Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Magnificat volleyball team for their tremendous accomplishments this year. Their spirit and good sportsmanship throughout the season has inspired us all.

Magnificat, an all-girls, Catholic high school in Rocky River, Ohio, sent their Bluestreaks off to the state volleyball tournament for the first time since 1991. Their theme this year was “to get the monkey off their back” and make it out of regionals. Since 1993, when Jenny Kathe took over the team, the Bluestreaks have made it to regionals each year, but never advanced. In order to keep their goal of making it out of regionals, they incorporated monkeys into everything. There were stuffed monkeys everywhere, as well as monkey logos on shirts and practice shorts.

The girls were able to truly get the monkey off their back by becoming, first, the District Champions, and then the regional Champions for Division I. While at the State Championships, Jenny Kathe was named Coach of the Year for Division I volleyball as they went on to capture the title of State Runner-up. The year was “to get the monkey off their back” and made this year a tremendous success together, as well as their few defeats.

Throughout the year, the girls showed team spirit, togetherness, and good sportsmanship. This year they were an extremely close knit team. There was never a moment when an individual was singled out. They shared their successes together, as well as their few defeats. They showed courage and strength both on and off the court. The team should be a model for all sports teams today.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating this extraordinary group of girls and their coaches, parents and classmates who cheered them on and made this year a tremendous one.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL AND SAVANNAH TOASTMASTERS CLUB 705

HON. JACK KINGSTON
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, since October 1924 over three million men and women have benefitted from the superb communication and leadership programs of the Toastmasters. I am one of those 3 million. Today, I want to recognize Toastmasters International now in their 75th year of existence, and wish to commend the Savannah, Georgia, Toastmasters Club 705 on their own 50th anniversary.

Seventy-five years ago, Dr. Ralph C. Smedley, met a group of men in the basement of a YMCA in Santa Ana, California and formed a club “to afford practice and training in the art of public speaking and in presiding over meetings, and to promote sociability and good fellowship among its members.” Since 1924 that small group of men has grown into a remarkable non-profit organization with over 174,900 members representing 8,642 clubs in more than 60 countries around the world.

Toastmasters International has been referred to as “the world’s premier self-improvement club.” Through seventy-five years, millions of men and women have improved their leadership skills, self-confidence and communicative abilities through the public speaking programs of Toastmasters International. “Home Improvements” star Tim Allen, Miss America 1996 Tara Dawn Holland, and Georgina Senator Sam Nunn are credited with being “celebrity Toastmasters”. But it is our local businesses, Governments, and communities that benefit from the abilities gained by those who choose to become better listeners, thinkers, and speakers through involvement in this organization.

The Savannah, Georgia, Toastmasters Club 705, was chartered in 1949 and recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. The third oldest of 179 chapters in Georgia, Club 705 members pride themselves on the long history of the organization, their outstanding members, and their standards of conduct that have improved many individuals communications and leadership skills. The old stories of the six foot tall street traffic light that was used as a timer, the Claxon that provided a deafening overtime sound, or the infamous “AH Bucket” a tin can into which marbles were thrown whenever a speaker used a “non-word” reflect some of the tools of the trade to build talent in a fun, exciting atmosphere.

Over the past 50 years the many members of Club 705 have developed their talents over time and have mentioned many a rookie in their communications ability. These are extraordinary members like Fred Stephens, Dick Piazza, Jack Homans, Bill Kearny, Maggie Edrinfeld, Linda Cole, the current senior member Neil Bodenstein, and many others. Rookies like myself sincerely appreciate what Toastmasters has done for us and for our communities, improving the listening, thinking, and speaking abilities of millions through their dedication and time. Special thanks to the current officers of Club 705, President Earl Berkesteiner, Vice Presidents Peggy Kelsker Gunn and Teresa Martinez, Secretary Debbie Cameron, Treasurer Michael Dubberly, and Sergeants at Arms Mark Stall and Neil Bodenstein. Congratulations to Toastmasters International and to Savannah Club 705—Happy Anniversary—here’s to you!
this proposal is about how the wireless industry administers state and local taxes. It does not reduce or change the wireless industry’s tax obligations; this same simplicity will also help lower the cost to states and localities of administering taxes on wireless services. And, this all comes together for the wireless consumer—greater simplicity, lower costs, and reduced chances of getting caught in a “double-tax” situation where two tax jurisdictions are seeking to tax the same revenue.

There are some practical problems which can arise in the administration of state and local governments on wireless phone calls. For example, different jurisdictions may employ different methodologies making the determination of the correct taxation very difficult. Depending on the methodology a call could be taxed in the town or city where the customer is located; or, in the city or town where the wireless antenna is located; or, even in the city or town where the wireless switch is located. The bottom line—it’s confusing, it’s costly, it’s a practical problem we can fix with the legislation we are introducing today.

I would like to stress that this situation is born of good faith efforts of state and local governments to apply existing methods. The problem is that all existing methods do not necessarily work for wireless telecommunications and, due to that fact, sometimes different methodologies are applied to the same wireless call resulting in double-taxation and confusion.

I would like my colleagues to know that extensive discussion of various options to solve this problem has gone on over the past few years among state and local government organizations—including the National Governor’s Association, the National League of Cities, the Multistate Tax Commission, the Federation of Tax Administrators and others—and the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association represents the wireless industry. Together, they have developed a new methodology for dealing with a complex problem—and that new methodology is embodied in the legislation I am introducing today.

Under the Telecommunications Sourcing and Privacy Act, all state & local telecommunications taxes would be assigned to one location—the customer’s place of primary use—which must be either the customer’s home or business address. This new method of sourcing wireless revenues offers certainty and consistency in the application of tax law, and does so in a way that does not change the ability of states and localities to tax these revenues.

I want to also make it clear that this bill in no way provides any determination or has any impact on the work of the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce.

The bill also requires the General Accounting Office (GAO) to examine the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) implementation of provisions of current law which requires the telecommunications industry to pay fees to recoup costs of regulatory functions. There has been concern that these fees have not in the past and are not presently being properly assessed. While I do not take a position on this matter at this time, I do think it is important to get a thorough examination of the issue. The GAO study will provide such a review.

Furthermore, the bill includes provisions of a bill introduced and led through the legislative process in the House by my fellow Commerce Committee colleague, Mrs. Wilson, on the issue of improving the privacy protections afforded users of wireless communications devices. This bill, H.R. 514, overwhelmingly passed the House earlier this year. Inclusion of these provisions in this bill is a natural partnering of wireless telecommunications issues and will ease member consideration of these important concepts.

Wireless customers will benefit because their monthly bills will be simpler and the possibility of double taxation of their mobile calls from competing jurisdictions will be greatly reduced. Tax administration will be simplified for both government and industry.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in introducing this legislation. I look forward to working with all of them to ensure the full and speedy consideration of this proposal. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYN
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. WYNN, Mr. Speaker, today we consider H.R. 3261, the Communications Satellite Competition and Privatization Act. I do not think that anyone in the House would disagree with this bill’s purpose to create increased competition in the global communication satellite industry. This goal is commendable. However, I would like to express some concern about one of the provisions in this bill.

First, let me say that, I am pleased that this bill would permit Lockheed Martin and COMSAT to complete their merger. This transaction, which has received approval from the Department of Justice, and has passed the first phase of FCC approval, has been in need of enabling legislation for over a year.

Unfortunately, this bill puts unnecessary conditions on the lifting of COMSAT’s ownership cap and therefore on the Lockheed Martin-COMSAT merger. Earlier this year, the Senate passed satellite reform legislation, which does not contain these restrictions. It is my view that the House should not impose new restrictions during this process of creating open competition.

Conference, I would urge my colleagues to support the removal of the conditions on the Lockheed Martin-COMSAT merger. This merger is important for my constituents in Maryland, not withstanding American consumers who deserve more competition in the satellite services market.