

Banks are hard to find in the inner city, and I am sure that this fact has contributed to the presence of check cashers in the inner city. In the City of Houston 23 establishments are listed as offering check cashing services to poor or moderate income Houstonians.

It is estimated that 12% of the population in this country does not have a checking account. Resulting in one in every 13 U.S. households not having a bank account. This percentage is growing with the escalation of banking fees and the closing of full service bank branches.

In the state of Texas a low-income family may spend more than \$200 a year in checks cashing fees.

Currently, no national law guarantees access to banking services for all Americans. Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Minnesota require banks operating with their boarders to offer basic checking accounts with minimal fees for consumers making a limited number of transactions.

Some check cashing services offer short term credit called a payday loan to customers who are in need of cash. A customer writes a check for one amount and receives a lower amount in return. The check casher in turn agrees to hold off cashing the check until payday. A customer can choose to "roll" the check over by paying another fee to extend the loan, a process that can become extremely costly over time.

A class-action lawsuit in Tennessee describes a borrower who renewed cash advance loans 20 to 29 times. One plaintiff "rolled over" loans 24 time in 15 months, borrowing a total of \$400 and paying \$1,364 while still owing \$248. The allowance of this amendment would have made sure that the reform of our nation's financial service industry includes benefits to all Americana.

Madam Chairman, H.R. 10, the Financial Services Act of 1999, represents a historic moment for America. I am supportive of a bill that would update our Depression era banking laws. Indeed, according to the Treasury Department, financial services modernization could provide as much as \$15 billion annually in savings to consumers. Modernization will create a streamlined, one stop shopping with comprehensive choices for consumers.

I must state in no uncertain terms that notwithstanding the potential benefits that H.R. 10 represents for consumers, the structured rule prohibited dialogue on the key issues of red-lining, financial and medical record privacy and community lending. Accordingly, I strongly oppose the rule. It is my desire that these important issues will be revisited in conference.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT J.
EMILIO TRUJILLO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I wish to recognize Sergeant J. Emilio Trujillo of the Pueblo Police Department for his years of outstanding service and for his dedication to protecting the citizens of Pueblo, Colorado. His hard work, commitment, and compassion are to be commended.

For 34 years, Mr. Trujillo has served in law enforcement, spending most of his time in the department's identification section. He is known as the best identification officer in Colorado. As supervisor of the section, he has served on and managed the crime-scene investigation of virtually every homicide, robbery, or serious crime committed in the Pueblo area.

Sergeant Trujillo's knowledge, experience, and work ethic are to be valued and appreciated. He is highly respected and admired in the law enforcement community for his technical knowledge and supervisory skills. Recognized throughout the nation as an expert in latent fingerprint examination, Emilio Trujillo is a qualified expert court witness in fingerprints, photography, and marijuana identification.

Not only has he served as an active policeman, he has also worked to prepare future police officers by teaching and sharing his experience with those attending the police academy. He has provided leadership and an example to follow for students of forensic investigation techniques. Men like Sergeant Trujillo are few and far between. I am thankful for his dedication to the citizens of Pueblo. It is for

his efforts to uphold justice and serve and protect the people that I now pay tribute to Sergeant J. Emilio Trujillo.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MEDICAL OFFICER RANDALL BRADFORD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Emergency Medical Officer Randall Bradford of Pueblo, Colorado. For his bravery, dedication and hard work. I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Bradford.

For 28 years, Randall Bradford has spent his time responding to medical emergencies of all kinds, and saving the lives of many individuals. Classified as a medical officer, he not only actively serves to protect life, he also trains other firefighters and the public to perform CPR and to work as EMTs. Known for his patience and composure while aiding the injured and the ill, Mr. Bradford is well liked by all he comes into contact with.

Mr. Bradford goes above and beyond the call of duty volunteering for and striving to complete tasks outside of his job description. He serves as a Medical Evaluator for the CSEPP Program, and as a member of the fire Department Critical Incident Debriefing Team. Credited with writing the Mass Fatality section of the Pueblo County Disaster Plan, he has also written and assembled the guide currently used by the Fire Department for medical reports.

Currently, Mr. Bradford is focusing on the "Drive Smart Pueblo" program to educate drivers in the selection and use of child safety seats. He has volunteered numerous hours toward working at child Safety Seat check points. I appreciate his efforts in protecting and educating the citizens of Pueblo. His dedication, hard work, kindness, and generosity of his time are to be commended and because of them, I wish to recognize Randall Bradford.