

November 22nd, an accompanying House Report (Report 107-790) was published. Unfortunately, the full House never considered this bill.

In the 1978 Presidential Records Act, Congress clearly intended to make Presidential records available for Congressional investigations and then for the public after a 12-year period. The Act authorized the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to issue implementing regulations. President Reagan's Order expanded on NARA's implementing regulations. The Reagan Order clarified some areas not specifically addressed in the regulations. Most importantly, the Order identified only three areas where access to Presidential records could be limited—if disclosure might impair national security, law enforcement, or the deliberative processes of the executive branch.

President Bush's Order changed these access limitations. In a nutshell, law enforcement was dropped and two areas were added: "communications of the President or his advisors (the presidential communications privilege); [and] legal advice or legal work (the attorney-client or attorney work product privileges)." This broadening could severely limit Congressional access to key documents in its investigations of a former Administration.

Besides broadening the grounds for executive privilege claims, the Order is inconsistent both with the Presidential Records Act itself and with NARA's codified implementing regulations. NARA's rules were promulgated after the public had notice and an opportunity to comment, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act.

In November 2001, a week after issuance of the Order, I raised concerns in a Subcommittee hearing on the Order. I questioned the Administration witness about the legal and substantive justification for the policy changes. After the hearing and further discussions with White House officials, I had hoped that the Administration would amend or revoke its Order. Unfortunately, it has not done so. As a consequence, I believe that legislation is needed to void the Order. My bill would do just that.

The Order violates not only the spirit but also the letter of the Presidential Records Act. It undercuts the public's rights to be fully informed about how its government operated in the past. My bill would restore the public's right to know and its confidence in our government.

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SALUTE TO MR. PETER MICHAEL STEFFES

**HON. JOEL HEFLEY**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Peter M. Steffes, who recently retired from the House Committee on Armed Services after 41 years of distinguished public service. Pete's entire career was dedicated to national security and the defense of our country.

Pete's career began in 1961 in the Air Force as an Airman Basic, E-1; and after 21 years of rapid advancement through the ranks, he retired as an E-9, a Chief Master Sergeant.

On October 1, 1983, Pete joined the staff of the Armed Services Committee as a professional staff member where his dedication and exhaustive commitment to national security continued.

While initially assigned to the military installations and facilities subcommittee and the environment restoration panel, Pete assisted in the drafting of the Superfund Reauthorization Act of 1985, a consequential piece of environmental legislation of national significance. Pete was assigned to the Military Readiness Subcommittee in 1990; and in 1996, he was chosen to serve as lead professional staff. While on the Military Readiness Subcommittee Pete was responsible for one-third of the Department of Defense Budget. Pete's previous military experience and unique insights helped clarify the true state of military readiness for the Armed Services Committee, the Congress, and the American people. Through Pete's efforts, the committee has been able to compel the Department of Defense to examine and portray its level of readiness more honestly, and contribute the commitment of resources necessary to raise military readiness to a higher level of preparedness.

Also during this time, Pete lead the drafting efforts for the public sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve that brought over \$3.8 billion to the U.S. Treasury. Pete was also responsible for a multi-year effort to reform the operational structure of the Armed Forces Retirement Home to properly care for veteran military service men and women.

In addition to his subcommittee responsibilities, Pete also arranged and accompanied Members of Congress on 128 congressional delegations (CODELS). He has jokingly remarked that four and one-half years of his government service were spent traveling.

Pete's committee service spanned four presidents, eight secretaries of defense, five committee chairmen, and six staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairmen and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Pete, in thanking him for his tireless work for our military men and women, and his dedication to the Armed Services Committee.

Pete is married to the former Barbara Eileen Jones. They have two children, Nicholette and Timothy, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Pete Steffes all the best in his new position as vice president of Government Policy, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). Members and committee staff will surely miss him, and we will always remember and be thankful for his distinguished service to the House of Representatives and our Nation.

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TRIBUTE TO THE 509TH BOMB WING AT WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding men and women of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, who are responsible for the most advanced flying machine in the hands of our armed forces, the B-2 Spirit Bomber.

Nearly 3,500 members of the 509th Bomb Wing, operating from both their home base in Missouri and from a forward-deployed location, have kept B-2s in the air around the clock, day and night, since the beginning of our campaign to liberate the people of Iraq.

The 509th Bomb Wing started Night One of Operation Iraqi Freedom by launching six B-2s and hitting 92 separate regime, command-and-control, and other high-value targets in downtown Baghdad. This unprecedented feat in aerial history was successfully completed by crews flying 38-hour round-trip sorties.

A tremendous effort has gone into training and equipping our great American airmen. They have proven, once again, that the B-2 is the first to fight. In this case, they have been the only bomber thus far that has been put directly in harm's way over Baghdad. The B-2 has demonstrated that it is an invaluable asset to coalition operations.

We recognize and thank the members of the 509th Bomb Wing for their sacrifices, both at home and overseas. I know that the members of the famed 509th are also proud and greatly appreciative of the outstanding support they continue to receive from their friends and neighbors in Missouri. On this day and every day, our thoughts and prayers are with all our military members and their families.

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TRIBUTE TO NED AMSTUTZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pastor Ned Amstutz of the First Baptist Church in Durango, Colorado for his extraordinary dedication to the community. After 8 years of service, Ned is retiring from the church, and today I would like to honor his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

After first working as a lawyer and a school-teacher, Ned found his calling in the ministry and attended seminary in Dallas, Texas. After years of dedicated service, Ned is known as a pastor with boundless energy whose outreach efforts extend to all sectors of the community and support programs such as the Durango Manna Soup Kitchen and a monthly lunch for local business people. Ned's outreach also covers the globe, supporting worldwide missionary programs including one in Belarus, where he once spent time as a guest teacher at a Bible college. Further demonstrating his dedication to Durango, Ned serves as the chaplain for the Durango Police Department, working with both victims and police officers in crisis situations.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Ned Amstutz has clearly had a profound effect not only in Durango but throughout the world. Ned's tireless determination is an inspiration to his congregation and to his community as a whole. His energy will be greatly missed at First Baptist and I wish him the best in his future endeavors. Thank you Ned for your service.