

are crooks; and, yes, if politicians themselves could restrain some of their impulses to demean not only their opponents but government itself.

But it wouldn't be the United States, where cynicism about public life was a part of the environment in which today's young people grew up. Partly for that reason, voter turnout among young Americans is low—and getting lower. Fewer than one in three Americans under 25 voted in the last two presidential elections. If past trends hold, fewer than one in five will vote in this mid-term election.

The past two years have created an opportunity for change. If any event could send the message that "your vote counts," it was the 2000 presidential election, in which the candidates were separated by so few votes that a handful of people might have tipped the balance, kept the election out of the courts and literally changed the course of history. And after Sept. 11, who can say with a straight face that "government doesn't make a difference in my life"?

Young Americans may find in those events a new incentive to vote—but that's a hope, not a guarantee. There's still a lack of communication to overcome. Young people often report that they don't vote because candidates don't speak directly to them; candidates often don't seek out young voters because they don't vote.

No one initiative or individual can break this cycle, but David Skaggs is doing his part. A Democrat who represented the 2d Congressional District for 12 years in the House of Representatives, Skaggs now serves as executive director of a Washington-based outfit called the Center for Democracy and Citizenship. One of its projects is designed to help political candidates reach out to young voters.

The center has made available to thousands of political candidates across the country a "tool kit" of background information and common-sense guidance on reaching young voters. Candidates who study the material will find that it punctures a few stereotypes about young people. They're often disengaged from politics but aren't cynical as a group about the world around them; they're evenly divided in their political preferences and not wedded to any one party.

There's no need to dwell on details intended for candidates rather than the general public. It's worth noting, though, that many of the suggestions for reaching young people would be sound advice for reaching any group of voters. Meet them on their own turf. Make it easy for them to find information. Do not adopt a "youth agenda," because young people care about the same issues their elders do. Do not, under any circumstances, pretend to be one of them; they'll spot a phony in a minute. Show the connection between their concerns and the election results.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. HENRY ANDERSEN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Henry "Hank" Andersen of Lamar, CO who have recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Hank and Marjorie Anderson grew up in the small town of Cozad, Nebraska. They were high

school sweethearts who married on July 31, 1942. For their lifetime commitment to each other and their strong example to their family and community, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends Hank and Marjorie and wishes them many more wonderful years together.

After graduating from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, with a major in speech, Miss Marjorie Evelyn Ford married Naval Ensign Henry Stanley Andersen. In 1942, the couple moved to New York City, where Hank, a Naval officer who loved to fly, was stationed as a pilot. There, their small family grew to include a daughter, Sue Ford Andersen. After Hank's tour of duty ended in 1945, the Andersen's moved back to Nebraska. In 1947, they welcomed the birth of their second child, Stanley Ford.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska Dental School in 1949, Hank moved his family to Lamar, Colorado. There, he opened a successful dental practice, which he maintained for almost 35 years.

As their children grew, Hank and Marjorie became very involved in the life of their community. Marjorie joined two women's service organizations, Sorosis and P.E.O., while Hank became an active member of the Southeastern Colorado Dental Association. Both Hank and Marjorie have been active members of Lamar's First Presbyterian Church.

Family has always been very important to Hank and Marjorie. Throughout their married life, the Andersen's made numerous trips back to Cozad, Nebraska to visit their parents, Ralph and Pearl Ford (Pa Ralph and Sweetiepie to their grandchildren) and Henry and Ella Andersen, (affectionately referred to as Pa Henry and Squeezetight). Even after their parents passed away, the Andersen's continued to make the trip to visit their aunt and uncle, Floyd and Kate Mundell.

Hank and Marjorie take great pride in their children, and were very excited when Sue married James Ocken in 1966 and when they became the grandparents of Cassandra "Cassie" Ocken and Staci Ocken Helseth. They have also greatly enjoyed their great-grandchildren, Chase Henry Helseth and Courtney Laura Helseth. The Andersen's are always prepared to show off their most recent family photos.

Always avid sports fans, Hank and Marjorie held season tickets to the Air Force Academy football games during the 1950s, and never missed an opportunity to attend Lamar High School football and basketball games. The Andersen's have also continually encouraged the young people of their community, faithfully attending the school events of neighborhood children, long after their son and daughter left home.

After Dr. Andersen retired in 1983, the couple enjoyed traveling to Kennebunkport, Maine, the home of their favorite president, George Bush, and to the countryside of Wisconsin to see the fall colors.

After 60 years of marriage, Hank and Marjorie Andersen are still a beautiful picture of what it means to be in love. Everyone who knows them can see how much they enjoy being in each other's company. They take care of one another, laugh together and set a meaningful example of commitment in marriage.

Citizens of Colorado, Hank and Marjorie are a truly remarkable couple. I am proud of their

momentous accomplishment, and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Henry Andersen.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS B. AHART, PHILIPSBURG, N.J., ON COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS OF AMERICA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow New Jersey resident and truly outstanding citizen, Thomas B. Ahart of Philipsburg, who is completing his highly successful term as President of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA)—later this month in New Orleans. Tom is president of Ahart, Frinzi & Smith, a Philipsburg, N.J.-based independent insurance agency.

Tom's career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding contribution and relentless dedication to his clients, community, IIABA, the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey (IIANJ), and his independent agent colleagues across the country.

He began his volunteer service with IIANJ where he served as president and chairman of the board. He also represented New Jersey as its representative to IIABA's National Board of State Directors. He was chairman of IIABA's Education Committee for four years before being elected to the Association's executive leadership panel.

Outside IIABA, Tom has served as a member of the board of the New Jersey Joint Underwriting Authority and was president of the Eastern Agents Association. He has served as an advisor to the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and the Insurance Institute of America, and was just appointed to their board.

Tom was honored with several state and local awards. They include the 1982 New Jersey Young Agent of the Year, the 1986 and 1987 New Jersey Executive Committee Chairman of the Year Awards, the 1993 New Jersey Insurance Person of the Year Award, and the 1994 IIA of Hunterdon/Warren County Agent of the Year Award.

Tom also has distinguished himself as an active and concerned member of his community. He was elected to serve on his local school board, served as a trustee at his church, and as a little league coach for 25 years, and he's coached boy's wrestling, boy's baseball, girl's basketball and girl's softball.

I laud Tom for his tireless leadership of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America and the many accomplishments benefiting all independent insurance agents and brokers realized during his tenure as President. I know that even though Tom will step aside as IIABA leader soon, he will remain involved with the Association because he is a concerned leader and wants to continue helping his colleagues build for a strong and secure future. Congratulations on a job well done, Tom!

TRIBUTE TO DAVID CASPER

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to David Casper, whose induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame was announced on February 2, his 50th birthday. Over his eleven years in the National Football League, Casper distinguished himself as one of the premier football players in history. Eighteen years after his retirement, his accomplishments and hard work will be recognized and commemorated upon receipt of this honor on August 3.

David John Casper was born in Bemidji, Minnesota, on February 2, 1952, to Dorothy and Edward Casper. His football career began during high school, where he led the Chilton Tigers to consecutive undefeated seasons in his junior and senior years.

In 1970, Notre Dame University immediately recognized David's ability and recruited him onto their football team as an incoming freshman. He quickly became Notre Dame's stand-out football star. In 1973, the All-American tight end led the Fighting Irish to an 11-0 season and a National Championship victory over Alabama's Crimson Tide. A leader on the field and in the classroom, David finished his senior year as team captain and a cum laude graduate.

In 1974, David debuted in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders. Over the next two years, he worked his way up to a spot in the starting lineup where he quickly established himself as one of the league's dominant tight ends, making 53 catches for 691 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Over the next seven seasons, David played for the Oakland Raiders, the Houston Oilers and the Minnesota Vikings. He returned to the Raiders, then relocated to Los Angeles, to retire from his football career in 1984.

After eleven seasons and the "Holy Roller" play against San Diego and the "Ghost to the Post" play beating the Baltimore Colts in a double overtime playoff game, David compiled 378 receptions for 5,216 yards and 52 touchdowns. He was essential to the Raiders' victory over the Vikings in Super Bowl XI. He was named All-Pro and All-AFC four consecutive seasons. He played in the Pro Bowl five consecutive years, was named a member of John Madden's 1970s team of the decade, and was recognized on the Silver Anniversary team as the best tight end in 25 years.

David's accomplishments are not limited solely to football. He has received numerous awards for his work as a financial planner, consultant and salesman.

David gained fame in the football world, but he has used his fame to better his community and the lives of the people in it. He founded the Dave Casper Celebrity Golf Tournament to support the Ronald McDonald House and greatly supports other charities that benefit children.

David's determination to succeed in all he has done has made him a true legend. He is probably most proud of his wonderful family—his wife Susan and children Keleigh, Carrie and Andy—but the world will forever remember the Hall of Fame football star who went down in the record books and in the memories of generations of football fans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN GRIFFIN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand before you today and honor Dan Griffin for his contributions towards the betterment of his community. Dan was honored by the Grand Junction Lions Club, as the "Lion of the Year." He is deserving of this prestigious honor, and it is a privilege to applaud him for all his hard work and dedication.

Dan completed his undergraduate education at Stanford and went on to become a law student at the University of Colorado. He joined the U.S. Air Force, but was forced to retire due to a knee injury. Dan returned to Grand Junction and was employed by the firm of Younge, Hockensmith & Robb. He later became President of the Mesa City Bar Association, and served on the Board of Governor's of the Colorado Bar Association.

During the Lions Club ceremony, family spoke of Dan as a ". . . genuine, superb, wonderful individual." Dan received this award because he demonstrates unwavering support and dedication to the organization and the community. Dan's wisdom in law helped him serve area citizens, and address concerns people had about wills, trusts, and estates. Truly, Dan's expertise is cherished and appreciated by all whom he encounters.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man of great character and conduct. It is a pleasure to honor him before this body of Congress and this nation. Thank you Dan for every contribution you have selflessly made to our community and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

FOOD SAFETY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, food safety is serious business, and American consumers pay a high price for wholesome, pure food. The expense soars when the system fails, especially if failure results in illness, or worse, someone's death. Everyone pays mightily to maintain America's standing as the world's safest place to eat.

Just behind taxes and government regulation, food-safety precautions account for the biggest fixed cost of commercial food production. All of these costs pass through to consumers at the grocer's check stand. The higher prices also rob farmers and ranchers of hard-earned income, but food safety remains their chief objective, too.

No one profits from bad food, except for lawyers. In fact, Colorado's economy depends on safe agriculture products, and confident, healthy consumers. That's why we invest billions toward achieving both.

The issue of improved food safety has once again found itself on the political front burner following the recent discovery of a contaminated batch of hamburger that slipped through the ConAgra Beef plant in Greeley. The incident caused the illness of at least 30 people.

The culprit in this case is E.coli 0157:H7. It can be lethal, though it wasn't this time. The bacterium is found in the intestines of most animals, including humans.

Cow feces probably came in contact with "trim" meat. These cuts were likely run through a grinder, shipped to a processor, blended with product from other slaughterhouses, sold at grocery stores, and prepared on a few dozen household countertops. Perfect nutrients and lots of surface area make ground beef an optimal growing medium for E.coli.

Hundreds of other pathogens could have initiated this latest round of debate. The Centers for Disease Control has identified more than 250 different food borne diseases that have caused an estimated 76 million illnesses in the United States resulting in 5,000 deaths and 325,000 hospitalizations. In virtually any other country the risk is worse, however poorly documented.

Impurities are inherent with all food consumption, especially perishable ones like meat, fish and poultry. A food-science expert at Colorado State University told me hamburger recalls average one per week across the country this time of year when the environmental conditions are most favorable to E.coli. This escapes the press for some reason.

Routinely, recalls are initiated immediately after a pathogen is confirmed, allowing producers to capture and gain control of the recalled product before it reaches consumers. ConAgra's recall was anything but typical. It came too late because federal inspectors waited nearly two weeks to alert the company that E.coli had been detected.

Once notified, ConAgra promptly voluntarily recalled all the contaminated beef, but the delay had already added millions to the company's cost of doing so, and sickened many. After admitting its delay was a mistake, the federal government then recommended to ConAgra an additional recall of millions of pounds of meat it had not tested at all.

The government's passive-aggressive behavior has aggravated consumers, along with beef producers who are now unsure about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's intentions, the status of recall protocols, and the future of red-meat production.

These ambiguities are far from trivial. The regulatory authority of the USDA is considerable. Running afoul of the massive bureaucracy exposes a meat packer to criminal prosecution, product seizure, retention, detention, and perhaps most effective of all, publicity.

Far more harsh and unforgiving than the toughest government sanction, the marketplace brutally punishes any business that puts contaminated product before a consumer. That's as it should be, and it works.

It was the market, for example, that handed a virtual corporate death sentence in 1997 to Nebraska-based Hudson Foods. Contamination prompted the company to issue the nation's largest recall of ground beef—25 million pounds. A few months later, the company was closed.

In our earnest quest to make food safer, there are a few things to keep in mind.

First, U.S. beef was, is, and will always be safe to eat. The quality gets better every day. Colorado ranchers lead the nation in the science of livestock production providing quality products that satisfy the high expectations of domestic and foreign consumers.