

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL LOCAL BROADCAST SIGNAL ACT OF 2000

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Virginia, Congressman RICK BOUCHER, to introduce crucial legislation that will have a significant impact on the lives of millions of Americans, especially those who live in smaller cities and towns, on farms and throughout rural areas. This legislation will ensure that community information such as local weather forecasts, natural disaster alerts, and local government announcements reach those who needed it most.

Our legislation, entitled the Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act, would accomplish these goals by authorizing the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to provide loan guarantees to entities that can obtain the private funding to launch technologies that will provide local TV signals over satellite in the medium sized and smaller TV markets. Through these loan guarantees, the RUS will continue its mission of promoting economic development and improving the lives of rural Americans while fulfilling the original intention of legislation enacted last November—to enable all Americans to receive their local television signals over satellite.

I was proud to be a member of the conference committee on the recently enacted Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999, which included language to allow direct broadcast satellite providers to immediately begin retransmitting local television broadcast signals into the broadcast station's area, subject to a retransmission consent agreement negotiated with each station carried. This new law allows satellite providers to become more effective competitors to cable operators, who have been able to provide local over-the-air broadcast stations to their subscribers for years. It will also benefit American consumers in markets where local TV via satellite is made available by offering them full service digital television at an affordable price.

More importantly, these consumers will benefit from local news, weather reports, information such as natural disasters or community emergencies, local sports, politics, and election information, as well as other information that is vital to maintaining the integrity of communities across the country.

Local TV via satellite is already available to satellite subscribers in America's twenty largest television markets. In these markets DirecTV and EchoStar, the existing satellite "platform providers," have begun retransmission of affiliates of the ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX broadcast networks. DirecTV and

EchoStar have also announced their intention to begin retransmission of local TV stations in an additional twenty or thirty television markets over the next 24 months. Ultimately, the two existing satellite, "platform providers" will provide local TV via satellite to households in most, if not all, of the 50 largest television markets in the United States.

However, there are 211 markets in the United States and in excess of 100 million U.S. TV households. There, if matters are left solely to the initiative of the existing satellite "platform providers," more than 50 percent of existing satellite subscribers (over 6 million households) will continue to be deprived of their local TV stations; more than 60 percent of existing commercial television stations (over 1,000) will NOT be available via satellite; and more than 30 million US TV households will remain beyond the reach of local TV via satellite.

Put another way, local TV via satellite will not be available in 27 states and in parts of nearly every state.

So while the law enacted last fall has eliminated the legal barriers to delivery of local TV via satellite, it alone will not assure delivery of local TV via satellite to the majority of local TV stations and satellite subscribers. For that reason, and because many folks in parts of my district and in the districts of most members on this Committee cannot receive their local signals any other way, I am joining with RICK BOUCHER, JOANN EMERSON, and over 100 Members of the House in supporting this legislation to assure that all Americans, not just those in profitable urban markets, can receive their local TV signals over satellite.

STRAIGHT SHOOTER: SHERIFF
CHARLIE PLUMMER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, for the past 13 years, California's Alameda County has been blessed to have a tough, hard-working, straight-talking sheriff named Charles Plummer.

The January 2, 2000 issue of *The Argus* carried an excellent profile of this outstanding public servant, that I would like to submit, in part, in the RECORD. It is a model for those interested in law enforcement and public service throughout the nation.

I would like to especially commend Sheriff Plummer for his stance on gun control and the need for reasonable regulation. I am proud to note that this has been an issue that has moved him from the Republican party to the Democratic party.

CONTROVERSIAL ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF
CHARLIE PLUMMER OFTEN TALKS TOUGH,
BUT HE ALSO WALKS THE WALK

(By Josh Richman)

A framed photo on Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer's office wall depicts him shouting at someone behind a police crowd-control line. The caption: "'Cause I'm the sheriff, that's why. If you don't like it, get outta here!'"

That's Charles Clifford Plummer to a T. He'll hear your concerns, take suggestions and perhaps even follow them, but never forget he's the boss.

The affable-but-tough-talking lawman has carried a badge for 37 years and, at age 69, shows little sign of slowing down. His department's main duties include policing the county's unincorporated areas, running the county's jails and coroner's bureau, and protecting county courts.

Plummer also is a sharp-dressed, number-crunching CEO who runs his 1,650-person-strong, \$145.7 million agency like a business. He has a taste for pricey cigars, and he donned a tuxedo rather than a uniform for his swearing-in ceremony. He rules from a 12th-floor corner office choked with international police memorabilia and boasting panoramic vistas of Lake Merritt and the hills.

Some of his deputies accuse him of tyrannical bullying, but most officials and fellow lawmen praise his bluntness.

"He is old-school in the sense that when he gives his word, he keeps it," California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said, adding that Plummer's post as president of the California Sheriff's Association "is an indication of the high regard that other elected sheriffs have for his leadership and abilities."

VALUES AND WORK ETHIC

Plummer was born Aug. 17, 1930, in Fort Bragg. His parents separated when he was six and he grew up in his maternal grandmother's home, where he said he learned "values and a work ethic that have been with me forever."

He was on high school football, track and basketball teams, performed in the band and drama club, and was senior class president. He took a job as a water well-digger at age 10; while in school, and at Santa Rosa Junior College, he worked as a gardener, shingle mill worker, lumber, camp rigger, apple picker, construction worker, vacuum cleaner salesman and hospital attendant.

He planned to become a mortician, but a California Highway Patrol officer picked him up hitchhiking and talked him into using his gregarious nature and large size to advantage as an officer.

The Berkeley Police Department was "the best in the United States, and that's why I wanted to go there," Plummer said, adding that it seemed like "the West Point of all police work." He joined in 1952 and served there for 24 years, acting as field commander during some of the fiercest student demonstrations and riots of the 1960s and early 1970s. He reached the rank of captain in 1969 and was appointed acting chief in 1973.

He became chief of the Hayward Police Department in 1976. Ten years later he ran for

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

sheriff, and his opponent's withdrawal from the race led to his uncontested election. He took the department's reins in January 1987, the first outsider to hold the job in more than 40 years.

CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT

Plummer promised to dismantle the department's "old boy network" by replacing favoritism with the work ethic, and by threatening dire consequences for deputies who lied, used racist or sexual slurs, accepted gratuities or took drugs.

He also set about having the department accredited by as many agencies as possible, believing it would bring increased efficiency, better eligibility for state and federal grants and more protection from civil lawsuits.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies accredited his department. The American Correctional Association and the National Committee on Correctional Health Care accredited his jails. The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors accredited his crime lab, and the U.S. Department of Justice accredited his bomb squad. The certificates hang in his office lobby, tokens of his proudest achievements.

Earning accreditation is like ridding a home of termites, he said—it's expensive up front, but you do it to save money later. Even so, he often has had to go toe-to-toe with other county agencies to vie for dollars.

Plummer has fought budget battles with the same intensity he brought to controlling riots on Berkeley's streets. He once threatened to close North County Jail rather than cut investigators, crime prevention and animal control. In 1996, asked to trim \$6.9 million from his budget, he instead asked for \$3 million more. "I can't afford to cut one person, so why go through the charade?" he asked at the time.

He doesn't always win. The 1992-93 budget required 300 layoffs, and Plummer had to pink-slip a whole academy class—his lowest moment, he said.

"That hurt me worse than the riots hurt me in Berkeley," he said. "It just tore my heart out. We have warned them it could happen, but that doesn't make it any easier when you're having a graduation and you can't give them badges."

After proclaiming it a "chainsaw massacre," he mustered a crowd, hefted a chainsaw and marched around the courthouse to protest state funding cuts. A penciled caricature of Plummer revving a chainsaw near a courthouse hangs on his office wall.

The budget crunches spurred Plummer to view his department as a business. Assuming that a fully-staffed jail is an economically efficient jail, he sought more contracts to house other agencies' inmates in Alameda County. Plummer's jails have held San Francisco county inmates, state parole violators, federal prisoners from U.S. Marshals in California and Hawaii, and illegal immigrants from the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

He acknowledges that those and other contracts, such as providing security for county hospitals and other facilities or events, create a lot of overtime. But his budget always covers it, he noted: "I've never brought in a budget in the red in my life."

He has positions for 920 sworn deputies, 37 of which are now vacant. He hired San Leandro Police Chief Robert Maginnis as an assistant sheriff last August specifically to recruit. Some said Maginnis was being groomed as a likely successor, but Plummer said Undersheriff Curtis Watson already has earned that mantle by paying his dues within the department.

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"Also, I would never support anyone who would not agree to give at least two terms," he said, because he believes a sheriff needs at least eight years to be an effective leader.

REPUBLICAN NO MORE

Plummer ended his lifelong GOP membership in June, reregistering with a "no party" designation. Why?

"Guns," he said.

As sheriff, he enacted new requirements for concealed firearm permits—a demonstrated need, a psychiatric exam, \$1 million of liability insurance and qualification at the sheriff's shooting range. State Sen. Don Perata, D-Alameda, who earned a permit, wants to include such mandates in a plan for statewide licensing and registration for gun owners. Plummer approves, explaining, "we're not really anti-gun, we're pro-gun-responsibility."

But when he heard U.S. Rep. Bob Barr, R-Georgia, speak on the radio against gun control earlier this year, he had an epiphany.

"I thought, 'I don't want my name associated with that crap,'" Plummer said.

He would rather associate with his wife of 51 years, Norma, their three children—two of whom followed him into law enforcement—and eight grandchildren. He also associates with the Boy Scouts, the Rotary and other groups, which he called "great therapy for me"—talking to people outside his work helps him avoid "burnout" after so many years of policing, he said.

His current term will expire in three years, when he's 72; whether he runs again "will depend on how I feel." He admits he'll be "a little long in the tooth," but a recent physical found him fit, and close aides have agreed to tell him if they think he's slowing down.

"If I think I'm taking anything away from this organization, I'm outta here," he said.

HONORING THE DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL SWIM TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Delran High School swim team for winning its third straight South Jersey Championship and second straight state championship. The Delran swim team dynasty is an excellent example of high school athletes performing at their peak level.

Seldom does a team win a championship, even more rare are back to back championships. It takes extraordinary teamwork, dedication, and perseverance to become a championship team. I applaud the Delran High School swim team's efforts.

I would also like to recognize the following Delran swim team members: Mike Haigh, Steve Kroclic, Rachel Craft, Danielle Hoey, Jenny Kroclic, Karl Scheimreif, Gerall Tieman, Michelle Aleszczyk, Karlee Scheimreif, Jen Tregl, Lauren Schmidt, Danielle Kennedy, Brandon Peer, Craig Tieman, Anne Kennedy Caitlyn Hoey, Ryan Hannon, Pat Reynolds and Joey Iannuzzi.

Perhaps the most important role of any team is that of the one played by the coach. Delran's coach, Michael Kennedy, molded and trained this formidable championship swim

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squad. Coach Kennedy's efforts cannot be overlooked and should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this special group of individuals. Their efforts have brought pride to their community, families and high school.

RE-REFERRAL OF S. 1809

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today S. 1809 was re-referred to the Committee on Commerce and in addition the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Titles I and III have been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce and Title II, Family Support, has been traditionally in the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Title II, Family Support, would authorize a program that was originally created in Section 315 of P.L. 103-382, Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which created a new Part I in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In 1997, Part I, Family Support of IDEA was repealed by Section 203(a), Repealers, of P.L. 105-17, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, See H.R. 5, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgment, or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 17 men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Firefighter Barry J. Rathbone and Lieutenant Paul A. Masiello; Certificate of Valor: Lieutenant Robert E. Wheeler and Firefighter Joseph M. Laun. Bronze Medal of Valor: Technician William M. Best, Captain I Vincent R. McGregor,