

knowing that he brought much joy to his Glenwood Springs community. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his wife Connie, his mother Nella and stepfather Hal, his son Christopher, and his brother Mark during this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUD CASH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, public officials are held to a higher standard. We are held to a higher standard because we have been selected by our neighbors and our communities to serve their interests.

Claud Cash was an elected official who exceeded the high standards his constituents laid before him. His death took a pillar of the community from us; he was a leader in the state of Arkansas and an example of how to serve those we represent.

Mr. Cash served as past presidents of the Trumann Lions Club and the MidSouth Farm Equipment Dealers Association and on the Boards of Directors for Liberty Bank and St. Bernard's Foundation Board. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, AR, the University Heights Lions Club and Trumann Masonic Lodge #693.

As a public servant, Mr. Cash served two terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives where he became the first freshman representative to be elected to the Joint Budget Committee. He later served one term in the Arkansas Senate. Throughout his public service, Mr. Cash had a reputation for bipartisan leadership, an unwavering dedication to his constituents and a sharp, legislative mind.

His business dealings were honorable and he was trusted by friends and competitors alike. His word was his bond as was the golden rule.

As we recall Mr. Cash's exceptional career, we find his accomplishments as an elected official pale only in comparison to his strong devotion to his family and his community. On behalf of the Congress, I extend sympathies to his family, and gratitude for all he did to make the world a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ("NOPEC") ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC)" Act of 2004, legislation that subjects a group of competing oil producers, like the OPEC nations, to U.S. antitrust law when they act together to restrict supply or set prices. I am joined by Representatives LOFGREN and MCINTYRE.

In recent days, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first Gulf War. Since January, oil prices have climbed more than fifteen percent, driving gas-

oline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia.

The group of eleven nations comprising OPEC are a classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for more than a third of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent about 55 percent of the oil traded internationally. This makes OPEC's influence on the oil market dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

And this is exactly what OPEC has decided to do again. Just today OPEC announced that it will cut its production target by 4 percent—or by 1 million barrels per day—starting in April. This move will undoubtedly drive our oil and gasoline prices through the roof.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective. It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws. It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. Federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALAMOSA HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT STUDENTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a truly talented class of students from Alamosa, Colorado. The students from teacher Buckley Bangert's Advanced Placement American Government class recently competed in an annual competition that teaches high school students about the Constitution. These motivated students have taken an active interest in our country's political process, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing their tremendous achievements before this body of Congress.

Alamosa High School Advanced Placement Government students studied for months to prepare for their roles as constitutional expert witnesses in simulated congressional hearings. Students addressed issues such as the development and expansion of the Bill of Rights, and the historical and philosophical ideas that underlie the Constitution. The students placed first in the district competition, and tied for fourth place at the State competition. The Alamosa students' prowess and extensive knowledge attracted the attention of the State judges, who extolled the team for achieving one of the highest scores for a first time attempt at the State level.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor the students from Alamosa High School for their remarkable achievements in the constitutional competition. The dedication of the students and their teacher, Buckley Bangert, are certainly commendable, and it is with great pleasure I recognize them today before this body of Congress and this nation. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOYLE AND RAYE ROGERS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, today more than ever, we must recognize commitments made by Americans who realize the best way to grow an economy is through continued investment infrastructure. I rise today to pay tribute to a great business and civic leader and a great Arkansan; I am honored to recognize Doyle Rogers in the Congress.

In a day and age when the presiding belief is in order to grow up and succeed you must escape Rural America, Doyle Rogers and his family lived in Batesville, Arkansas for more than 50 years, proving success comes with hard work, not a change of zip code.

His commitment to local business development is unparalleled. Mr. Rogers has started many businesses in Batesville—including the one which bares his name, the Doyle Rogers Company, a commercial real estate development firm. It was with that company in 1982 he developed and opened the Excelsior Hotel, now the Peabody Hotel, and the adjoining Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

The opening of the Peabody—one of the finest hotels in the country—would suffice as anyone's crowning achievement, but Mr. Rogers did so much more. He bought Metropolitan National Bank, headquartered in Little Rock, in 1983. Today, it is Central Arkansas' largest independently-owned bank employing more than 350 people. In 1985, he developed the 25-story Rogers Building, now the Stephens Building, in downtown Little Rock.

He holds honorary doctorates from Lyon College in Batesville and Philander Smith College in Little Rock. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of Hendrix College and has served on the Advisory Board of the School of Business at the University of Arkansas. He has served as the President of the Batesville Chamber of Commerce.

In 2001, he was named Business and Professional Person of the Year by the Rotary Club in Little Rock and was presented the William F. Rector Memorial Award by Fifty For