

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