

under the Multidistrict Litigation statute. It obviously promotes judicial administrative efficiency.

Section 3 of the bill consists of the text of H.R. 967, the "Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999," which I introduced on March 3rd. This is a bill that the House of Representatives passed during the 101st and 102nd Congresses with Democratic majorities. The Committee on the Judiciary favorably reported this bill during the 103rd Congress, also under a Democratic majority, and just last term the House approved the legislation as Section 10 of H.R. 1252, the "Judicial Reform Act." The Judicial Conference and the Department of Justice have supported this measure in the past.

Section 3 of the bill would bestow original jurisdiction on federal district courts in civil actions involving minimal diversity jurisdiction among adverse parties based on a single accident—like a plane or train crash—where at least 25 persons have either died or sustained injuries exceeding \$50,000 per person. The transferee court would retain those cases for determination of liability and punitive damages, and would also determine the substantive law that would apply for liability and punitive damages. If liability is established, the transferee court would then remand the appropriate cases back to the federal and state courts from which they were referred for a determination of compensatory and actual damages.

Mr. Speaker, Section 3 will help to reduce litigation costs as well as the likelihood of forum shopping in mass tort cases. An effective one-time determination of punitive damages would eliminate multiple or inconsistent awards arising from multiforum litigation. At the same time, however, trial attorneys will have the opportunity to go before juries in their home states for compensatory and actual damages.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a hearing on this measure which will take place before the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property.

The legislation speaks to process, fairness, and judicial efficiency. It will not interfere with jury verdicts or compensation rates for litigators. I therefore urge my colleagues to support the Multidistrict, Multiparty, Multiforum Jurisdiction Act of 1999 when it is reported to the House of Representatives for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
MORRIS JAMES BOYD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the accomplishments of a truly outstanding individual, Major General Morris J. Boyd, U.S. Army. General Boyd will soon be completing his assignment as the Deputy Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood, which will bring to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army. It is a pleasure for me to recognize just a few of his many outstanding achievements.

General Boyd, a native of Oakland, California, entered the Army in April 1965. Upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in

March 1966 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in Field Artillery. He has served in a wide variety of Field Artillery and Aviation assignments in Infantry, Air Cavalry, Mechanized, and Armored Divisions. He has commanded at battery, battalion, and brigade levels and served as Deputy Commander, V Corps Artillery, Frankfurt, Germany, and as Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Staff assignments have been at battalion through Department of the Army. His most recent staff tours include an assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Doctrine (Headquarters, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command), followed by assignment to Washington, DC, as the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison. Major General Boyd's overseas tours include Greece and Germany; two combat tours in Vietnam, one as a field artilleryman, the other as an aviator; and one in Southwest Asia, where he commanded the 42nd Field Artillery Brigade as part of VII Corps, during Operation Desert Storm. General Boyd served a tour of duty at Fort Hood during 1971–1972 with 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, 2d Armored Division, as Battalion S–3 and Battery Commander.

Major General Boyd holds Bachelor of Arts and Masters degrees in Business Administration. He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, the Fixed Wing Aviator Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal (12th Award), Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. He has also earned the Parachutist Badge, Senior Aviator Wings, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

Major General Boyd and his wife Maddie live at Fort Hood, Texas. They have one son, Ray, who resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, General Boyd has devoted his life to preserve the peace that we enjoy. He is truly a great American and has served his country with honor and distinction. I wish him well in the days ahead and am proud to recognize his achievements today.

HONORING THE SLATEVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON ITS
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Slateville Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary Celebration. I am pleased and proud to bring the history of this church to the attention of my colleagues.

The church, located in Delta, Pennsylvania, was founded in the summer of 1849. It was one of six churches that stemmed from the first Presbyterian Church west of the Susquehanna River in the southern region of York County, the Log Church in the Barrens. In its

150 years of existence, the church has been home to a tightly-woven community whose faith and fellowship are a source of inspiration in the area.

I send my sincere best wishes as the Slateville Presbyterian Church celebrates this milestone in its history, and hope that the new millennium will see this community prosper and be strengthened in its faith.

CONGRATULATING EXCEPTIONAL
PARENTS UNLIMITED OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Exceptional Parents Unlimited of Fresno for receiving the Daily Points of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C. The Points of Light Foundation, established by President George Bush, recognizes individuals and groups that give service to their communities.

Exceptional Parents was founded 22 years ago by a registered nurse Marion Karian, who still runs the organization today. It began as a support group at University Medical Center of Fresno, California, for parents of children with Down Syndrome, and has grown into a large, non-profit organization, which serves the family members of children with special needs. Marion states, "When there is a child with disabilities it affects the whole family. Our approach is to help the whole family."

The heart of the organization's program is providing support, education and advocacy assistance to families of disabled children, including siblings and grandparents. An early-intervention program targets families with children up to three years of age. It offers developmental assessment and assistance including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. It enhances the development of infants and toddlers with disabling conditions and minimizes their potential for developmental delays. There is also a Family Resource Network which provides multicultural parent training and information, a Safe and Healthy Families program and Child Abuse Prevention services which is one in seven in the state, funded by the Department of Social Services. All of these services are free to the public.

"We can give out lots of technical information, and we do," says Marion, "but what parents can do for other parents is empowering. When a new parent gets together with an experienced parent and finds out he is not in isolation, not alone, they connect. We strengthen families and enables them to handle their own situations, that is the thread of who and what we are."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Exceptional Parents Unlimited for receiving the Daily Points of Light Award. The service of emotional and educational empowerment is invaluable to families of disabled children. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing this organization many years of continued success and service to their community.