track meet, or a choir performance, the girls could always count on their parents to be there supporting and cheering them on. The Jensens worked hard to make sure their children learned to make responsible choices regardless of the cost or situation, and these loving lessons are now being passed on to their three grandchildren.

Their family watched as Dan and Bobbie worked together to build their home development company, Jensen Homes, into one of the most successful companies in Fort Collins. Running a successful business is never easy, but even when things were tough, they made sacrifices to insure all of their employees and vendors were paid in full. They didn't do this for a pat on the back, or because it was forced on them—they simply did it because it was the right thing to do.

Dan and Bobbie's dedication has extended beyond their immediate family and business, and has been an true asset to the community. Their commitment to living out their faith led them to help create "Man Alive," a ministry program dedicated to strengthening the family. Through Man Alive, speakers such as Dave Roeber, Dr. Malcolm Smith, and Pastor James Ryle of Promise Keepers, have come to our community to share a message of hope for our youth, and encouragement for men to recognize God's calling in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Dan and Bobbie's life together is a true inspiration. I am proud to represent them in Congress, and on the occasion of their 27th wedding anniversary I wish them many more years of happiness.

THE MEDICARE CONTRACTING
FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Contracting Flexibility Act of 1998.

For years, we have been telling the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to be a more prudent purchaser of health care. Now, we need to provide them with the tools to act more like a private company and hold Medicare contractors accountable.

Specifically, the Medicare Contracting Flexibility Act would enable HCFA to contract with other types of companies besides health insurers to process claims for the Medicare program. Right now, the pool of potential contractors is limited and has been steadily diminishing, leaving HCFA at the mercy of the few contractors that remain. If one fails or has difficulty processing claims, HCFA is hard-pressed to find a replacement.

This problem is especially evident in HCFA's inability to bring its contractors into compliance for the year 2000. Although several contractors are not yet in compliance, HCFA appears to have little leverage in forcing contractors to make the necessary system adjustments. This means that January 1, 2000, Medicare's claims processing system could malfunction, wreaking havoc throughout the provider community.

The Medicare Contracting Flexibility Act would enable HCFA to solve this short-term problem by expanding the pool of potential contractors and fostering more competition among companies so that HCFA could get the best value and service for each taxpayer dollar spent.

The Medicare Contracting Flexibility Act would also give HCFA the ability to solve long-term problems by laying the groundwork for other changes to the contracting program. For example, HCFA could set performance standards for contractors, or combine claims processing for Medicare Parts A and B under one contractor, as opposed to having two separate entities.

All of these changes would translate into better, more effective service for the Medicare program, and ultimately the nation's 39 million Medicare beneficiaries. I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join with me in passing the Medicare Contracting Flexibility Act. Together we can ensure that HCFA has the tools to be a more prudent purchaser of health care.

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OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HONORING REVEREND WILLIE H.
UPSHAW, D.D.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the City of Yonkers and especially the Mount Carmel Baptist Church are fortunate to have a pastor such as

the Reverend Willie H. Upshaw. Dr. Upshaw has been pastor of the Church for 31 years, since 1967. It was under his guidance that the membership grew from 150 to more than 2,500.

Dr. Upshaw was born in Alabama and began his journey in the church early in life as an active member of the Galilee Baptist Church. In 1957 he moved to New York where he was licensed to the ministry and, in 1967, ordained.

That same year Dr. Upshaw became Pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church where he sees to the needs of his flock by visiting and praying with the sick and shut-ins, dedicating infants, bringing the Gospel to persons at nursing homes and prisons and helping those in the community who look to him for guidance and counsel.

Dr. Upshaw served as Executive Vice President of the Yonkers Council of Churches, as President of the Ministerial Fellowship of Yonkers, as a member of the Central Hudson Baptist Association, the Central Hudson Baptist Retreat, and the Board of Directors of Yonkers General Hospital. He has received the Community Service Award and was recognized by the American Heart Association for unparalleled dedication to the Heart Healthy Education Project. Dr. Upshaw and his wife Carolyn have two children and two grandchildren.

He personifies the good that one man can bring to a community. I salute him for the good work he has done for all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE COLORADO
GUNSMITHING ACADEMY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressman representing the Fourth District of the State of Colorado, I am proud to have constituents like Earl and Charlene Bridges who run the Colorado Gunsmithing Academy in Lamar, Colorado. These individuals set the standard for integrity and craftsmanship for small business in America and I am grateful for their contribution to not only the state, but the entire nation. I submit the following article detailing the success of the Colorado Gunsmithing Academy for the RECORD.

STUDENTS SAY LAMAR ACADEMY GIVES THEM
GOOD SHOT AT A JOB

(BY KIT MINICLIER)

LAMAR—Students at the Colorado Gunsmithing Academy of Lamar start by building their own rifles from scratch.

The approach enables them to learn patience and development skills in stockmaking, metalsmithing, welding and other disciplines while building their own single-shot rifle.

It is theirs to take home, and many use them to demonstrate their expertise when applying for their first job in their new profession.

Only 4½ years old, the academy is already developing a national and international reputation, attracting students from Connecticut to California and from Norway, Sweden, Australia and Holland.

It is one of three gunsmithing schools in Colorado. There are only 17 in the nation,