

Mr. Booker and fellow teammate James Bonelli have been named to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl on January 5, 2002, at Alamo Stadium in San Antonio, Texas. On the day before the game, the Ken Hall Player of the Year trophy will be awarded. Mr. Booker is a finalist. He also is a finalist for the USA Today Offensive Player of the Year and the High School Heisman.

Obviously a leader on the field, Mr. Booker also has been described as a leader off the field, and as a gentleman who is proud and confident but who treats everyone as his equal.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Booker is considered by many to be the top college recruit in the country. Ironically, Mr. Booker is in no rush: He says he'll make a decision when he wakes up on National Signing Day, February 5.

Wherever he goes, college football fans will quickly learn what California high school fans already know: Lorenzo Booker is a winner.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Lorenzo Booker for a very successful and impressive high school football career and in wishing him the best as he dodges and weaves into the next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CLIFFT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Michael Clifft. On November 30, 2001, Michael, along with his family and friends, celebrated his retirement from the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local Union 374 after more than 35 years of dedicated service.

We in Northwest Indiana applaud Mr. Clifft's achievements thus far. At the young age of 23, he was initiated into the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, an event that marked his entry into a productive career in this field. A native Oklahoman, he joined our community in 1968 when he was transferred to Local 374 in Hammond, Indiana. His sense of dedication and professionalism that was formed in the Heartland came to fruition in Northwest Indiana with his many positive contributions in our community. We often seek in traditions a reflection of American ideals: reliability, loyalty, and an unwavering commitment to a strong work ethic. The Clifft family yields to us all an example of uncompromising dedication to this ethic—his father before him and his daughter after him are both distinguished Boilermakers. Mr. Clifft has provided the constituents of the First Congressional District with a positive standard after which they can model themselves.

As a testament to his dedication to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Mr. Clifft was appointed to the position of Assistant Business Manager of Local 374 in 1995. For the six years he served in this position, he represented Local 374 with the same integrity that he has devoted to his career, his family, and his friends.

With his induction into the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Mr. Clifft became a member of a family of professionals that spans the globe. His efforts to serve his

international brothers and sisters to the best of his abilities are the reasons we honor him today. Yet these obligations do not curtail his involvement with those who have supported him in these endeavors. The Clifft family should also receive some of the praise offered today. His wife, his five children, and his ten grandchildren have selflessly shared this man with our community and they are also deserving of our gratitude.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Michael Clifft. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. His work in the labor movement provided union workers in Northwest Indiana opportunities that might have remained undiscovered. Mr. Clifft's contributions kept the labor force strong and his loyalty and sincerity embody all that is admirable in America's workforce. I sincerely wish Michael Clifft a long, happy, and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARTIN MURPHY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Martin Murphy. Mr. Murphy resides in Youngstown, Ohio and is a long-time U.S. History and Civics teacher at Chaney High School.

For years, Mr. Murphy has worked to promote the traditions and institutions of the United States to the children of Youngstown. He has provided students with the opportunity to meet veterans and hear their stories. He has taught the students the importance of celebrating our liberties by holding ceremonies around the flagpole and at cemeteries for those that gave their lives to ensure our freedom. He has taken students to African American History and Voice of America competitions, which test their democratic values and beliefs.

Recently, Mr. Murphy was nominated as Teacher of the Year for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I would like to thank Mr. Martin Murphy for dedicating many invaluable years to our young people. It takes a special person to teach them the significance of the freedoms that Americans are so fortunate to have.

HONORING PROFESSOR GARY JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an old and dear friend of mine, Dr. Gary Johnson. Dr. Johnson was instrumental in helping me become who I am today. As my advisor in the San José State University Counselor Education program, he helped me develop the sense of mediation and personal interactions which are so important in the work I do as a Member of Congress. This Friday evening, December 14, 2001, Dr. Johnson will be honored at a celebration of his impending

retirement from the faculty of my alma mater. The College of Education and the Department of Counselor Education at San José State University will gather together to pay tribute to Dr. Johnson for his 32 years of dedicated service to the Counselor Education program and to the betterment of our community and public schools.

Dr. Gary Johnson has been a leader in the design and implementation of the graduate program in the Department of Counselor Education at the College of Education at San José State University since 1969. He has served as a faculty member, program director, and division chairperson. In these capacities, he has motivated and inspired students from diverse backgrounds to maximize their individual potential for the good of our collective communities.

Since 1957, the innovative Graduate Department of Counselor Education has trained and graduated over 2,000 diverse professionals. It has maintained a recruitment and training emphasis focusing on cross-cultural issues, community partnerships, career life-span development, non-traditional counseling services, and historically under-represented student populations since 1970. Starting in 1978, the department has supported a bilingual emphasis in its students, a bilingual capability in its faculty, and a cross-cultural emphasis in its curriculum delivery.

Many students have chosen Counselor Education as the field in which to re-enter their university studies, receiving their Masters Degrees and going on to pursue successful careers in private industry, education, and community organizations. Many Counselor Education graduates have pursued leadership roles as school administrators and educational reformers. The professional work of these individuals is a testimony to the invaluable work of Dr. Johnson's long and distinguished career. Along with so many others, I take this opportunity to commend Dr. Gary Johnson for his outstanding contributions to the Graduate Department of Counselor Education at San José State University, and his outstanding contributions to my life and my professional development and career.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3484, THE PROMPT UTILIZATION OF WIRELESS SPECTRUM ACT OF 2001

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 3484, the Prompt Utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001. The bill's title aptly describes the critical need for this legislation to turn wireless spectrum, which has been tied up in litigation for years, into a useful, performing asset for the American people.

For some five years, these personal communication services spectrum licenses have been the subject of a contentious dispute between the original licensee, an entity known as NextWave, and the Federal Communications Commission, regarding their rightful ownership.

In 1993, the Communications Act of 1934 was amended to permit the FCC to sell licenses and construction permits through a

competitive bidding process and allow the successful bidders to pay for their licenses in installments. Pursuant to this authorization, auctions of certain licenses were held in 1996. NextWave successfully bid approximately \$4.7 billion for a substantial block of these licenses.

Subsequently, however, the market value of these licenses became depressed in response to various events, which in turn, adversely impacted the ability of some licensees to obtain funding for their purchases and operations. After making an initial payment of approximately \$500 million, NextWave failed to obtain financing for the balance it owed to the government and filed for bankruptcy relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in 1998. It thereafter made no other payments to the FCC for the licenses. Eventually, 20 other licensees also filed for bankruptcy relief under Chapter 11.

Extensive litigation over NextWave's licenses dragged on for several years. The FCC ultimately canceled the licenses and reaucted them in January of this year, with winning bids of nearly \$16 billion. Nevertheless, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia subsequently found the FCC's cancellation of the licenses violated the Bankruptcy Code and thereby rendering their reauction null and void.

In an effort to resolve the various issues presented by the disputed ownership of these licenses, the FCC, NextWave and certain other interested parties have entered into a comprehensive settlement agreement late last month. The agreement provides, in essence, for the transfer of the licenses by NextWave to the FCC, which in turn will convey them to the successful reauction bidders. In exchange for agreeing to transfer the licenses, NextWave will receive a cash payment from the United States government (in addition to which the government will make a cash payment directly to the IRS on behalf of NextWave). As the result of these transactions and certain related payments, the United States will receive approximately \$10 billion as net proceeds from the settlement.

In response to certain concerns expressed with regard to the settlement agreement, the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law and the Subcommittee on the Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary held a Joint hearing last week on this matter. Over the course of that hearing, various issues presented by the settlement agreement and proposed legislation were closely scrutinized, particularly those provisions requiring expedited judicial review and limiting the venue of certain appeals.

Largely as a result of that hearing and extensive consultations with the interested parties, I am now confident that the settlement agreement is in the best interest of the public and the national fisc, under the circumstances.

H.R. 3484, the Prompt Utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001 ensures that the settlement agreement will be implemented with the ultimate goal of making these telecommunications licenses available to those who will best utilize them for the American people.

Given the time constraints implicit in the pending settlement agreement and the need to tree up these licenses as soon as possible, it is my hope that Congress will promptly consider and pass H.R. 3484.

A WIDENING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHINGTON AND HAVANA TO CONSTRUCTIVELY ENGAGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker. With the bipartisan momentum for the abrogation of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba gaining steam, along with the recent courteous diplomatic exchange between the State Department and Havana and the subsequent trade initiative that was struck between U.S. agricultural groups and Cuba's Foreign Trade Ministry, such development should be of great interest to those in this country who have long been concerned with the course of U.S.-Cuba relations. These two long time foes seem to be exercising a newfound flexibility that could evolve into normalized relations between Washington and Havana.

Michael Marx McCarthy, Research Associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), has recently authored an article of considerable importance entitled, *A Widening Window of Opportunity for Washington and Havana to Constructively Engage*, some of which appeared in a recent issue of the organization's estimable biweekly publication, the *Washington Report on the Hemisphere*. McCarthy's article examines the polite exchange that transpired after Hurricane Michelle rained hundreds of millions of dollars of destruction on Cuba, and closely analyzes how the White House's expediting of Havana's cash purchase of U.S. foodstuffs could establish a diplomatic framework and a new mood which could lead to the restoration of regular political and economic ties. There is some possibility that, if we are lucky, this development could engender further constructive discussion and congressional action on the status of the archaic U.S. trade embargo that Washington slapped on Havana in 1962.

Additionally, considering the UN General Assembly's 10th consecutive overwhelming vote in favor of ending the U.S. trade embargo, and the mounting pressure from agricultural and business groups in this country to open the Cuban market to U.S. farm and industry products, now may be the time for some of my colleagues to harmonize with the rest of the world's public opinion and join with me in revising a failed policy that already has cost us dearly in reputation and in economic opportunities.

Furthermore, as the Castro government is reaching its natural end, the U.S. should want to build upon the recent discussions to bring about a watershed in these two neighbors' ties. To allow this positive momentum to relapse would be a grievous error. The Cuban government and people are aware that a majority of U.S. legislators and citizens desire friendly relations. To ensure that a peaceful transition of power follows the Castro government's end, U.S. officials should not relent on efforts to engage Cuba now. In fact, U.S. officials need to consider widening their humanitarian initiative by addressing basic bilateral issues, such as drug interdiction, laws of the sea, refugee and air space questions, as well as a broad range of economic, terrorism, trade, human rights observance and democra-

tization concerns. Action on these issues will provide the foundation necessary for a natural evolution in the development of constructive relations. As such, COHA researcher McCarthy's article is of great relevance since the effort to constructively engage Cuba is likely to grow in importance in the coming months.

A WIDENING WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHINGTON AND HAVANA TO CONSTRUCTIVELY ENGAGE

Possibly marking a watershed moment in U.S.-Cuban relations, Washington broke its four decade-long history of obdurately naysaying any move in favor of a constructive relationship with Havana—even if that means denying assistance to Cuban civilians caught up in heart-wrenching natural calamities—when a U.S. administration, for the first time, decided to facilitate Havana's multimillion dollar purchase of lumber, corn, wheat, rice, soy and medical products to help Cuba restock its reserves of essentials seriously depleted by hurricane Michelle. The hurricane was the worst storm to hit the island in a half a century, causing millions of dollars in damage to Cuba's sugar and citrus crops, as well as infrastructure losses and adverse effects to its tourist industry.

The delivery of such goods, initially called for by Castro to take place aboard Cuban vessels, will instead be carried out by U.S. or third-country vessels, marking a major concession on Havana's part. This unfolding scenario might provide the basis for how a newfound flexibility can build significant momentum in favor of a constructive engagement.

Because the unprecedented agreement falls within the existing parameters of the U.S. embargo, the arrangement presented a delicate political issue for Havana to rationalize. Last year, the Cuban president swore to never purchase American goods under the White House's terms, after legislation to ostensibly liberalize the embargo was hijacked by ultra conservative members of congress intent on eliminating any U.S. financing of exports to the island. Despite its heated disagreement with the embargo, Havana's decision to live with the formula for the present purchase indicates the gravity of the economic situation and Castro's ability to learn new tricks by accepting Washington's goodwill gesture at face value. What remains to be seen, however, is whether this episode will morph into a more substantive and broadened diplomatic discussion on such bilateral issues as navigation, air space, refugees and drug interdiction, or if it is merely a one-shot arrangement which will go nowhere.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The White House, acting out of a "humanitarian need context," played an active role in clearing a major hurdle to the deal by expediting the Commerce Department's issuance of the licenses necessary for American companies to sell and deliver to Havana. This was done after Havana had, with respect, turned down an earlier offer of assistance which would have to go through intermediaries and not involve any Cuban government agency. On the surface, the significance of the initiative is a more modest version of Nixon's opening to China in 1973, but presents a widening window of opportunity that could initiate a deepening and broadening of a dialogue between the two long-time foes. Conceivably, the process could spur preliminary discussions that could end up phasing out the outmoded 40 year-old U.S. economic embargo against the island, something that a majority of Americans appear to want.