

Just as the historic parade marched through the gap for more than 200 years, the procession is not yet finished. Today the town of Cumberland Gap, the natural starting point for a journey into the Cumberland Gap National Park, is a haven for day hikers, adventure hikers, and cycle enthusiasts. Whether you are seeking history, culture or adventure, Cumberland Gap is always a great place to be.

On July 19th, this historic town celebrates 200 years of postal service with a day of interpretive presentations of what life was like in the early 1800s including "living history" exhibits throughout the town. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join them on this important day and I wish the town of Cumberland Gap many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TP I.W. SPUD AND MARY WOOD

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize two very special constituents, I.W. "Spud" and Mary Wood. On August 2 in Merced, CA. Spud and Mary will be celebrating with family and friends their 90th birthdays and their 70th wedding anniversary. These monumental events are being memorialized by their family who are traveling from both near and far.

Spud and Mary came to Merced, CA, in 1936 from Wheeler County, TX. In Merced, they made their home and have lived on their ranch for the past 64 years. They are the parents of three—Annetta Meyer, Myrna Aikins, and Kenneth, who is now deceased. Both Annetta and Myrna have a total of 5 children between them. Spud and Mary are the proud great grandparents of 8 which also includes one set of triplets.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor this wonderful family on this auspicious occasion. Our community benefits greatly from the splendid example they have set for us all. Marriages such as the Wood's form a sound foundation for our country and contribute greatly toward making this a better world in which to live. I wish both Spud and Mary my sincerest congratulations as they share these milestones in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JAMES EWALD

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major James "Chocks" Ewald of the Michigan Air National Guard for his exemplary service to our Nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On April 8, 2003, during one of the 30 sorties he flew over Iraq, Major Ewald's aircraft was struck by a surface-to-air missile. Major Ewald managed to continue flying the damaged aircraft for 12 minutes, eject before it crashed and evade capture until he was rescued.

In the face of extreme danger, Major Ewald's composure and commitment to fulfill his mission never faltered. Major Ewald is a tribute to the success of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Throughout his career in the United States military, Major Ewald has been unselfishly devoted to securing the safety and liberty of the American people.

On behalf of Michigan's Second Congressional District, I welcome Major Ewald home and offer appreciation for his heroic service to our Nation.

FCC DELAY IS UNCONSCIONABLE

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Communications Commission voted on February 20 to loosen some of the rules that inhibit the deployment of broadband services. This is good news for consumers everywhere, as more broadband means better Internet access, more choice, and better service. The February 20 vote starts the FCC down the road to true parity of broadband regulation.

The problem is that it is almost four months later and the order that was voted on has not been released. We had heard that the FCC was waiting to vote on the media ownership issue before completing the February 20 rule-making. The ownership vote took place last week June 2. What is the FCC waiting for?

This delay is simply unconscionable. As a comparison point, according to the National Council of State Legislatures' website <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/legman/about/sess2003.htm>, half of the State legislatures in this country have completed their entire legislative year in less time than the FCC has taken to write an order that it has already voted on. In addition to my own State of Virginia, where I served in the State legislature, the State legislatures of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming all complete their substantive legislative business in about 4 months or less. And yet, in that same amount of time, the FCC can't seem to agree on the words that give life to the order they voted on in February. I missed the part in civics class where it is harder to write the words of a regulatory order that has been agreed to than it is to conduct the entire annual business of a State.

The FCC needs to end this embarrassing delay, and make sure its rules do not inhibit the deployment of broadband services to consumers throughout the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 354, agreeing to the amendment

offered by Mr. REHBERG, the gentleman from Montana, striking the prohibition on mandatory country of origin labeling, to H.R. 2673, I inadvertently voted "yea" when it was my intent to vote "nay."

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL STEPHEN R. PIETROPAOLI, U.S. NAVY, NAVY CHIEF OF INFORMATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of Rear Admiral Stephen R. Pietropaoli, the Navy's Chief of Information, who will retire later this year. Rear Admiral Pietropaoli's career has worn the cloth of the Nation for over 26 years, during which time he has distinguished himself as a sailor, a leader, and a trusted advisor to many senior Navy and DOD senior military and civilian officials.

Throughout his career, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli has excelled in numerous positions of great responsibility. Whether he was "driving ships" as a surface warfare officer; guiding and leading midshipmen as a teacher at the Naval ROTC program at the University of Pennsylvania; responding to media queries as the lead spokesman at the Navy's National News Desk; or providing thoughtful and wise public affairs advice and counsel as the public affairs officer to the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of the Navy, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli has always been widely recognized as the most trusted and respected military officer, national security expert and public affairs professional.

It was during his tour of duty at the Joint Chiefs of Staff where his stellar reputation was further solidified. Rear Admiral Pietropaoli served as the sole communications strategist and public affairs advisor for two Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. While working for Generals Shalikashvili and Shelton, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli developed messages for countless media briefings, congressional appearances and international trips. During this time, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military services used these messages to work successfully with the Congress to provide the largest pay raise in 20 years and to restore retirement benefits for service members that serve 20 years in the military.

In his final assignment as the Navy's Chief of Information, Rear Admiral Pietropaoli led a global team of 500 active duty, reserve and civilian public professionals. His personal leadership and actions gave the American public an extraordinary understanding of the sacrifices and contributions of our Sailors and Marines, and the capabilities of U.S. Naval forces in times of peace and war. His vision, leadership and dedication have raised the Department of the Navy's numerous worldwide public affairs operations to unprecedented levels of success. Without question, no other leader in the U.S. Navy had a greater impact on garnering departmental, congressional, and public support for key Navy issues and programs than Rear Admiral Pietropaoli.