

the confusion which ensued after such transactions occurred. The GAO specifically determined that, in such instances, the Department of Justice's information-sharing procedures failed to adequately "address the specific types of information from NICS transactions that can or should be provided to Federal counterterrorism officials or the sources from which such information can be obtained."

The TARR Act seeks to correct this problem by making two simple, yet important, changes in current law. First, the bill would require all information regarding such transactions to be shared with all appropriate counterterrorism officials at the State and Federal level. Secondly, it would impose a ten year retention requirement on any records related to those transactions. In sum, the bill proposes two modest changes which—in the long run—will go along way towards keeping our homeland truly secure.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO  
GERTRUDE A. YOUNG

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 10, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Gertrude Anderson Young of Warren County. Mrs. Young was born to the late Mr. Wanzie Anderson and Josephine Anderson.

Mrs. Young is a 1973 honor graduate of North Vicksburg High School, a 1976 honor graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where she received a degree in Nursing, a 1983 Hinds Community College honor graduate, and 1999 honor graduate of Alcorn State University.

Mrs. Young has worked as a Registered Nurse for 20 years. Mrs. Young is noted in Warren County for creating a 24-hour hotline and weekly radio program for teens called "Talk to Me". In addition, she was elected as the first woman to serve as Warren County Election Commissioner of District 3. Presently, she is a published writer and she serves as the City of Vicksburg's first female elected official as North Ward Alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mrs. Young is the 1996 recipient of the State's Child Advocate of the Year award and the Fannie Lou Hamer award. She was inducted into the 2001–2003 Who's Who Among

American Women. Mrs. Young is a member of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as an Associate Minister. She is the former president of the Mississippi Black Caucus of Local Elected Official (MBC–LEO) and she is a member of numerous local, State, and Federal boards and organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

APPRECIATION FOR ALEC  
FRENCH'S SERVICE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE STAFF  
MARCH 10, 2005

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 10, 2005*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, and I would like to commend and thank Alec French for his tremendous contribution as Minority Counsel to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property. During his five years of service to the Subcommittee, Alec was well-liked by the Members and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We are sad to see him leave our staff.

Without our system of copyright, trademark, and patent protection for innovations, consumers would not be able to enjoy movies, music, or new technology. Over the last five years, Alec was an invaluable member of our team and he played a crucial role in helping us to protect creative works and to establish the parameters of intellectual property rights. At the same time, Alec made sure that we listened to the needs of all parties involved, namely copyright owners and copyright users, so that decisions of policy were balanced appropriately.

Because of Alec's service, Congress was able to pass into law several bills on these issues, including the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004, Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004, the Intellectual Property Protection and Courts Amendments Act of 2004, and the Small Webcaster Settlement Act of 2002. He also shepherded numerous bills that passed the House, including the United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act of 2004, the Piracy Deterrence and Education Act of 2004, Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001, Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 2002, Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2001, and Madrid Protocol Implementation Act.

Alec also was instrumental in working with our third branch of the government, the Judiciary. He helped protect the privacy of judges and their staffs, made sure that judges were compensated fairly, and ensured that the courts would have the resources they need to continue serving the American public.

We thank Alec for his exceptional service to Congress and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 10, 2005*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. In a report issued in September of 2003, the Office of Inspector General stated that the visa lottery program contains "significant threats to national security from entry of hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists into the United States as permanent residents." Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from having members apply for the program who do not have criminal backgrounds. These types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong