

and the U.S. Navy's Seals to the Saddam Hospital in Al Nasiriyah where the soldier was thought to be held. After the Rangers and Seals secured the area, they emerged from the hospital with 19 year-old PFC Lynch, who had been taken prisoner with other members of her unit, the 507th Maintenance Company on March 23, 2003. LtCol Sturdevant's flight of Marines, Army Rangers, Navy Seals, and one former Prisoner of War returned to a coalition-held airfield where PFC Lynch was finally free of her captors.

I join the Janis Family, Bill, Rose Ann, Robert, and Michael, in honoring and recognizing LtCol Sturdevant and say thank you for all of his efforts in the defense of America's freedom.

THE FCC'S LOCAL COMPETITION
RULING PROMISES CONTINUED
UNCERTAINTY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, rather than bring clarity and direction to the troubled telecom sector, the Federal Communication Commission's recent, local competition ruling promises continued uncertainty and, worse yet, litigation.

At a time when the American economy is in desperate need of a jolt of innovation and investment, some of this country's most technologically strong, capital-rich companies are being kept on the sidelines. We need to reframe these issues in terms of the larger goals of getting more technology in the hands of customers and more capital pumped into the economy where it can create jobs, growth and entrepreneurial activity.

To get our economy growing again, we need policies that encourage investment and job creation, especially in high-technology industries like telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, companies in this sector are poised to spend in excess \$100 billion over the next ten years on orders for fiber, routers and switches to build the network of the future. Orders that will create jobs and incomes all across this nation.

Telecommunications is very important to my own state of North Carolina. More than 30,000 North Carolinians work in telecommunications. Thousands more depend on the industry to maintain their pensions and their retirement savings.

Congress needs to send the message to the FCC majority that we need policies to foster investment, innovation and jobs. Three months have passed and we are still waiting on the FCC to render the right policy decisions.

KEEP OUR PROMISES TO AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND TEACHERS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Keep Our Promises to Amer-

ica's Children and Teachers Act" or "Keep Our PACT" Act. Every parent knows first-hand how important it is to keep the promises we make to our children. I believe the federal government has a similar obligation. However, in too many areas, the rhetoric is not matching the reality.

Mr. Speaker, the No Child Left Behind Act signed just last year requires schools to adopt new accountability measures in exchange for the resources necessary to achieve high national standards. This was a bipartisan commitment. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration's budget and the one adopted by the House of Representatives falls \$9 billion short of the funds promised.

Similarly, 28 years after passing the landmark Individuals with Disabilities Education Act special education law, it astonishes me that the federal government is providing less than half what was promised to children with disabilities under the original legislation. Where we should fund 40 percent of the costs, we are only at 18 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I have introduced today would right these wrongs. It would fully fund No Child Left Behind and IDEA so that every child has the opportunity to meet his or her full potential. Here in Congress, we should never forget the lessons we teach our children: a promise made must be a promise kept.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE
WEEK

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week. Our police officers are a crucial part of our communities, and without their efforts, we would be devoid of law and order. I am proud to honor those willing to sacrifice themselves to truly protect and serve our neighborhoods.

The role of our police officers has been greatly emphasized in the past year and a half since September 11, as they play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all Americans. These men and women have served our community by safeguarding life and property and by protecting us against violence and disorder.

This week, as the Nation commemorates past and present law enforcement officers for their loyal and dedicated service to their communities, we should remember that many police officers have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities or have become disabled in the performance of duty. I join the residents of the 7th District of Virginia in honoring and remembering these brave men and women and say thank you to all of America's police officers.

I stand before you today to honor these brave American heroes.

DEMOCRATS NEED TO LEARN TO
PLAY BY THE RULES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have become saddened and dismayed at the continued obstructionism practiced by Democrats here in Washington and throughout our Nation. In politics, there are winners and losers, majority parties and minority parties. In 2002, Americans spoke loud and clear whose leadership they most trusted and wanted to lead this Nation, as they voted to increase the Republican majority in the U.S. House and give control of the U.S. Senate back to Republicans. The same is true on the state level, where Republicans continue to hold a majority of governorships and state legislatures.

Yet, since being voted out of power, Democrats seem to be experiencing fits of withdrawals, seemingly unable to play by the rules. In the U.S. Senate, we see the President's judicial nominees have waited over 2 years for a confirmation vote, because of an unprecedented Democratic filibuster. Before that, they spent their time holding up vital legislation like welfare reform and bans on human cloning and partial-birth abortion.

And now we learn that in Texas, over 50 Texas State House Democrats stopped working and have actually fled to Oklahoma to avoid a vote they would surely lose. Their reason is that they do not like a Republican proposed redistricting plan. If so, they should stay and fight to make their case in Austin, Texas, the place the voters elected them to serve. Instead, these lawmakers have chosen to cowardly flee a fair fight.

Texas democratically elected a Republican majority to govern the state, and Americans have elected a Republican President and Republican majorities in the U.S. Congress. Democrats are trying to force a minority rule, and it's not right, it's not fair, and it's not the American way.

HONORING NICOLA DICICCO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicola DiCicco posthumously for his many contributions to the communities of California. As co-founder of the DiCicco's Restaurant chain, for the 47 years, he and his family have provided countless citizens with hospitality and the most delectable food.

On January 7, 1933, Nicola was born in the small village of Pacento, Italy, and lived there through World War II until the age of 16. With a brief stay in Caracas, Venezuela, Nicola came to America and settled in Detroit, Michigan. He later visited an uncle from his hometown in Italy who now lived in Fresno. The warm ambiance of the Mediterranean-like climate reminded him and his family of Italy, and they decided to move to Central California. On April 12, 1956, Nicola and his brothers, Albert, Roberto, and Frank, known as the "Four Sons

of Italy," opened the first DiCicco's Restaurant in Fresno. The brothers were famous for their sing-alongs with Italian songs played on the jukebox in their restaurant. Eventually, they would be accompanied by their younger brother, Paul, and would cook into the stomachs and sing into the hearts of the people of Fresno. In 1958, Nicola returned to Italy to marry his wonderful wife, Anna Vitucci. Ten years later, the DiCicco family opened their second restaurant in Fresno and then expanded to nearby Clovis.

DiCicco family members now operate 18 restaurants in Fresno, Clovis, Madera, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Hanford, Visalia and one in Colorado. In addition, the family has spun off several other well-known local restaurants, including Vitucci's, Fratelli's, LaRocca's, Ovidio's, and Giulia's. Mr. DiCicco is survived by his wife of 44 years, Anna; his mother, Maria DiCicco; his sons: Pasquale, Giuliano, Vittorio, and Enrico; four sisters: Lucia Santeuffemia, Josephine LaRocca, Giulia Paolilli, and Rosaria Defendis; three brothers: Paul, Frank, and Roberto; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicola DiCicco for the contribution of his many restaurants, for sharing the great cuisine of Italy with the community, and for the warm atmosphere which he and his family have provided in their restaurants for numerous years. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Nicola, and in wishing his family many years of continued success.

NO ABORTIONS ON OVERSEAS
MILITARY BASES

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) the majority of my colleagues and I rejected a proposal by one of the Committee's members to permit abortions on military bases overseas.

This proposal would have turned our overseas military bases into abortion clinics. This would not only be wrong, but would also be a prime example of wasteful spending for political gain.

The proposed amendment to the Armed Services authorization bill would have changed a Department of Defense (DoD) policy that has been in place since 1996, and before that, from 1988 to 1993, which prohibits using DoD funds for abortions, except when necessary to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.

The amendment follows the same flawed logic as President Clinton's executive order which overturned this policy in 1993 and allowed abortions to take place at military medical facilities. During the years that the executive order was in place, the DoD was not only unsuccessful in identifying obstetricians and gynecologists stationed overseas who would perform abortions, but the number of abortions actually provided during those years was very small.

Some of my colleagues argue for this amendment based on a perceived "necessity" for safe abortions at overseas military bases. However, this "necessity" does not exist. Even

if this amendment were to have been adopted, DoD policy would still prohibit military doctors from performing abortions in those countries where abortion is restricted or not permitted.

Also, in most overseas locations where legal abortions are not available, military beneficiaries have the option of using space-available travel to return to the U.S. or travel to another overseas location for the purpose of obtaining an abortion just as do other service personnel and their family members who desire other elective procedures.

This amendment would also go against the DoD's official position on this policy. The Department opposes changing the policy for a number of reasons. First, it would involve the military in performing abortions for family planning purposes. Also, a change is not needed and is not considered to be necessary to protect the health of women in or affiliated with the armed forces overseas. Lastly, this change would create an assumption that practitioners adequately familiar with and willing to perform abortion services are available in overseas military facilities, which may not be true.

This amendment not only violates the spirit of the Hyde amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortions, but it also would encourage a very dangerous precedent of providing federal funds for elective procedures. The non-elective exemptions for abortions in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the mother is at risk are already in place and no further expansion is needed. Consequently, the use of tax-payer dollars for an elective procedure will only lead to a slippery slope of fiscal irresponsibility and soaring healthcare costs.

The House has defeated this amendment every year since 1996, and we defeated it again last evening in the Armed Services Committee. We have done so for the sound reasons I mentioned above, and I applaud my HASC colleagues for their good judgment and unwillingness to diminish the sanctity of life at the nation's overseas military bases.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VENTURA COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the brave men and women who, during the past 75 years, have dedicated their lives to the service of others as members of the Ventura County Fire Department.

The Ventura County Fire Department has changed dramatically since May 11, 1928, when 277 voters went to the polls and 230 voted to form the department. Ventura County then was mostly rural and populated by ranchers and farmers. Wildfires were the primary concern. In 1928 the county experienced six house fires, but 2,820 acres of wildlands burned. The Fire Department's budget was \$20,000. Its first equipment was a Ford truck equipped with a portable pump and 1,000 feet of hose.

The county has been blessed through the years by attracting visionary Fire Chiefs, from Walter Emerick in 1928 to Bob Roper today. Together they built a fire department worthy of envy.

During its first decade, the Fire Department built 10 new fire stations situated throughout the county. In the years following World War II the department instituted a building program to modernize some stations, adopted the County Civil Service Retirement Plan and appointed the first battalion chiefs.

In the 1950s and 1960s, firefighting methods were updated, and the latest protective equipment, tools and fire engines were obtained. In the 1970s, a central Dispatch Communications Center was established and the Ventura County Public Safety Aviation Unit was formed. A hazmat trailer and suburban command modules for battalion chiefs were added in the 1980s.

The 1990s were a buzz of activity: The Department's computerized Incident Reporting System was developed and implemented, the communication center was designed and centralized, and a state-of-the-art Training Center and new fire stations were built.

But the best equipment is useless without highly trained and qualified fire fighters who put their lives on the line time and again to protect the residents of Ventura County. The Ventura County Fire Department currently employs 549 professional and dedicated men and women, 417 of whom are in uniform. Together, they protect 865 square miles and more than 450,000 people in Ventura County.

But their dedication does not stop at Ventura County's borders. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, a number of Ventura County firefighters volunteered to go to New York City to help with recovery efforts. They have joined their colleagues from other jurisdictions to battle wildfires across the United States again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I know many of Ventura County's firefighters and I can personally attest to their bravery, their professionalism, and their dedication to protecting the lives and property of their neighbors. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Ventura County Fire Department on its 75th anniversary and in thanking its brave men and women for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF DR. AND MRS.
JOHN W. PACE

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Dr. John W. Pace faithfully serves as Pastor of Red Oak United Methodist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia. Pastor Pace, affectionately known as "Big Daddy", is a native of the state Georgia. He is married to the lovely First Lady, Reba Pace. They have eight children, eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Pastor Pace has one brother who is also a minister/pastor.

Dr. Pace and First Lady Pace came to Red Oak U.M.C. in 1989 from Golden United Methodist Church in Douglasville, GA. Upon their arrival, they were truly united in God's mission and as a result of much hard work, many prayers and many sacrifices made under his fine leadership, the "New" Red Oak was built along with the Christian Life Center.

Certainly, Red Oak U.M.C. has served all congregation members and many others