

time the U.S. Geological Survey was established in 1879, 35 State geological surveys already existed.

Over the past 91 years, the AASG has served the Nation and each and every State by bringing its unique and important state perspective to the deliberations of the federal government on issues related to or involving geology or geoscience. State geological surveys have generated and made publically available much of the geological and geoscience information and services that led to the growth of our Nation, its economic development, general prosperity, environmental quality and the quality of life we enjoy today. Their mission remains equally important to our Nation's future.

Every member of Congress and their staff have, at one time or another, consulted the State geological surveys concerning issues related to geology in their districts. State geological surveys are universally relied upon for their expertise and relevant, credible, and timely maps, information and services concerning energy, mineral, water, land, biological/ecological and environmental resources, as well as information relevant to avoid or mitigate natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and the like.

There is no doubt that the AASG has earned a high reputation within the federal government for its expertise, credibility, candor and trust. It is frequently called upon by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to bring the state perspective on geological issues to the attention and consideration of the federal government and especially Congress.

In my view, the nature, extent, magnitude, and high quality of the contributions of State geological surveys and AASG to our Nation fully merits recognition of their critical role through issuance of a federal charter. AASG is exactly the sort of organization that federal charters were intended to recognize.

Mr. Speaker, it would be completely fitting and proper for Congress to grant a federal charter to AASG and by doing so would return to the spirit of the first federal charter granted to the National Academy of Science in 1863 recognizing the importance of science to our Nation.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW
BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes;

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the McCarthy provisions and against the Dingell provisions. I agree with Mr. Alvin Bell of Garland, Texas when we said:

The congressional measures passed at the stroke of midnight, by a Congress in the

grasp of the National Rifle Association and the religious right, are a sad commentary to how insulated the Capitol can become to the real needs of the American people. The very idea that the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools and the loosening of gun control measures can achieve less school violence is lunacy.

I would not be surprised if this Congress would soon legislate the passing out of crucifixes in schools, under the guise of warding off vampires.

June 18, 1999: Charlton Heston 2-The American people 0.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE J.B.
WHITTEMORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I wish to recognize the remarkable life and spirit of Mr. J.B. Whittemore of Pueblo, Colorado. With this, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Whittemore who embodied and exemplified hard work, dedication, and compassion. For more than half of a century, he dedicated his energy to ensuring the happiness of thousands of Pueblo children, never letting a lack of money keep children from enjoying a ride on the carousel.

J.B. Whittemore was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1914, the same year in which the City Park carousel was manufactured. With nickels earned by milking cows, Mr. Whittemore escaped the world by riding the carousel.

On March 1, 1943, he joined the City Parks Department staff—a job which became a career spanning 33 years. While working for the City Parks Department, Mr. Whittemore also worked nights, Sundays and holidays as the maintenance man and operator of the City Park carousel. Just as Mr. Whittemore cared about the happiness of children, he also cared about his family. He loved and appreciated his family and shared his light with all.

Mr. Whittemore was a man of kindness and generosity. Through his involvement in the community, he touched the lives of many. His smile, his devotion, and his zest for life will long be remembered and admired. Those who have come to know J.B. Whittemore will miss him greatly. I am confident however, that in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of Mr. Whittemore can take comfort in the knowledge that he made a significant impact on the quality of life of the citizens of Pueblo.

THE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION ENFORCEMENT ACT AND THE NEW YORK CONVENTION COMPLIANCE ACT

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the International Arbitration

Enforcement Act and the New York Convention Compliance Act, to protect American businesses from foreign backed companies who fail to act in good faith.

In 1991, Ross Manufacturing, a Florida company, filed a claim with the Stockholm Arbitration Institute against a Chinese state-owned corporation for defaulting on a contractual agreement. Even though the arbitration panel found in favor of Ross Manufacturing, the Chinese company refused to pay the settlement. Furthermore, the Chinese courts initially refused to accept the claim. By the time the claim was eventually accepted by the Chinese courts, the Chinese company had been liquidated and the Chinese offered no remedy to enforce the settlement. This was so even though the liquidated company was a state-run industry and it appears may have been liquidated as a pretense just to give cover to avoiding this debt.

There are companies throughout this country that have ventured into business relationships with China and been burned. That is why I am introducing two pieces of legislation to protect U.S. companies and make sure that foreign companies live up to pre-existing trade agreements.

The International Arbitration Enforcement Act, would create a civil remedy against foreign states that either ignore or prohibit arbitral awards entered in favor of United States persons. If the President certifies that a person has been injured and has exhausted every avenue of relief in pursuing enforcement of a foreign arbitral award then that person gets his or her day in Federal Court to pursue a civil action against the foreign state.

The New York Convention Compliance Act, would direct the President to withhold extension of the WTO Agreement to any country that is not in compliance with its obligations under the New York Convention. This would require foreign countries to meet their outstanding obligations before receiving full consideration for WTO ascension.

While I believe that American companies need to be prudent in their dealings with entities overseas, having a company fully backed by the Chinese government default on a legal and binding contract is unacceptable. I urge my colleagues to support this timely legislation.

ACTIVIST PHYSICIAN NAMED
"OUTSTANDING LEADER" BY
LEADERSHIP MONTGOMERY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Dr. Horace W. (Bud) Bernton for receiving the Bell Atlantic Outstanding Leader Award at Leadership Montgomery's graduation ceremonies. Dr. Bernton graduated from Leadership Montgomery in 1994, and quickly thereafter began to recruit other community-mined individuals and organizations to join him in his life-long effort to make medicine more accessible to persons of limited income.