

ideal for agriculture, the village also had brickmakers, steam pump works, cabinet making, and saw mills, just to name a few. Today, Upper Sandusky continues its tradition of being a rich agricultural and industrial center.

Even more important than the growth of commerce has been Upper Sandusky's tradition of community based values. Much of this can be attributed to early German Irish immigrants to the area who trusted in God and esteemed ones family. I know the positive effects of a small town that values each of its citizens. There is a feeling of security and reassurance that comes from calling your community your home; a place where your neighbors, classmates, coworkers are not only your friends, but become an extension of your family. Continuing to develop in an enriching environment, I have no doubt that Upper Sandusky will prosper for another 150 years.

CONGRATULATING THE BUEHLER
CHALLENGER AND SCIENCE CENTER

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the Buehler Challenger and Science Center in Paramus, New Jersey. This is a highly educational facility that provides excellent hands-on learning opportunities for thousands of young people. It is a wonderful example of how to make learning fun!

The Buehler Challenger and Science Center was dedicated September 6, 1994. It is a mockup of the NASA space shuttle and its control centers and allows students who dream of the stars to come as close to space flight as they can without leaving the ground. In the process, it teaches a myriad of lessons about science, math, thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and self-confidence.

The center is named for Emil Buehler, an aviation pioneer whose experience ranged from the biplanes and dogfights of World War I to the beginnings of the shuttle program before his death in 1983.

This center presents the young people of New Jersey with a taste of the many challenges in science and technology that await them as we enter the 21st Century. The children who visit this center will see advances in science and technology during their lifetimes we cannot begin to imagine. Our children are our future and this center helps ensure their future is a bright one.

Students who have taken the Buehler center's "fantastic voyage" are transported into a whole new world. And, like astronauts returning from space, they bring back with them invaluable knowledge about themselves and the world around them. This knowledge will help them aim for the stars as they pursue new heights in math, science and technology.

Inspiring children through facilities such as this is essential to initiate and maintain interest in technology among our young people to enable them to meet the demands of citizens will face in the next century. This is essential to maintain our position in the global economy of the future.

Unfortunately, but true, many children decide as early as elementary school that they

have no interest in science. Too many believe they can't "do" science or that math is "too hard." The result, according to some estimates, is that America will have a shortage of half a million chemists, biologists, physicists and engineers by the year 2000. The Challenger Center is helping reverse that trend. Fortunately, these same students are fascinated by space subjects, especially astronauts. This unique, hands-on experience can raise students' expectations of success, foster in them a long-term interest in math and science, and motivate them to pursue careers in these fields.

It is only natural that the Challenger Center can be a way to reach students uncertain about science. Since the inception of the space program, NASA and the nation's education system have traveled parallel paths. They share the same goals—exploration, discovery, the pursuit of new knowledge and the achievement of those goals is interdependent. NASA depends on the education system to produce a skilled and knowledgeable work force. The education community, in turn, has used the space program to motivate and encourage students to study science, engineering and technology.

If the United States is to remain at the forefront of space science and aerospace technology and research, then we must provide students with the skills they will need in a highly complex and technical workplace. The next generation of science and technology achievements can only be as good as the education and challenges we give our children in those subjects today.

The children who visit this center today could easily turn out to be the scientists of tomorrow. Who knows what discoveries they will make or new technologies they will develop? Their work could be as dramatic as the airplane was to our grandparents or the space shuttle to us.

Even for those who don't enter the world of science, this center offers an insight into the technological world around them. If we think it's vital to be computer literate today, imagine the skills that will be required in another generation.

An important aspect of this challenge to learn is that some believe the United States is no longer challenged. With the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, we no longer have the type of outside challenge that pushed us to the moon. Remember, it was the insult and shock of Sputnik that led President Kennedy to launch the space program.

If we are not to be challenged by another nation, we must challenge ourselves. We must make a commitment to go where no one has gone before, to explore and learn and never be satisfied that there are no challenges left to meet.

Today I'd like to challenge our young people to continue the record of meeting challenges that our nation has exhibited in the past. The Buehler Center is part of the highway to a future where the American thirst for knowledge will keep our nation the world's leader in science and technology.

THE U.S. AND PANAMA BEYOND
1999

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, over the July Fourth district work period some very disturbing and disheartening news reached us regarding negotiations between the United States and Panama as to the presence of the United States in Panama beyond 1999. And now, our State Department is about to inform the Government of Panama that talks may just be over. This could be a mistake and both sides should agree to take a time out and enter into a cooling off period.

As my colleagues know, next year, on December 31, 1999, the Panama Canal Zone will be turned over to Panamanian control and all United States forces are to withdraw from that nation. However, for over a year, the United States and the Government of Panama, largely at the suggestion of the Panamanian President, Perez Balladares, have been negotiating a compromise which would permit a limited number of U.S. military personnel to remain in Panama.

The negotiations were over the creation of a new multinational anti-narcotics center which would be located at the Howard Air Force Base. Under the agreement, which was largely completed last January, some 2,000 U.S. military personnel would be permitted to remain in Panama to staff the center which would provide regional air surveillance, intelligence information and direct counter-narcotics assistance to nations participating in the center. At the time, there was a good deal of optimism expressed by both sides that the agreement would satisfy each nation's specific needs. Panama would see the end of U.S. control of the Canal and would gain what it considered its final and total national sovereignty. The U.S. would retain a presence in Panama while not appearing to be retaining a strictly defined military base. For the United States, the retention of a small military profile in Panama would allow us to maintain our commitment to the preservation of democracy and stability in Central America and to continue the fight against the drug trade essentially in region. For Panama, the continued presence of U.S. personnel would serve as a confidence builder for foreign investors and those concerned over the future security of the canal.

Interestingly, Panamanian public opinion seemed to favor such an agreement for largely the same reasons.

Unfortunately, and despite the initial optimism, the agreement now appears to be in serious jeopardy as both sides seem to be having difficulty deciding what it is they really want. The Government of Panama, for its part, can't seem to make up its mind as to whether it really wants a continued U.S. presence beyond 1999 or for that matter, a counter-drug center on its territory. All of this is wrapped around internal political and Presidential politics with President Perez Balladares unable to determine whether such a center helps or hurts his standing within his own political party and whether it hurts or helps his reelection chances.

The United States, for its part, cannot seem to decide whether it wants a military base or

an anti-narcotics center in Panama. The whole premise for supporting an anti-drug center was to reassure those in this country that wanted the U.S. to remain in Panama that it was possible to do so and to avoid the controversy within Panama of retaining a bona fide military base in that country beyond 1999 and in violation of the Panama Canal Treaties. A multinational, anti-drug center seemed to fit the bill with at least a wink and a nod. Even the other nations of the region, while supporting the concept of an anti-narcotics center, were not about to sign on if the center was simply a cover for a U.S. military base.

Yet, the negotiations have broken down at least in part due to the Clinton Administration's insistence that it be allowed to conduct additional operations out of the center which are more closely associated with military operations than counter-narcotics operations. One can argue the finer points of search and rescue or humanitarian resupply, but to insist on them being part of a non-military base, anti-drug center, does give the Panamanian government a legitimate issue to argue over. It seems that both sides could compromise on this issue. The U.S. side could temporarily drop its insistence on the inclusion of other missions and just work on the anti-drug center, provided of course that the anti-drug center is the priority. The Government of Panama could commit, preferably in a side note, to take up the question of the other missions once the anti-drug center agreement is finalized, if it really wants such a center in Panama.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that both sides must determine what it really wants. President Balladares must face the voters. The Clinton Administration must face the American people. If the drug center is that important, and in many respects it is. And if the ability to retain some element of the U.S. military in Panama beyond 1999 is a political necessity, and it could be, then the Administration must decide the price in throwing away this opportunity solely because we may not be able to write into the agreement whether or not search and rescue training can be conducted once in a while in Panama over the next twelve years.

A TRIBUTE TO ERIC BACHMANN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Eric Bachmann, a remarkable young man who was working to preserve an important chapter in our nation's history. Tragically, Eric died on Saturday, July 11, one day before his 27th birthday.

Eric was the Assistant to the President and CEO at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also helped us develop the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act which will be signed into law soon. As we move forward to promote racial cooperation, we will continue to be motivated by Eric's spirit.

Eric graduated from Texas Tech in 1993 with a degree in history. Eric then moved on to the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly the NCCJ), before beginning

his service as an official of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Healing the wounds of racial and social injustice was one of Eric's true passions, and he admired those who worked for freedom. These ideals led him to work diligently to honor the courage of those involved with the Underground Railroad.

Eric was loyal and dedicated. He served his community and country through his good work. All of us in Cincinnati will miss him as a colleague and friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall 266 on Wednesday, June 24. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on passage of H.R. 4103, the fiscal year 1999 defense appropriations bill.

THE FREEDOM AND PRIVACY RESTORATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act, which repeals those sections of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 authorizing the establishment of federal standards for birth certificates and drivers' licenses. This obscure provision, which was part of a major piece of legislation passed at the end of the 104th Congress, represents a major power grab by the federal government and a threat to the liberties of every American, for it would transform state drivers' licenses into national ID cards.

If this scheme is not stopped, no American will be able to get a job; open a bank account; apply for Social Security or Medicare; exercise their Second Amendment rights; or even take an airplane flight unless they can produce a state drivers' license, or its equivalent, that conforms to federal specifications. Under the 1996 Kennedy-Kassebaum health care reform law, Americans may even be forced to present a federally-approved drivers' license before consulting their physicians for medical treatment!

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has no constitutional authority to require Americans to present any form of identification before engaging in any private transaction such as opening a bank account, seeing a doctor, or seeking employment.

The establishment of a national standard for drivers' licenses and birth certificates makes a mockery of the 10th amendment and the principles of federalism. While no state is forced to conform their birth certificates or drivers' licenses to federal standards, it is unlikely they will not comply when failure to conform to federal specifications means none of that state's residents may get a job, receive Social Security, or even leave the state by plane? Thus, rather than imposing a direct mandate on the

states, the federal government is blackmailing states into complying with federal dictates.

Of course, the most important reason to support the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act is because any uniform, national system of identification would allow the federal government to inappropriately monitor the movements and transactions of every citizen. History shows that when government gains the power to monitor the actions of the people, it eventually uses that power to impose totalitarian controls on the populace.

I ask my colleagues what would the founders of this country say if they knew the limited federal government they bequeathed to America would soon have the power to demand that all Americans obtain a federally-approved ID?

If the disapproval of the Founders is not sufficient to cause my colleagues to support this legislation, then perhaps they should consider the reaction of the American people when they discover that they must produce a federally-approved ID in order to get a job or open a bank account. Already many offices are being flooded with complaints about the movement toward a national ID card. If this scheme is not halted, Congress and the entire political establishment could drown in the backlash from the American people.

National ID cards are a trademark of totalitarianism and are thus incompatible with a free society. In order to preserve some semblance of American liberty and republican government I am proud to introduce the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act. I thank Congressman BARR for joining me in cosponsoring this legislation. I urge my colleagues to stand up for the rights of American people by cosponsoring the Freedom and Privacy Restoration Act.

J.J. "JAKE" PICKLE FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tip my hat and pay tribute to former Congressman Jake Pickle for his service to the state of Texas and the people of the 10th Congressional District. Jake Pickle served with distinction and honor during his 31 years in Congress. I consider it a great privilege to have served with him. I now find it an honor to support H.R. 3223 which names the Federal Building in Austin, Texas, as the J.J. "Jake" Pickle Building. The bill has my wholehearted support and the man has my deepest respect.

Jake Pickle's legacy extends far beyond the naming of a building in his honor. His legacy lies in his many years of public service and the millions of Americans who have been touched by his devotion and dedication. Jake Pickle was an independent minded man who never shied from a fight, but who was always ready to listen to a problem and lend a helping hand. Jake Pickle looked beyond partisan politics to help insure that Social Security is solvent today and that the elderly have Medicare. He was instrumental in a wholesale reform of the tax code and in fostering government programs that spurred small business and created jobs for working families.