

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send my sincere congratulations to MicroStrategy for its success, and thank the company for doing business out of Northern Virginia. MicroStrategy is a company that serves as a shining example of the American spirit, of the quest always to find a better, more productive, more user-friendly way of approaching challenges. In this new Information Age, MicroStrategy is helping its customers make information the most valuable source of strategic insight—insight that drives intelligent business, generates new, more profitable sales, and strengthens customer loyalty.

Mike Saylor's goal of "Putting a crystal ball on every desktop" is a revolutionary one, and one that has allowed the company he started to rise above the competition. Mr. Speaker, my crystal ball predicts MicroStrategy will continue to lead the way for years to come.

TRIBAL JUDICIAL SYSTEMS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that will improve tribal judicial systems through training, technical assistance, and civil and criminal legal assistance.

Recently, a nationwide survey conducted by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics found that American Indians are victimized by violent crime at two times the rate of the general population. The staggering poverty, unemployment and violent crime statistics of many Indian communities is a contrast to other communities that are experiencing strong economic health, low unemployment, and decreasing crime rates in other parts of America.

Mr. Speaker, equal access to justice is important to all Americans. As a past U.S. Assistant District Attorney and the former Attorney General for the State of New Mexico, I had numerous opportunities to work with tribal court judges, tribal court administrators and tribal court personnel. I became aware of the work of such Indian legal services programs of the Legal Services Corporation as Indian Pueblo Legal Services in New Mexico, and DNA Peoples Legal Services on the Navajo Reservation. These tribal judges and Indian Legal Services program attorneys deal with many of the same kinds of cases that make up state dockets: traffic, domestic violence, child welfare and assault, to name a few. But often these court personnel and legal representatives face staggering caseloads and are only able to draw upon limited resources such as the availability of law books, computers, personnel, or staff training.

The legislation I introduce today would do three important things. It would authorize the Attorney General to award grants from within existing programs at the Department of Justice. The grants would be used for the purpose of improving tribal judicial systems through training, technical assistance and civil and criminal assistance.

Second, the bill would provide that the Attorney General may award grants and provide

technical assistance to Indian tribes for the development, enhancement and continuing operation of tribal justice systems. These grants and technical assistance may be used for such activities as code development; the development of intertribal courts and appellate systems; probation services, sentencing and alternative sentencing and diversion programs; juvenile justice services and multi-disciplinary protocols for child physical and sexual abuse; and traditional tribal justice practices and dispute resolution methods.

And last, the legislation would amend the Indian Tribal Justice Act of 1993 to extend the authorization for appropriations under the Act from fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2007. The Indian Tribal Justice Act of 1993 authorized base funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the more than 250 existing tribal justice systems at a level of \$58.4 million annually. However, no funds have yet been appropriated under the act.

This bill is intended to be a complement to, rather than a substitute for direct federal funding to tribal governments in the area of tribal justice. Because tribal court judge organizations and Indian Legal Services programs do not wish to compete with tribal courts, the bill provides that the grants authorized under the act are outside of the Department of Justice's funds for the tribal courts program.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this is a companion bill to legislation already considered by the other Chamber, S. 1508, which was introduced on August 5, 1999, by Senator BEN NIGHORSE CAMPBELL.

HONORING FRANCES COLBERT TERRELL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a former employee of mine. Frances Colbert Terrell retired from the Federal Government on January 2, 1999, after 30 years of faithful and loyal service to the Legislative and Executive branches of government. Twenty-three of those years were spent right here in these "Hallowed Halls of Congress."

Fran, an alumnus of Hampton University, where she majored in business education, joined me in January 1989 when I became Chairman of the Government Operations Committee. Having begun her career on Capitol Hill in January 1972 as staff assistant to the Government Operations Committee, then chaired by the late Honorable Chet Holifield, Fran had come full circle and brought to my staff a wealth of administrative, management, and policy expertise on how to get things done in a Congressional Committee. Prior to joining me, Fran worked on the Small Business Committee under the chairmanship of former Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-MD) and the Banking and Finance Committee with former Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis) as chairman. She played a large part with my investigative staff in putting together its hearings, legislation and report for my 1994 Procurement Reform Leg-

islation which streamlined the Government's \$200 billion per-year acquisition system and allows "off-the-shelf" commercial purchases whenever possible after my investigation had revealed major abuses in military procurement.

Fran, a native Alexandrian, came to the Hill at a critical and interesting time for African Americans. The country was still reeling from the assassinations of President Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., the March on Washington and the Poor Peoples' Campaign March. Major civil rights legislation had just been passed and an historic influx of Afro Americans had, for the first time, been elected to the House of Representatives. Fran says, "I still remember the awe and pride I felt working for Congress. There were few African American staffers in 1972, and I was sure my tenure wouldn't last any longer than 4 years at the most. You can imagine my own surprise at lasting for 23 years. Why, that's 11 terms!" Fran left the Hill for the Department of Agriculture in 1995 when the Republicans gained control of the House. However, she couldn't avoid politics. She ended her career with a former colleague from Indiana, the Honorable Jill Long Thompson, Under Secretary of Agriculture in the Clinton Administration.

Fran says her plans now are to rest, relax and travel. She and her husband, Calvin, have already traveled to France, England, Greece and Italy. Her next adventure will be a cross country journey through the USA. I wish you the very best in your retirement and in whatever the future holds for you and your family.

HONORING OUR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3293, a bill I introduced today with 104 original cosponsors, which will create a three foot by three foot plaque to be placed at the 13-acre site of Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The plaque will honor these men and women whose lives were cut short by their service in Vietnam.

Honoring the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country should always be a priority. Unfortunately, some Vietnam veteran service and sacrifice is still not being fully recognized because they can not have their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall. The wall is open to some veterans who died after the conflict, but the criteria for eligibility does not include many veterans whose post-war deaths were a direct result of such factors as Agent Orange and post traumatic stress syndrome. H.R. 3293 will address this issue by authorizing the creation of a plaque to honor them.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital for us to have a place to honor all the men and women who have served and died for their country. It is also important for the families of these fallen heroes to have a place in our Nation's Capital where their loved one's sacrifice is honored and recognized for future generations.