

job was as a teacher in Rockfort, Texas, eighteen miles from Sherman, where she taught the first four grades. It was during those years that she met her future husband, Homer Akers, who was training to be a Presbyterian minister. They married on June 19, 1930, at the First Baptist Church in Sherman, and their first home was the Presbyterian manse in Natalia, Texas.

Homer and Mary Louise Akers spent the next 47 joyous years together until his death in 1977. During their marriage, Rev. Akers served as a minister in seven Texas communities, each about four years each, and in Portales, New Mexico, from 1947 until 1968, a location that will always be considered home. A daughter, Margaret Louise, was born in 1931, but only lived a few days past her third birthday. A second daughter, Kathryn Ann, was born in 1936, and Mary Louise currently lives with her in Santa Fe.

In her 100 years upon this earth, Mary Louise Akers is known and deeply loved and admired by hundreds, if not thousands, of those whose lives she has touched during her extraordinary 100-year journey. She loved serving as the primary greeter in all the churches her husband served and was the voice most heard when hymns were sung. She has always been a famous "jokester," constantly teasing her family and friends with her delightful, bubbly personality and infectious laughter. Having a perfect memory, Mary Louise can readily recall wonderful, enduring and entertaining stories about all those whom she has known.

Mary Louise Akers has abundantly enjoyed her 100 years. She has always been extremely active and enjoys attending community events and traveling with her daughter. A few of her passions are having tea parties with family and friends, attending an Aker family reunion every July, receiving cards and letters and writing many herself, going to the beauty shop every Friday, and eating lots of strawberry jam every morning and drinking a Coke every afternoon, which she considers her "tickets" to a long life. Her very favorite "supper" food is a chocolate sundae with "lots" of syrup!

Mary Louis Akers is a very grand lady, and the world has been, and continues to be, a better place because of her presence in it. Driving a car up until her 80's, Mary Louise's CB "handle" was "Sunshine Mary", I can think of no more accurate way to describe this delightful lady. I invite all my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representative to join me in wishing Mary Louise Akers a very happy and healthy 100th birthday, may she enjoy many more to come!

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
LEROY BARNIDGE, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Air Force, an individual that a great many of us have come to know personally over the past few years—Major General Leroy Barnidge, Jr. General Barnidge, who currently serves as Director of the Air Force

Office of Legislative Liaison, will retire after 32 years of honorable active duty Air Force service. During his time in Washington, and especially with regard to his work here on Capitol Hill, General Barnidge personified the Air Force core values of integrity, selfless service and excellence in the many missions the Air Force performs in support of our national security. Many Members and staff have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him on a variety of Air Force issues and came to deeply appreciate his character and many talents. Today it is my privilege to recognize some of General Barnidge's many accomplishments, and to commend his superb service he provided the Air Force, the Congress and our Nation.

General Barnidge was commissioned through the ROTC program in 1971. His career has spanned a variety of operations and maintenance assignments, including major command and Joint Staff billets. He is experienced in aircrew operations, flight line maintenance and combat support activities. The General has also performed major command staff and executive support functions, as well as duties as a force planner and division chief in the Joint Staff. He has commanded a combat crew training squadron, a logistics group, an operations group, a B-1B bomb wing and the B-2 wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, MO. General Barnidge also completed the Program for Senior Officials in National Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Seminar XXI, Foreign Political and International Relations, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received special recognition in 1999 as the winner of the Air Combat Command Moller Trophy, recognizing him as the best Wing Commander among 28 other commanders. General Barnidge has amassed over 2,900 hours in the T-37, T-38, OV-10, B-52G, B-1B, and B-2 aircraft.

Throughout his distinguished career, General Barnidge exceptional leadership skills were always evident to both superiors and subordinates as he repeatedly proved himself in numerous select command positions.

In his years of working with the Congress, General Barnidge provided a clear and credible voice for the Air Force while representing its many programs on the Hill, consistently providing accurate, concise and timely information. His integrity, professionalism, and expertise enabled him to develop and maintain an exceptional rapport between the Air Force and the Congress. The key to his success, I believe, was his deep understanding of Congressional processes and priorities and his unflinching advocacy of the programs essential to the Air Force and to our nation. I am greatly appreciative of General Barnidge's 32-year service to his nation and offer my sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous retirement. On behalf of the Congress and the country, I thank General Barnidge, his wife Sandy, and his entire family for the commitment and sacrifices that they have made throughout his honorable military career. These family sacrifices demonstrate their commitment to our nation and their contributions do not go unnoticed. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation to General Barnidge for a job well done. He is a credit to both the Air Force and the United States. We wish our friend God-speed in his retirement.

REGULATORY CERTAINTY IN
TELECOM MARKETPLACE IS A
MUST

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to talk about an FCC decision that will have dire consequences for the telecommunications industry.

In February, I submitted an op-ed to Roll Call for their annual Telecommunications and Technology issue prior to the FCC vote on the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers. In the article, I reserved hope that the FCC would render a decision that could provide regulatory certainty to a sector that is in desperate need of stability. If not, I stated that Congress should step in and remedy this issue.

The FCC did not provide regulatory certainty when they voted, and three months later, they have yet to publish their decision. This decision, whatever it looks like in final form, will lead to litigation, assuring this issue will not be resolved for many years . . . unless Congress acts swiftly. Without regulatory certainty, the telecom industry, CLECs and ILECs alike, will continue to experience employee layoffs, cuts in capital expenditures, and little investment and growth.

The FCC had an opportunity to ensure regulatory certainty in the telecom marketplace, but failed. Congress must provide this much needed certainty, and it must do it soon.

USPS STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD ISSUE A STAMP TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT PLIGHT OF MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative NICK LAMPSON, Chairman of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, to announce the introduction of a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service (USPS) Stamp Advisory Committee should issue a stamp to raise awareness about the plight of missing and exploited children. It is only fitting that such an action should occur today, on National Missing Children's day.

My local community was shocked one afternoon in August 1993 when 12-year-old Sara Anne Wood was abducted near her home in Sauquoit, NY. Far too many parents have had to suffer with the agony of not knowing if their child was safe—we need to be more vigilant in protecting our nation's children.

The idea for this stamp should be credited to the Missing Children's Stamp Committee, a grass roots organization of concerned citizens from my district whose goal is to convince the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a commemorative stamp to raise awareness about the plight of all missing and exploited children nationwide.

The Missing Children's Stamp Committee was formed in January 1996 by Chairman John L. Brezinski, a Herkimer County Legislator, and is a subcommittee of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (Mohawk Valley Branch). In its first year of existence, the Committee received over 35,000 letters of support for their efforts from across the globe, but has run into many hurdles along the way. In the past, the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee has refused to approve such a stamp. Forty-five other sponsors of this legislation and I are calling on the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee to act and issue a stamp to address this critical issue.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 800,000 children are reported missing each year—that's almost 200 each day. According to a recent Zogby International poll of 1,401 adults, more than two-in-three Americans say the USPS Stamp Advisory Committee should issue a stamp raising awareness about the plight of missing and exploited children. The people have spoken and we must respond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and the forty five other original cosponsors and show their support for this resolution, the need to raise awareness, and the need to protect our children.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL JOHN R. PRIDDY, USMC

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Colonel John R. Priddy who is about to retire and return to private life after more than 28 years of selfless service to our great Nation as a United States Marine. Colonel Priddy graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma, and after completing Marine Corps Officer Candidate School was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He has served with numerous operational commands including the Third Marine Division; Second Battalion, Tenth Marines; the First Marine Expeditionary Brigade; and First Battalion (Reinforced), 12th Marines. He has served as a commanding officer three times; first aboard the USS *Midway* (CV-41) where he served as Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment; next as the Commanding Officer of First Battalion (Reinforced), 12th Marines; and finally as Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Combined Arms Training Center at Camp Fuji, Japan. Colonel Priddy is also a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

He has also served with support units at Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia; Naval Amphibious School, Little Creek, Virginia; Headquarters, United States Marine Corps; and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

Colonel Priddy has served as the Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow to the Center for Strategic and International Studies,

and as the Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Quadrennial Defense Review 2001 Group. In August 2001 he assumed duties as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, his last active duty position.

Throughout his career as a United States Marine, Colonel Priddy demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, profound sense of duty to his country, his Corps, and especially to his Marines and their families. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Colonel Priddy's accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him and his wife Diana, on the completion of a long and distinguished career.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.
LAWRENCE S. SYKOFF, ED.D.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize an exemplary individual, Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff. Next month will mark Dr. Sykoff's 10th anniversary as head master of the Ranney School in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sykoff has demonstrated an aweinspiring commitment to learning and education, and it is for that reason that I ask my colleagues to rise up with me in honoring him.

Dr. Sykoff's love of education was apparent early on. He first qualified for the New York State teaching certification while studying as an undergraduate. After graduating from the Bernard Baruch School of Business Administration in New York, Dr. Sykoff took a job as an accountant but was drawn away from that field by an overwhelming desire to educate. Feeling the call to teach, Dr. Sykoff enrolled at the University of San Diego and earned a Master of Education degree in little over a year. He was later awarded a doctorate from the same university. By that time Dr. Sykoff was nationally known in academic circles for his studies of Middle School education and curriculum development.

In 1993, The Ranney School was in need of a new Head of School to lead it into the twenty-first century. That is when Dr. Sykoff arrived with a vision for Ranney's future that included growth, excellence, prosperity and technological superiority. Since his arrival ten years ago, Dr. Sykoff has been successful at achieving every one of those goals. Under his guidance, Dr. Sykoff transformed the Ranney School into a state of the art learning center that can accommodate nearly 750 students. With modern computer technology, including a distance learning auditorium, and the most up-to-date laboratories and classroom facilities, the Ranney School is better suited to prepare students for a prosperous future both personally and professionally.

In addition to being the Headmaster at the Ranney School, Dr. Sykoff has been an active member of several educational professional organizations including the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. He recently served as

Treasurer of NJAIS and continues to serve on its Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. Dr. Sykoff is also past President of the New Jersey Patriot Conference for independent school sports. In addition, he is a member of the Board of the Monmouth County, New Jersey Chapter of the American Cancer Society and a past member of the Board of the Monmouth County Family and Children's Service.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no doubt that Dr. Sykoff has been a consistent advocate of educating our country's youth. I congratulate this remarkable individual for his lasting commitment to learning and ask that my colleagues rise up in recognition of the distinguished Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff.

THE FCC AND THE TRIENNIAL
REVIEW

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it's been almost three months since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve the Triennial Review decision and still no written order has been issued by the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the Triennial Review offered the FCC the unique opportunity to boost the Nation's economy and not only save jobs—but create jobs as well. The Commission, however, responded to the challenge by issuing a ruling that is contradictory—largely deregulating broadband on one hand while, on the other, continuing the enormous regulatory burden of requiring large local phone companies to lease their lines at below cost rates to competitors. While I applaud the Commission's deregulatory view on broadband, the lack of common sense in requiring one company to literally subsidize its competitors is beyond comprehension.

In conclusion, the FCC has succeeded in creating uncertainty in the marketplace, and uncertainty on Wall Street typically converts to financial disaster. The order that is now being written at the FCC will consist of several hundred pages of regulatory detail. I urge the Commission and its staff to finish its work on the Triennial Review order as quickly as possible so we can begin the tedious legal process of examining these details. Let us not forget that the jobs of thousands of hard-working men and women, and the renewed health of our Nation's economy, are at stake and deserve more than to be held captive by the red tape of the Federal bureaucracy.

HONORING THE 28TH ANNUAL
CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 28th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of and for the National Capital Area's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered communities, their families, and their friends.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block