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, but 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 have 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 methods 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, 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. Wynn, 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 WYNN
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 communications 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.
Department of Defense personnel programs. He is well known for his enthusiastic, proactive approach to implementing the most significant personnel compensation changes since the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) was created. BG Adams personally crafted, advocated and led an effort to avert future personnel shortages. His efforts in identifying the negative trends in recruiting and retention and his personal advocacy for the necessary pay and compensation actions led to the most significant Pay and Retirement Reform actions in the last 15 years. His work is at the core of the benefits package that was adopted as part of the FY2000 National Defense Authorization Act.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brigadier General Adams for his outstanding service to his country.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**HONORING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF RANDY OWEN**

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, November 18, 1999**

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is fitting that we pay tribute to a great American, who has made significant contributions to our nation, and its culture. He is an artist; he is a musician; he is a father; he is a husband; he is a great man who has lived his life based on principle, and has been a strong and beautiful voice from a mountain top, not only in Alabama, but all across this nation, and all over the world.

Randy Yeuell Owen was born in Fort Payne, Alabama, on December 13, 1949. He and his two sisters were raised in a close-knit family near Lookout Mountain in DeKalb County, Alabama. As a child, Randy, along with his two young sisters, grew up in the rural South working in the fields and picking cotton. Times were hard and there was no money left for entertainment after the bills were paid, so the family spent much of their time singing and playing gospel music. This family entertainment led to the formation of his first band, "The Singing Owens." By the time that Randy entered the fifth grade, he along with his cousin, Teddy Gentry, decided to pursue a career in country music.

During the early struggling years of the band, Randy took odd jobs laying brick and hanging sheetrock, while also attending college. In 1973, Randy received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Jacksonville State University. That same year, Randy, along with his cousins Teddy Gentry and Jeff Cook, decided to devote themselves entirely to their dream. In the next seven years, Randy, Teddy, and Jeff, along with various drummers, performed as a group in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It was during these years that he met and courted his wife, Kelly—someone who has stood strong by Randy through his entire career.

Randy resides with his wife Kelly, and three children who have supported their Dad all the way—Alison, Heath and Randa, near Fort Payne, Alabama, which I am proud to represent in the Fourth Congressional District. With all the honors that have been bestowed over the years, one of the most significant awards came to Randy in 1999, when he was awarded the Alabama Father of the Year by the Alabama Cattlemen. He says his long term goals are "to help my family and my community, and to achieve a gentle way of living and to be known as friendly to the fans and have a good reputation from fellow musicians."

The profound impact that Randy Owen has had on our State, our Nation, and American culture cannot be measured. On behalf of my colleagues, I express our gratitude to Randy Owen, and wish him many, many more years.

**AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FATHER HESBURGH**

**HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP OF KENTUCKY**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, November 18, 1999**

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Theodore Hesburgh. Father Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame from 1952 to 1987, has selflessly devoted his time, energy, vision and dreams on behalf of furthering higher education in this country. In addition, his undaunting service to the underprivileged communities all across this nation, and the world, has made a significant impact in the lives of so many.

As an educator, you can find impressions of Father Hesburgh's teachings just about anywhere you look. Father Hesburgh encouraged high academic standards and preached a universal commitment to the service and helping of others. He often inspired his students to look at the world through opened eyes and challenged them to go out and make a difference. His dedication to improving the lives of others was global in nature and he knew no boundaries for race or ethnicity. Those who have learned these important life lessons from Father Hesburgh are here in Congress, Presidential Cabinets, Catholic churches, and scattered throughout our local communities.

I am a graduate of Saint Mary's College, the sister institution of Notre Dame, and part of the student body that Father Hesburgh so vastly inspired. For many reasons, I often think back to my college days, and draw upon the values and traditions instilled in me by the mission of these institutions. I truly believe that what I learned under the leadership of Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Father Hesburgh will