

October 29, 1999

HONORING VIRGIL COVINGTON,
PRINCIPAL OF WINBURN MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding leader within the Central Kentucky educational community. A man who has dedicated his life to not only improving education—but making sure students strive to do the best they possibly can. He is a principal who has touched and improved the lives of so many throughout his years of dedicated service to our community—and I applaud the recognition of his commitment.

Recently, the Kentucky Education Commissioner recognized this outstanding principal—Mr. Virgil Covington—as a recipient of the National Educators Award from the Milken Foundation. Next summer, Mr. Covington will join other educators in California for a week-long conference—but today he receives praises and congratulations from the school system, community, parents and children that he has strived so hard to serve over the years.

It's obvious that Mr. Covington has worked to produce positive change—while making sure that no one is left behind within the Winburn Middle School and surrounding community. It's only proper that he receives this award on the eve of the 21st century—as he has been a part of the Windburn Middle School since 1990. The new millennium will mark Mr. Covington's 10th year of dedicated service.

Today—I join our community in recognizing an outstanding principal who has made a significant contribution to the field of education. I find it very fitting that Mr. Virgil Covington received this prestigious award.

HISTORIC DAY FOR DEMOCRACY
IN SAN MIGUEL, EL SALVADOR

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in November, Congressman MOAKLEY and I will travel to El Salvador at the invitation of the University of Central America to attend the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the murders of the Jesuit leadership of that school. While this horrific event stunned that small nation and the international community, the unraveling of that case contributed to a negotiated settlement of the 12-year civil war in which over 70,000 Salvadoran civilians lost their lives.

In mid-November, we will visit a new El Salvador. While the problems of poverty and reconstruction continue to challenge the people of El Salvador, there have been many changes: demobilization of former combatants, reform of the courts, greater decentralization of services, and competitive elections where former guerrillas now comprise a political party able to campaign openly at the national and local level.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

While in El Salvador, we will have the opportunity to inaugurate the second constituent service office of the National Assembly. On November 15, 1999, we will visit San Miguel where we will join elected deputies from five different political parties from across the political spectrum, who will share the resources of this office. With the assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the establishment of these offices is part of a Salvadoran effort to modernize their Legislative Assembly. The constituent office will be used by the elected deputies to meet their constituents, provide a computer link for constituents to contact their representatives and to learn what is happening in the National Assembly.

In looking at political transitions throughout the world, we have learned that there are times when stopping the fighting is the easy part. When you look at the development of democratic institutions—such as these constituent service offices—we see historic changes that give people a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives. We see historic changes that bring greater confidence to the people who vote and the people who hold office. Congressman MOAKLEY and I are truly honored to be able to participate in that process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on October 13, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during consideration of the Sanford amendment to H.R. 1993.

However, had I been present during rollcall No. 496, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I missed 4 recorded votes while I was working in my district. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote 536, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 194 to recognize the contributions of 4-H Clubs and their members to voluntary community service, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 535, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2303, The History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 534, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 533, on approving the Journal, I would have voted "yes."

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URGING UNITED STATES TO SEEK
GLOBAL CONSENSUS SUP-
PORTING MORATORIUM ON TAR-
IFFS AND SPECIAL, MULTIPLE,
AND DISCRIMINATORY TAXATION
OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 190, the Global Internet Tax Freedom Act. This important legislation calls on the administration to take a tough stand at the World Trade Organization Ministerial to keep the Internet tax free worldwide.

The Internet has appeared in an era when we realize how taxation discourages, even thwarts commerce. Against the natural inclination of many, a bare-bone majority has succeeded in keeping the Internet tax-free in the 50 United States. It is important that we continue the progress made here to other nations.

I am going to attend the World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle next month as a no-Internet-tax fanatic. Along with dozens of House colleagues, I will be preaching from House Con. Res. 190, which urges world leaders to make permanent a temporary moratorium on Internet taxes. The timing is important. I expect that dozens of members of the community of nations have dozens of pressing needs, and unique circumstances, and compelling motives to put a national checkout counter and tax-collector at the end of a web page.

We all fancy ourselves as free-traders—except when there is some benefit derived from well, making a little innocuous exception. And the world's markets are made up of millions and millions of little exceptions. Fortunately, the Internet is too young and innocent to have been susceptible to those little exceptions.

Years ago, a reporter asked the economist Milton Friedman about the North American Free Trade Agreement and its annexes. "Miserable," replied Friedman, "That's no free trade agreement. It's managed trade. A real free-trade agreement would take one sentence, or if it's verbose, may be a paragraph."

My hope is that all 134 nations will embrace the simplicity and brilliance of that philosophy when it comes to Internet Commerce. E-Commerce is critical to our continued growth and prosperity. We must leave it free to flourish worldwide.

LEGISLATION MAKING THE CHIEF
AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR PO-
SITION AT USTR PERMANENT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today with Representatives KENNY HULSHOF and WES WATKINS to ensure our Nation's agricultural producers have a permanent trade ambassador. American farmers

and ranchers need and deserve a representative within the Office of the United States Trade Representative to focus on agricultural trade issues.

My congressional district in southern Idaho ranks among the country's more important agricultural producing congressional districts. A wide range of products are raised in the district including potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, barley, livestock, and a host of specialized commodities. Idaho producers of all of these commodities have conveyed to me the importance of having their concerns heard, understood, and advocated during the course of bilateral trade negotiations.

Since being elected to represent the second congressional district of Idaho, I have become increasingly concerned by the extent of the agricultural crisis in Idaho and the role Canadian and European trade policies have played in exacerbating the problem. Uncompetitive trade practices threaten the survival of agriculture not only in Idaho, but throughout the United States. During the August district work period, I met with numerous farmers and ranchers throughout my congressional district and was told of the dire financial conditions many producers are facing. Many are at risk of losing their generations-owned family operations. I was regularly told of the need to open up new markets, reduce Europe's export subsidies, reduce tariffs worldwide, and ensure nontariff barriers do not inhibit market access to new products. Ultimately, my agricultural producers expect me to work to ensure unfair trade practices engaged in by our competitors are addressed by the WTO in a transparent and swift fashion, with strong enforcement mechanisms in place to guarantee compliance and fairness in the global marketplace. Farmers and ranchers in Idaho strongly believe making the Agricultural Ambassador position permanent will enhance their ability to secure new markets and compete in the global marketplace.

I firmly believe that in order to secure the long-term stability of our agricultural economy we need to support the development of an open and fair trading system. Without a strong voice for addressing uncompetitive trade practices, our agricultural producers will continue to operate at a competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace. The creation of the Agricultural Ambassador (the Chief Agricultural Negotiator) position by Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky has already had a significant and positive impact on our country's farmers and ranchers.

I have met with the current Agricultural Ambassador, Mr. Peter Scher, on a variety of agricultural issues important to Idaho, and appreciate his work on behalf of our farmers and ranchers. I am concerned that when this Administration departs the gains made by Mr. Scher in advancing the needs of America's farmers will be lost. At a time when agriculture in this country is struggling and is slated to be the number one issue at the upcoming round

of WTO trade talks, it is unfathomable to me that we would not ensure the permanent presence of a strong, clear voice and vigorous advocate for agriculture is present at international negotiations. It is crucial the Agriculture Ambassador position be made permanent and transcend administrations, especially now when we are beginning to engage in intense multilateral negotiations on a host of agricultural issues.

This legislation presents an opportunity for Congress to help our ranchers and ensure the opportunities for expanding and competing in new markets are not compromised in future trade negotiations. Our farmers and ranchers need to know their interests are being represented at trade negotiations and should be secure in the knowledge that their advocate will permanently remain in place. I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance and significance of this legislation and join me in the effort to make the Agricultural Ambassador position permanent.

SUPPORT OF A COMMEMORATIVE
STAMP HONORING DUKE PAOA
KAHANAMOKU

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the story of one of Hawaii's greatest citizens, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.

Duke Kahanamoku, who was born on August 24, 1890, is perhaps the most beloved and respected person in Hawaii's recent history. Hawaii's first Olympic champion, Duke represented the United States at the Olympic Games in 1912, 1920, 1924, and 1932, breaking world swimming records and winning five medals, including two gold medals for the 100-meter freestyle. A world-class surfer as well as swimmer, he introduced the ancient Hawaiian sport of surfing to the world and is widely recognized as the "Father of Modern Surfing." Duke was the first athlete to be elected to the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the International Surfing Hall of Fame. He was elected to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984.

Duke Kahanamoku's enormous personal charm and genial nature won friends for the United States and Hawaii from throughout the world. Duke was a full-blooded Hawaiian raised with the traditions and values of the Hawaiian culture. He truly embodies the spirit of aloha.

Duke retired from competition swimming after the 1934 Olympiad, at age 44. In 1936 he was elected to the office of Sheriff of the City and County of Honolulu—and was re-elected for 13 straight terms. Though he passed away in 1968 at the age of 77, Duke

remains a hero and source of pride not only to Native Hawaiians but to all the people of Hawaii. His accomplishments and sportsmanship are remembered by practitioners and fans of ocean sports worldwide.

A campaign to have a U.S. commemorative stamp issued in honor of Duke Kahanamoku has garnered strong support from the people of Hawaii and from his many fans throughout the nation. I have been informed that the proposal for a stamp honoring Duke is under serious consideration by the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. His many admirers are hopeful that he will be honored with a stamp in 2001.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BRYAN, TEXAS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of Johnson Elementary School in the Bryan Independent School District on being the first school in Brazos Valley to receive recognition as a national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

To receive recognition, a school must be nominated by its Chief State School Officer or Council. To achieve this recognition, Johnson Elementary had to pass a rigorous screening and a two-day site visit. The school was evaluated on outcome measures and conditions of effective schooling. These included student focus and support, school organization and culture, challenging standards and curriculum, active teaching and learning, professional community, leadership and educational vitality, school, family, and community partnerships, and indicators of success.

This is a monumental accomplishment for the school officials, the teachers and students of Johnson Elementary. I am very proud to have a school that is able to stand up to this rigorous test and achieve such great standing in the Eighth District of Texas.

As a representative here in Washington, it is encouraging to see such an educational achievement back home. Johnson Elementary is able to send a message to the American people that with the winning combination of leadership, hard work, caring, vision, and common sense, excellence is the only reward. The school's motto is, "We develop minds that think and hearts that care." I think they stood true to that belief.

Mr. Speaker, I, as well as the Bryan-College Station community, applaud Johnson Elementary for its tireless dedication to the importance of education. They have set an example for us all to follow.