

Grady for his outstanding work as a devoted minister and community leader. During his life, he has been a role model of commitment to the church and his family.

CAPTAIN TERRANCE M. EDWARDS:
A CREDIT TO THE UNITED
STATES COAST GUARD

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a United States Coast Guard officer who has made a difference in the lives of many people: Captain Terrance M. "Casey" Edwards, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey. After twenty-eight years on active duty, Captain Edwards is beginning a well-earned retirement.

I am proud to say that Captain Edwards embodies the finest principles of a commissioned officer, and reflects well on the Coast Guard spirit of *Semper Paratus*. He is a leader whose commitment and dedication has made the Cape May Training Center synonymous with excellence. I have no doubt that the men and women who graduated from the Training Center during his command are among the most well-trained and prepared in the ranks of the Coast Guard.

Captain Edwards' decorations attest to his outstanding service. He is a three-time recipient of the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, a two-time recipient of the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. But there is more to Captain Edwards than just medals; there is a story of his maximum effort and considerable achievement.

A 1970 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Captain Edwards' career has taken him from the Atlantic Ocean, aboard the USCGC *Dauntless*, to command of a LORAN station in Okinawa, where he helped maintain a homing signal for vessels traveling on the high seas of the Pacific.

He has served with distinction as an attorney assigned to several Coast Guard legal billets, during which time, it should be noted, he represented clients before the United States Supreme Court. In recognition of his outstanding legal service, Captain Edwards was appointed to the Coast Guard Court of Military Review by the Secretary of Transportation, and also served as an appellate judge from May of 1992 to June of 1994. It can be rightly said that justice was indeed served by this fair and judicious man.

Captain Edwards has also looked after the physical well being of Coast Guard personnel in his roles as President of the Coast Guard Formal Physical Evaluation Board and Chief of the Physical Disability Evaluation Division.

Captain Edwards, on behalf of the many nervous recruits who left Cape May confidently ready to serve, on behalf of a community that will dearly miss your many positive contributions (and friendly smile), on behalf of the United States Congress, I wish you good luck in the future and calm seas ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, last night, I was unavoidably detained and as a result missed rollcall vote No. 289.

Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "no" on the amendment.

IN MEMORY OF SHELBY DUPREE
PITTS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a loving husband, father, grandfather and prominent Dallas oil company executive—Mr. Shelby Dupree Pitts, who died on May 18, after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

Mr. Pitts was born on April 12, 1915, in Wesson, Mississippi, the second of three sons born to Mr. and Mrs. John Lloyd Pitts. He attended Lincoln County, Mississippi public schools where he was class president his sophomore, junior and senior years. At Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, he was elected State President of the Hi "Y" Clubs of Mississippi. In 1936, he joined Nu-Enamel Paint Company, advancing rapidly to Division Sales Manager for the New England states. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy in July, 1941, and served as public speaker attached to the U.S. Navy Public Relations office in Chicago. After World War II, he remained in Chicago where he organized the Wesson Houseware Products Company which sold household chemicals throughout the United States. He married Mary Elizabeth Tillman, of Hazelhurst, Mississippi, on April 20, 1947.

After investing in oil and gas drilling ventures for several years with his brother, Frank Pitts, he became a co-owner and Senior Vice President of Exploration Surveys, Inc., an international geophysical exploration company. When Exploration Surveys, Inc. was sold to U.S. Industries in 1969, Mr. Pitts organized his own independent oil and natural gas production business, Natural Gas Finders, Inc. Along with his brother, Mr. Pitts became co-owner and Chairman of the Board of Dallas Production Inc., an oil and gas operating company which grew to operate more than 1,000 oil and natural gas wells in eight states.

An active member of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Shelby organized the TIPRO Explorers group in 1976. Members of the Explorers group were required to contribute a fixed and substantial dues amount each year to provide a firm financial base for the organization. Mr. Pitts served TIPRO several years, successively as a Vice President, Membership Chairman, Secretary, President, Chairman of the Board and as a member of the Executive Committee. His work with TIPRO earned him four Distinguished Service Awards and in 1994 he received TIPRO's highest honor, the "Mr. TIPRO" Award."

As a long time member of the Dallas Petroleum Club, Mr. Pitts was honored by being se-

lected to the Dallas Wildcat Committee, a select group of 100 persons affiliated with the Petroleum Club. In 1989, he started DSC Incorporated, a specialty chemicals company which provides unique drilling fluid additives for the oil industry. In addition, to his many oil industry activities, Mr. Pitts was a member of the Dallas Council on World Affairs, a Director of the Dallas Opera, Director of the Baylor University Medical Center Foundation, Dallas, and a Director of the Copiah-Lincoln Junior College Foundation, which also elected him as Alumnus of the Year in 1976. He was a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International and a member of the Bent Tree Country Club.

Mr. Pitts is survived by his wife of more than 51 years, Mary Elizabeth Pitts of Dallas; his daughter, Pamela Elizabeth Lane and her husband Bruce Lane, Jr., Dallas; his daughter-in-law, Dawn Pitts, Jackson, Mississippi; and four grandchildren, Justin Rutherford Lane, Holly Elizabeth Lane, Cerissa Dawn Pitts and Natalie Michelle Pitts. He is also survived by two brothers, L. Frank Pitts, Dallas; and Troy N. Pitts, Wesson, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, Shelby Pitts will be missed by his family, many friends and business associates throughout the United States and in many foreign countries. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—the late Shelby Dupree Pitts.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment and want to thank him for bringing it to the floor.

In 1996 we amended the Anti-Terrorism Act precisely to help families like the Flatows. Now we find that this law is under attack and the Flatows are being made to suffer again. But this time it is not because of Iran, it is because our own State protected Iranian assets right here in the U.S., right here in Washington, D.C. This is money that could easily be used to take yet one more innocent life.

Mr. Chairman, that is unconscionable.

Provisions in the Anti-Terrorism Act allow Americans to sue governments of state-sponsored terrorism for damages, the Flatows have done that. The courts ruled in their favor and judged they should be compensated.

Now its time for Iran to pay up.

We must send a message to Iran that our own internal divisions will not hold us hostage against executing justice. We must also send a message to the Flatows and other families to let them know the government is on their side. That is why I urge all my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

THE MASSACRE OF THE E-RATE
CONTINUES**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the massacre of the infant E-Rate continues. Certain greedy corporations have chose to persecute and betray the children of America by denying them vital access to education technology in their schools and libraries. After the Telecommunications Act of 1996 enriched these giant corporations by removing certain regulations and allowing an unprecedented increase in their profits, MCI and others have chose to renege on the deal. The telecommunications corporations gave their word that they would support an earmarking of a portion of the Universal Access Fund just for Schools and Libraries. Now corporations and misguided political leaders have forced the Federal Communications Commission to cut the original funding goal by fifty per cent. On behalf of the 30,000 schools and libraries that applied for funding, and all of the children of America we demand that full funding for the E-Rate be restored immediately. The children of America have a message for corporations like MCI:

THE E-RATE KILLER

MCI
Wants E-Rate to die
Children cry
Big shots lie
Pigs kidnap the sky
MCI
Wants E-Rate to die
Deadbeat dinosaur
Monster Corporate Idiots
MCI
Never shy
Greedy grinch
Stealing all the pie
MCI
With justice no civil tie
MCI
Filthy sty
In the star spangled eye
MCI
Wants E-Rate to die
MCI
Makes children cry.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOV-
ERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999 and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Lowey amendment to the FY 99 Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill which would require that Federal Employees Health Benefits plans cover prescription contraception just as they cover other prescriptions.

The federal program should be a model for private plans and, as an employer, the federal government should provide this basic health benefit for women and their families insured through FEHB plans.

However, most FEHB plans limit coverage of contraception, and in some cases cover only one method of prescription contraception, despite the fact that participating plans overwhelmingly cover prescription drugs and clearly recognize them as a key health benefits.

Even worse, 10% of plans have no coverage of contraceptives—that is, they fail to cover any of the top five leading reversible contraceptive methods (oral contraceptives, diaphragm, IUD, Depo-Provera, and Norplant).

The inadequacy of contraceptive coverage through FEHB plans is clear. A woman covered by the an FEHB plan may be forced to choose a contraceptive method that is not best suited for her medical needs. While there is near universal coverage of sterilization by FEHB plans and reasonable good coverage of oral contraceptives, the percentage of plans covering other specific reversible methods varies dramatically. A total of 88% of plans cover oral contraception, yet only 28% cover the IUD. Thus, plans often do not afford a woman the option of non-hormonal contraception or the choice of the birth control method that may be best suited for her medical circumstances.

Some of our colleagues intend to make a spectacle of this issue on the floor. Meanwhile, the health and safety of women seeking contraceptive coverage through their FEHBP is endangered at the hands of the conservative majority.

We must not allow this last-minute pandering to the right wing at the expense of women enrolled in FEHB plans, nor must we allow the conservative majority to dictate the birth control methods used by federal employees and their families.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOV-
ERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, the Exchange Stabilization Fund has been an essential tool for the management of international monetary policy for over 60 years, having served as every Administration's chief weapon in defending the dollar.

The ESF is the U.S. Government's only instrument providing the means for a rapid and flexible response to international financial disruption which can impact adversely on the U.S. economy. The ESF provides a powerful and flexible means for the Secretary of the Treasury to support our obligations in the IMF, especially those concerning orderly exchange

arrangements and a stable system of exchange rates.

Any attempt to cripple the ability of the U.S. to use the ESF to respond to fast-moving financial crises, as this amendment does, would pose a very serious threat to the U.S. economy and our ability to maintain a strong and stable dollar—with all of the benefits that affords us.

Consequently, this amendment is strongly opposed by the Department of the Treasury as well as the Federal Reserve. According to Secretary Rubin, by severely restricting the use of the ESF, this amendment constitutes an unacceptable limitation on the executive branch's ability to protect critical U.S. interests. The Secretary would be forced to recommend a Presidential veto if the final bill contains these restrictions.

Likewise, Fed Chairman Greenspan has testified that "it is important to have mechanisms, such as the Treasury Department's Exchange Stabilization Fund, that permit the U.S. in exceptional circumstances to provide temporary bilateral financial support, often on short notice, under appropriate conditions and on occasion in cooperation with other countries."

For over 60 years, the ESF has been a vital American tool, used most often by the last three Administration's, for defending the dollar, curbing destructive currency fluctuations, and protecting essential U.S. economic and security interests.

Counterproductive restrictions on the ESF could lead to severe foreign exchange market instability—and hence, dollar volatility—that would harm American businesses, raise U.S. interest rates, and weaken our economic prospects. Such volatility could also threaten the dollar's ability to serve as the world's reserve currency—a source of tremendous advantage for the United States.

Direct market intervention is one way the ESF has been used to curb exchange market volatility. The use of ESF resources to stabilize foreign currencies has played just as essential a role in accomplishing U.S. economic objectives.

The ESF has been used more than 50 times in the past 60 years to stabilize currencies in key U.S. export markets—such as Great Britain in the 1960s—to anchor reforms in transitional countries—such as Poland in 1989—and to protect against the effects of short-term instability or currency crises, such as Mexico in 1995. Every single one of these extensions of support through the ESF has been promptly repaid. No U.S. money has ever been lost in accomplishing these critical objectives through the ESF. In fact, by utilizing an innovative investment banking approach, the U.S. actually made over \$500 million in interest on ESF loans to Mexico.

This amendment would prohibit the U.S. from keeping its commitment to our allies in South Korea to provide backstop financial assistance, if necessary. It would greatly restrict the ability of the U.S. to provide emergency liquidity to assist any future transition to a post-Castro Cuba. Similarly, it would prevent the U.S. from coming to the financial assistance of Taiwan (not an IMF member), if the Asian financial crisis or renewed tensions across the Taiwan strait caused a run on the New Taiwan dollar.

As a trade and exports become more important to the health of the American economy,