

country, representing people with lupus, their families, friends and others who are concerned about this destructive disease.

I know something about lupus. I lost a sister to lupus. It is because of my experience with this disease that I have introduced H.R. 762. This bill expands and intensifies the research effort of the NIH to diagnose, treat, and eventually cure lupus. My bill increases the funding for lupus research and education, and it establishes a grant program to expand the availability of lupus service. It also protects the poor and the uninsured from financial devastation, by limiting their annual out-of-pocket expenses for lupus services.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease that afflicts women nine times more than it does men, and has its most significant impact on women during the childbearing years. About 1.4 million Americans have some form of lupus—one out of every 185 Americans. An estimated 1 in 250 African American women between the ages of 15 and 65 develop lupus.

Thousands of women with lupus die each year. Many other victims suffer debilitating pain and fatigue, making it difficult to maintain employment and lead normal lives. Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of lupus for sufferers and family members is the fact that there is no cure. Lupus is devastating not only to the victim, but to family members as well.

Since my arrival in the House in 1993, I have urged the Congress to direct the NIH to mount an all-out campaign against lupus. We can and must do more this year to conquer lupus, while offering treatment and protection against financial devastation to the victims of lupus.

Without struggle, there can be no progress. The members of the Lupus Foundation are leading the struggle to inform Members of Congress about lupus and to help find a cure. In the past, Congressional support has proven to be an important factor in providing the much needed funds to help the National Institutes of Health make important medical breakthroughs in the fight against lupus. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming the members and friends of the Lupus Foundation to Washington. I also urge my colleagues to sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 762. With your help, we will win this fight.

TRIBUTE TO JACK RUDIN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and wish a very happy birthday to a great New Yorker and wonderful American, Jack Rudin. Jack Rudin has served for many years on the boards of many of New York's prominent cultural, education and social service organizations. He is a current member of the executive committee and board of overseers and managers of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; an honorary trustee of the American Museum of Natural History and of the Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue; vice chairman of Jazz

at Lincoln Center and director of the Hebrew Free Loan Society and the George C. Marshall Foundation.

In addition, Mr. Rudin is a trustee emeritus of Iona College, where the Rudins established the Roberta C. Rudin Program in Judeo-Christian Studies. As the original sponsor of the New York City Marathon, he is also the chairman of that event.

As a veteran of World War II, he was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star for his courage and patriotism. He also holds awards from many organizations, including the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of America, Jewish Theological Seminary for America, the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers/ADL, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Conservancy for Historic Battery Park, and the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Mr. Rudin has received honorary degrees from Iona College, City College, City University of New York and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jack Rudin has been a great friend to Long Island. On behalf of Long Island, Happy Birthday, Jack!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1999, I missed fifteen votes because of scheduled back surgery in Houston.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 262: Aye.

Rollcall No. 263: Aye.

Rollcall No. 264: No.

Rollcall No. 265: Aye.

Rollcall No. 266: Aye.

Rollcall No. 267: Aye.

Rollcall No. 268: No.

Rollcall No. 269: No.

Rollcall No. 270: No.

Rollcall No. 271: Aye.

Rollcall No. 272: Aye.

Rollcall No. 273: Aye.

Rollcall No. 274: Aye.

Rollcall No. 275: Aye.

Rollcall No. 276: Aye.

BROADBAND LEGISLATION WILL SPUR COMPETITION, BENEFIT CONSUMERS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we began to write the law that would become the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in 1993. At that time, the vast majority of the American people were scarcely aware of the Internet's existence and potential. In fact, it's amusing to recall that some of the people we today revere as visionaries—including those in, say, Redmond, Washington—initially failed to un-

derstand the importance of the World Wide Web.

Much has changed since then. The Internet is on the front page of every major daily newspaper, and every major daily newspaper is on the Internet. E-mail addresses are exchanged as freely as telephone numbers. And the effect on the nation's commerce has been staggering. But the most amazing thing about this technological revolution is that this is only the beginning.

That is why Representative BILLY TAUZIN (R-LA) and I introduced H.R. 2420, the "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act" on July 1, 1999. We want the exponential growth of the Internet to continue unabated. We want to remove outdated remnants of regulation written when we needed to safeguard and promote a different world of telecommunications. Today, those rules do little more than slow down progress. Out legislation is designed to take the speed limits off the Information Superhighway once and for all.

First, the bill makes sure that Internet service will not become a de facto monopoly for any one provider. As technological convergence allows the cable and telephone wires in every home to deliver virtually the same services to the American people, it makes no sense to treat these wires differently under the law. It grossly distorts the operation of the market by giving one wire an artificial advantage over the other. Our bill protects consumers from a new monopoly in the business of Internet access and guarantees all Americans the freedom to choose the very best service at the lowest possible price.

Second, our bill protects consumers against the increasing concentration of market power in the Internet backbone business. The backbone of the Internet is virtually invisible to the average user, but it's arguably the most important communications link in the chain. It also has the potential of becoming the bottleneck of the 21st century. Virtually every bit and byte that travels over the Internet must cross one or more of these backbone networks to reach its destination. It is imperative that these networks remain competitive, and our bill will make sure that is so.

We are embarking on a technological journey that has already transformed our lives. The public is clamoring for new, high tech services, but they will be slow in coming and more expensive under current rules. Chairman TAUZIN and I have put together a blueprint for change that we believe will bring tremendous benefits to American consumers and the nation's economy. We propose to leave behind any personal biases and battle scars from past telecom wars, and we look forward to an exciting and stimulating debate characterized first and foremost, by open minds, fresh ideas, and a singular focus on what's best for the American people.

HONORING ONI BUTTERFLY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Ms. Oni Butterfly