

Troubling headlines involving kids around the country are showing that there is a dark side to the Internet. The very technology that has wired the world, allowing information to flow like never before, also presents new dangers for our children, even in our small, safe hometowns. Parents used to worry about their kids talking to strangers. Now it seems commonplace for them to do so everyday online. I know the Internet helps our children with everything from schoolwork to applying to college to keeping in touch with their friends, but I also recognize that this more frequent contact with strangers exposes children to the dangers of pornographers and other exploitation. Worse yet, the prevalence of virtual child pornography—computer generated images that are indistinguishable from real children and only serve to whet the appetites of pedophiles and would-be molesters—has become more difficult to prevent as a result of a recent court decision.

In April, the Supreme Court, in *Ashcroft v. The Free Speech Coalition*, struck down as unconstitutional portions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act (Pub. L. 104–208) that made it illegal to create, distribute or possess “virtual” child pornography. In its opinion striking down the provisions of the law, however, the court ruled that extending the reach of child pornography laws to computer-generated and other images involving no real children was “overbroad and unconstitutional” and that the law would prohibit visual depictions, such as movies, art or medical manuals, that have redeeming social value.

The Court’s decision left our children vulnerable, so I am pleased to support this legislation to strengthen the laws to go after those who would bring harm to our children. By carefully crafting this bill to narrowly define the terms and scope of the law, we have addressed the concerns raised by the Court and will provide lasting protection for our children against would-be pedophiles and exploiters. Because of the many important freedoms our constitution guarantees, it is a delicate exercise to prohibit even the most vile forms of expression. I believe we have achieved a balance in this bill of clearly defining that which we seek to ban, while protecting the freedom of speech that the constitution intends, and I am confident that this legislation will stand up to challenge.

It is imperative that Congress act swiftly to restore the prohibitions in law that recognize this horrible use of technology for what it is: yet another way for pedophiles and molesters to exploit children. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

HONORING THE WETLANDS INSTITUTE ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fine work of the Wetlands Institute of Stone Harbor, New Jersey on its 30th Anniversary. As an important haven for wildlife habitation and education, the Wetlands Institute deserves to be recognized and applauded.

Opened in 1972 by its founder, Herbert Mills, the Wetlands Institute has a clear mis-

sion to promote the appreciation and understanding of the vital role wetlands and coastal ecosystems play in the survival of life on this planet. This not for profit organization reaches out and educates the community by providing a fun learning experience for families, school groups and vacationers of all ages. Each year the Institute works hard to hosts thousands of visitors, supplying them with unforgettable views of countless species of birds, salt water aquaria and beautiful gardens.

The ambitious and honorable goals of the Wetland Institute include teaching the value of wetlands and coastal systems, sponsoring important research of these ecosystems and encouraging the stewardship of these habitats worldwide. Since 1972, this organization has involved students in several of its conservation projects. Many of these projects have garnered national attention, such as the diamond back terrapin research reported by ABC and National Geographic, as well as photographs of a horseshoe crab spawning census published in LIFE magazine in 1999.

Through tirelessly striving to educate the public on the critical need for wetlands conservation, the Wetlands Institute has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community. I wish this valuable organization further success and would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” in South Carolina as proclaimed by Governor Jim Hodges.

The purpose of this event, which begins today and is celebrated through July 14, is to increase public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and services, and expand recreational and leisure opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Physical therapists from all over the state met and worked together to eliminate barriers to leisure activities for many with disabilities and educate people in leisure skills and attitudes. These therapists constantly stressed the importance and advantage of having a clear understanding of how involvement in leisure and recreational activities improves physical and psychosocial health, and how recreation can provide individuals with a sense of self-confidence and satisfaction.

The theme for “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” is “Therapeutic Recreation . . . Examine the Possibilities.” The theme suited the occasion perfectly, as the aim was to explore a variety of methods used by therapeutic recreation professionals to enhance the quality of life and well being of persons with disabilities.

This year’s “National Therapeutic Recreation Week” will hopefully generate more interest and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive benefits of leisure and recreation.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of South Carolinians devoted their time and energy to im-

prove their quality of life, and also the lives of others. Please join me in recognizing the gallant efforts of these individuals, and the wonderful accomplishments they made during “National Therapeutic Recreation Week.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. I. MILEY GONZALEZ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez who has been serving in the capacity of Interim Vice Provost of Research at New Mexico State University. Dr. Gonzalez will be leaving NMSU after an impressive record as an administrator, an academic, and public servant to the community of Las Cruces, the state of New Mexico and our Nation.

Dr. Gonzalez rejoined the university in 2001 after nearly four years as U.S. Under-Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics. Before accepting former President Clinton’s appointment to the Department of Agriculture in 1997, he served as assistant dean and deputy director of the Cooperative Extension Service from 1994 to 1996, head of the agricultural and extension education department from 1991 to 1994, and director of the college’s international programs from 1992 to 1994. He began his professional career as a high school vocational agriculture teacher in 1970.

Prior to Dr. Gonzalez joining the faculty at New Mexico State University he served as a State 4-H Specialist at Pennsylvania State University and participated in Extension Program activities. He taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses including guest lectures in Spanish. He is a member of several academic and professional organizations, and has published journal articles and instructional materials in Spanish and English. Dr. Gonzalez received a B.S. and an M.S. from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in Agricultural and Extension Education. In 1999 Dr. Gonzalez was one of six people to receive the Outstanding Alumni awards from Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences. The award recognizes outstanding graduates and provides opportunities for interaction among the college’s alumni, students and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gonzalez has had a prosperous career while at NMSU. During his tenure Dr. Gonzalez was always known for taking time to meet with any student who needed to talk with him. It is often said that if our children are our future, the quality of our schools and their teachers will largely determine the quality of the future that our children will or will not enjoy. Dr. Gonzalez’s interest in the well being of his students can be found in the communities throughout New Mexico, the country, as well as in the halls of Congress. Several of those former students, who worked with Dr. Gonzalez in either the academic or extra-curricular environment, have worked or are currently working in my office or in the offices of Representative SKEEN, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator DOMINICI, or members of the President’s Cabinet. He has also been named as one of the top 100 Hispanic Leaders in the country.

While serving as Under Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Gonzalez was known for his strong efforts to forging a closer, more personal link between land-grant and research institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an agency that we all know provides funding for innovative research into the production of food and fiber, and the preservation of the environment. The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics provides centralized organization and management of the research, education, and economic programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In his role Dr. Gonzalez oversaw the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service and the National Statistics Service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my best wishes to Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez in his future endeavors. The community of Las Cruces and New Mexico State University will greatly miss Dr. Gonzalez's presence—but the product of his work can be found in the faces of our current and future leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the achievements and contributions of this outstanding educator, administrator, public servant and New Mexican.

FEDERAL BILL TO MAKE SURVIVOR BENEFITS TO ALL BENEFICIARIES OF SLAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TAX FREE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make benefits received by the beneficiaries (who are not a spouse or child) of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty tax-free. My bill amends the Officer Brian Gibson Tax Free Pension Equity Act that I introduced in 1997 after a District of Columbia police officer was killed in Ward 4, to relieve the spouses and children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from taxation on death benefits. The law now applies to all law enforcement officers in the United States. I wrote the bill after I discovered that officers received disability benefits tax-free while the death benefits of survivors were taxed. I decided to amend my bill after the Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002, allowing domestic partners to receive Federal death benefits, was enacted and signed by the President last month. That bill was stimulated by September 11th and the discovery that the domestic partners of police and fire officers killed in the Twin Towers tragedy were being denied death benefits.

The bill I introduce today is the logical companion bill to the 9–11 public safety officers bill that is now law because it simply allows the same exemption from taxation that other beneficiaries will now receive. Without this new bill, the very inequity Congress clearly intended to eliminate between the spouses and relatives of slain officers on the one hand and other beneficiaries on the other would be reintroduced. If the death benefits of these

beneficiaries of slain officers are tax exempt, it follows that the same benefits to other congressionally recognized beneficiaries should be similarly exempt. I believe that this remaining difference was not deliberate, but resulted from the fact that my earlier bill amended the tax code and was not immediately apparent to the authors of the recent bill.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this corrective measure.

CELEBRATING THE GRUNION GAZETTE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Grunion Gazette for providing Long Beach with an outstanding weekly newspaper for 25 years.

The Grunion, named after Long Beach's famous grunion runs, was founded by Tedi and Pat Cantalupo who began publishing the Grunion out of their home in the Belmont Shore area of Long Beach in 1977. In 1981, the Cantalupos sold the Grunion to Fran and John Blowitz who have built the paper into what it is today—one of the finest weekly newspapers in Southern California.

The Grunion Gazette has provided its readers with a sense of community and cohesiveness through its in-depth reporting on a variety of local topics. It keeps its readers well informed with news and information from city government, business, education, and the community, and provides a calendar of events, wedding announcements, obituaries, health and fitness advice, and a dining guide. Its opinion columns are based on local insights, along with a lively letters to the editor section and the witty commentary of Charlie the dog (aka Jacques Warshauer) in "Charlie's Corner," one of the Gazette's longest running features. All of this is combined with wonderful photos that capture the personality of the area and a website that opens the Gazette to readers around the world.

Fran and John Blowitz can take great pride in all that they have accomplished as owners of the Grunion Gazette, and as owners of the Downtown Gazette edition that they began 17 years ago. But that is not the whole story. Fran and John and their colleagues have also provided exceptional volunteer service to our community. They have served on numerous boards and committees and have helped to start such traditions as the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade. They also created the Gazette's Valentines' Date Night that draws thousands of people to the Queen Mary and raises more than \$50,000 a year for heart programs at Long Beach hospitals.

I salute Fran and John Blowitz, Associate Publisher and Executive Editor Harry Saltzgaver, Editor Kurt Helin, and all the fine staff and contributors for their commitment to the Grunion Gazette. Congratulations for 25 years of setting the highest standard for what a community newspaper can and should be.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUNE RENFRO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to bring to the attention of this House the inspiring accomplishments of June Renfro. June was recently awarded the Rifle (Colorado) Chamber of Commerce's 'Person of the Year' award for her dedication to her community. The selfless love with which she has promoted the betterment of the Rifle area has been a moving reminder of the affection many in my state have for their communities.

June Renfro was born on a ranch just north-east of Nunn, Colorado. She spent 18 years in the upholstery business in Greeley while actively pursuing a career with Home Interiors and Gifts, an at-home interior decorating service. However, when Mrs. Renfro's husband tragically passed away, June decided it was time to escape the cold winters in that area and moved to Rifle in 1997 to spend more time with her daughter Judy.

The joy with which June has embraced her new community later in life has been an inspiration to her new neighbors. At the age of 68 June threw herself wholeheartedly into the Rifle community, utilizing her love of people and inquisitive nature to become Rifle's biggest cheerleader. She became involved with the Chamber of Commerce ambassadors and began taping local business profiles for Rifle's Community Access Channel 13. June did everything in her power to share her talents and infectious spirit with her new neighbors in Rifle.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to pay tribute to June Renfro for her contributions to the rifle community. I applaud her receipt of the Rifle Chamber of Commerce's 'Person of the Year' award recognizing her significant achievements for the good of the community. At the age of 73, June's commitment to her neighborhood should be a lesson to all of us that we can continue to affect our communities for the public. For this unwavering dedication, as well as her infectious love of her newfound home, I bring June Renfro's example to the attention of this body of Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GENE TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a model citizen of the Grand Junction, Colorado community. Gene Taylor has gained the respect and admiration of the community through his company, Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods, and has provided professional and quality service to the city for over forty years. Gene's secret to success is simple; he values the customer and is dedicated to providing quality products in his establishments. He is a pillar of the Grand Junction community and I am honored to bring forth his accomplishments before this body of Congress, and this nation.