

visas. The only wait time for these children is the actual time the INS takes to process their petitions.

However, when these children turn 21 years of age, their status shifts from immediate relative status to the status of family-first preference. This category is subject to a limited number of visas per year.

If these children turn 21 after their immediate relative petition is filed, they are moved to the bottom of the wait list for the family-first preference category. Since this category is backlogged for many countries, the child's wait time for processing unfairly increases.

H.R. 1209 would ensure that an alien child of a U.S. citizen shall remain eligible for immediate relative status as long as an immigrant visa petition was filed before the child turned 21. The date the petition was filed, and not the date the petition is processed, shall apply.

I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation to correct this inequitable outcome.

IRRELEVANT WEEK 26TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an unusual community event that takes place in my district each year. "Irrelevant Week," now being celebrated for the 26th year in a row, was the vision of former National Football League player Paul Salata.

Founded on the premise of "doing something nice for someone for no reason," Irrelevant Week has inspired generous acts that have made this popular event one of the most relevant altruistic programs held in Orange County. The honoree of the week is, by tradition, the person chosen last in the National Football League draft. Whether first or last in the NFL draft, Paul Salata knows that beyond pure talent, it is the character and drive of the player—even if the last one picked—that will determine how successful he will be on the field. Proceeds from the week's events are donated to charities in Southern California, including this year's beneficiaries: the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation and Save Our Youth.

This year's honoree is future Arizona Cardinal Tevita Ofahengau. He was the 246th pick in the NFL draft this year. Born in Tonga and raised in Laie, Hawaii, he is a 6'2" 251-pound tight end from Brigham Young University.

Tevita, along with his wife and four children, will undoubtedly enjoy celebrating his reign as "Mr. Irrelevant" during the week's festivities. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Orange County whom it is my privilege to represent, congratulations to Tevita, his family, Paul Salata, and everyone associated with Irrelevant Week XXVI.

HONORING HOWARD SCHARLIN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who will be greatly missed by all

who knew him. A man who served his country proudly in its hour of need, and a man whose love for his work and his life are only eclipsed by his immeasurable love of family. It brings me great sadness to report that Howard Scharlin of Coconut Grove, Florida, passed away last Tuesday at the age of 73.

Howard Scharlin attended school at Brooklyn College and later at Brooklyn Law School. He was admitted to the New York State Bar Association in 1951. Before entering the practice of law, he joined the Navy and attended Officers Training School from which he eventually became a line officer on the *Battleship Wisconsin*. It was on the *Wisconsin* where Howard began service to his country during the Korean War.

After the war, Howard Scharlin moved to Miami in 1955. It was in Florida that he began his legal career as a real estate attorney and also a real estate developer. As a developer, Howard used his intellect and creativity to play a great role in the development of the City of Hialeah. Other accomplishments in the field include the co-creation of Palm Springs Mile, the creation of Anchorage Way and Commodore Plaza, and more notably, the development of the first townhouses in Florida and the laws creating condominiums.

However, Howard may best be known for his intense involvement in community service and his most generous philanthropy. He was a major supporter of the Boys and Girls Club, the United Way, and a myriad of Arts associations both in Florida and Aspen Colorado, where his family spent a considerable amount of time. He showed a great interest in educational institutions as well, as he was on the Board of Trustees for the Coconut Grove Playhouse and the Ransom Everglades School, as well as endowing the I Have a Dream Foundation at the Drew Elementary School.

In addition, Howard was an outstanding member of the Jewish community and a passionate supporter of the State of Israel. He was a board member on the American Jewish Committee, board member and Past President of the Miami Jewish Federation, President of the local chapter of AIPAC, participant in a number of missions to Israel, influential member on the boards of several Temples, and a number of other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Scharlin was both well-loved and widely respected by all those blessed to have known him, especially his wife, three children, and six grandchildren by whom he is survived. He selflessly served his country. His life's work was his dream. And his family was a source of admiration and great pride. Today we celebrate Howard's life which serves as a wonderful example to all who follow in his footsteps.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRED WENGER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mr. Fred Wenger, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader in Delaware County, Indiana for three decades. I join his lovely wife Karen and three children in expressing gratitude for his loyal service as an Indiana State Representative.

Mr. Speaker, ask everyone in the Indiana General Assembly about the legacy of Mr. Wenger and they will unanimously refer to his gentle soul. He was dedicated to building strong constituent relationships and stronger Christian values.

Mr. Wenger's powerful faith influenced all of his work at the State House. He routinely voted his conscience for each of his three years in office. His passion for public service made him an inspiration to all of his colleagues. He is not only deeply regarded, but also deeply loved.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this respected man who helped make selected communities of east central Indiana the pleasant places they are today. Indiana will miss Mr. Fred Wenger.

INTERNET FREEDOM AND
BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT
OF 2001

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1542, the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001. While this bill is controversial, I believe that it is fundamentally headed in the right direction. In fact, I authored an amendment to this bill to assure that, if the Bell Operating Companies receive relief to deliver high-speed Internet services, they would be required to deliver Internet services to underserved areas.

The bill would free the Bells of regulation to compete freely with long-distance providers and cable companies for high-speed Internet services. Of course, those companies which are already unregulated in providing high-speed Internet services oppose putting the Bells on an equal playing field.

I am less interested in the great turf wars among competitors than I am in how fair competition benefits the consumer, and whether technical advances—especially high speed Internet services, or broadband—will be made available across America.

Broadband access, along with the content and services it might enable, has the potential to transform the Internet—both what it offers and how it is used. For example, a two-way high speed broadband connection could be used for interactive applications such as online classrooms, showrooms, or health clinics, where teacher and student (or customer and salesperson, doctor and patient) could see and hear each other through their computers. An "always on" connection could be used to monitor home security, home automation, or even patient health remotely through the Internet.

The high speed and high volume that broadband offers could also be used for bundled service where, for example, cable television, video on demand, voice, data, and other services are all offered over a single line. In truth, many of the applications that will best exploit the technological capabilities of broadband, while also capturing the imagination of consumers, have yet to be developed.

My amendment, which was adopted by the House Committee, requires the Bells to make