

Jack Gibson, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Jack Gibson has served the state of Arkansas and his country all of his life. After completing his secondary education in Louisiana, he became a naval aviator and flew in the carrier task force during World War II. After the war, he returned to the United States and finished college at Mississippi State University. He entered business with his father where they operated a farm, cotton gin, and an agricultural spraying business.

Through his years in Arkansas, Jack has been active in state, civic and community life and has always worked to represent agriculture, the greatest profession there ever was. He is a former director of Chicot County Soil Conservation District and served as the president of the Southeast Arkansas Soil Conservation District. He was also chairman and the original member of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He served as president and member of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas and president of the Arkansas Conservation Districts. Jack also served as president and CEO of two community banks in Southeast Arkansas and has been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1948.

As State Senator from District 35 for 12 years, Jack held chairmanships on the Agriculture and Economic Development Committees, and the Legislative Audit. During his tenure in the Arkansas legislature, he was also a member of the Legislative Joint Budget, Legislative Council, and Revenue and Taxation Committees. He has been affiliated with the Farm Credit System for 39 years and served on both the PCA and FBL boards, as well as the Sixth District Advisory Board. Jack is currently the executive director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission.

Jack Gibson resides in Boydell, Arkansas, the town where he was born. He has devoted his life to agriculture and Arkansas and the world is a better place because of his service. I am proud to call him my friend and I wish him a happy 80th birthday and many more years of happiness.

#### ELIMINATE THE TRICARE PRIME COPAY

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**  
OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I hear from constituents on a daily basis who are concerned about the availability and affordability of military health care. On February 1, I introduced H.R. 3565 to eliminate the copayment requirement for Tricare Prime and to make military health care more affordable.

Retirees pay an annual enrollment fee for coverage and are also subject to copayment requirements. Active duty families do not pay an enrollment fee, but are also subject to copayments. I am concerned that these copays can dramatically increase overall health care costs, particularly for retirees on a fixed income or for younger enlisted personnel. At \$6 to \$12 a visit, these copays quickly erode the real progress Congress made last year approving a long overdue increase in military pay. Unless we reduce out-of-pocket costs for

military personnel, pay raises only help on the margin.

The legislation also addresses a question of fairness. The downsizing of military treatment facilities often makes it difficult for Tricare Prime enrollees to get appointments which would not require a copay. But if enrollees urgently need an appointment, and elect to go to a civilian provider, they face copayments, creating an inequity and a potentially pernicious disincentive to receiving timely care. My bill has a further policy justification as the Department of Defense has indicated that the Tricare Prime program is the most cost-effective Tricare option. Eliminating the copay creates an incentive for additional enrollment in Tricare, which ultimately saves taxpayer dollars.

The Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2001, which was released at the beginning of this week, generally supports my proposal. The DOD bill would eliminate copays for service members and dependents using civilian facilities, but doesn't address the equally large retired population. I believe we need to eliminate the copayment for all Tricare Prime enrollees and urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 3565.

#### HONORING HIGH POINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, with the recent Super Bowl, another exciting football season has come to an end. Before we put this season to bed, however, I wish to take a moment to recognize a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that just concluded a perfect football season. The High Point Central High School Bison completed a 15-0 season by capturing the 1999 North Carolina 2-A Football Championship.

High Point Central defeated Southwest Onslow by a score of 30-7 in Chapel Hill, NC, on December 11, 1999, to win the State 2-A high school title. In fact, going into the championship game, both teams were undefeated. The Bison used a swarming defense and an opportunistic offense to overwhelm the previously-unbeaten Stallions. The Bison completed one of the most dominating seasons in recent high school football history. The team had not one but two running backs who rushed for more than 2,000 yards each. The Bison scored 641 points in capturing both conference and regional titles.

Head Coach and Athletic Director Gary Whitman, who had won two State titles while at Lexington High School, led High Point Central to its first State championship since 1979. "The State championship is obviously a great exclamation point for the season," Coach Whitman told the High Point Enterprise. "Our kids deserve a lot of the credit and the coaching staff has done a great job. The pressure has been on them all year long, and they've handled it well. I'm proud of them for that, and it can't be much better than it is right now."

Coach, you are so right. Winning the State championship is the ultimate prize and it took complete cooperation from a lot of dedicated people to reach the pinnacle. First, we have to

recognize the players who made it happen. They include Derrick Bryant, Darius Johnson, Nick Garrison, Steve Turner, Chuckie Reid, Rashad Stevenson, Jonathon Holloman, Stanley Butler, Wayne Traylor, Quincy Thomas, Jonathon Spencer, Quincy Smith, Wich Brenner, Calvin Humphrey, Matt Brooke, Brian Bourn, Montrey Gilchrist, Antonio Graves, Kevin Green, Brandon Hunt, Brandon Tucker, Bradley Watson, Kwan Walls, Sam Hairston, Kedrick Russell, Clint Sarvis, Twain Johnson, Rickey Haywood, Rod Zimmerman, Josh Mitchell, Travis Cobb, Atari Evans, Alan Byerly, Tyler Walls, Michael Waugh, Grant Allred, Rodney Pitts, Andre Matthews, Titus Johnson, Tron McNeil, Travis Johnson, Joe Atkins, Roy Bronson, James Leak, Daniel Bell, Matthew Waugh, Brandon Greeson, Jerome Garrett, Kyle Ingram, Cornelius Leach, Reco Graham, Tony Dixon, Devin Buchannon, Phillip Green, and Dane Brenner.

Head Coach Whitman was ably assisted by an outstanding team of coaches including Bill Anderson, Steve Edwards, Jim Grkman, Chuck Henderson, Steve Johnson, Wayne Jones, Jeff Thomas, and Troy Whitman. The Bison support group including Dr. Richard Keever, the team physician, Ronnie House, the trainer, Winfrey Bivens and Jane Johnson, who handled the videotaping, along with ball boys Bret Hammer, Stephen Johnson, and Ben Thomas.

So, as High Point Central continues to celebrate its first football championship in 20 years, we offer our congratulations to everyone associated with Bison football. Everyone from Principal Helen Lankford to the students, staff, and faculty at High Point Central High School can take pride in capturing the ultimate prize. I join with the family, friends, and fans of Bison football in congratulating High Point Central High School for winning the 1999 North Carolina 2-A Football Championship. The season was, in a word, perfect.

#### ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER WADE BRUNSMAN

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 16, 2000*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a good friend, good husband, father, grandfather and a great public servant Mr. Wade Brunsmann.

Born in St. Louis and raised in Clinton County, Wade is the father of 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Wade, a Navy machinist, served as a chief of engine rooms aboard a minesweeper in World War II. He received his engineering degree from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland and opened a heating and refrigeration service in 1957.

Elected to the St. Clair County Board in 1952, Wade has served on many committees and subcommittees. He served as the Chairman of St. Clair Board's Environment Committee working on many issues including storm water management, land use, zoning, landfill and environmental issues for the benefit of all citizens in our region. He also served as a member of the St. Clair County Board's Finance Committee which oversees the disbursement of monies for the County's day-to-