

Mock Convention to attempt to correctly predict the presidential nominee of the political party currently out of the White House. Over the years, W&L students have had a remarkable success rate in their predictions—in fact, since 1948, the Mock Convention has only erred once in correctly predicting the presidential nominee, when it selected Edward Kennedy over George McGovern in 1972.

Washington and Lee has received national acclaim for its Mock Convention from numerous sources over the years. The Washington Post has declared the Washington and Lee Mock Convention “one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious mock conventions,” and Time Magazine has called it the “biggest and boomingest” of all amateur gatherings.

Last Saturday, Washington and Lee held its 2000 Mock Convention, which was a great success. I was privileged to join a very distinguished group of Federal, State, and local leaders in addressing the Convention, and the W&L students were as engaged and energized as ever.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Washington and Lee University on another excellent Mock Convention, and I am confident that the students of W&L have yet again correctly chosen the next Republican presidential nominee. Congratulations to W&L on a very successful 2000 Mock Convention.

HONORING DR. GERALD E. HOWE  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a true asset to the medical profession who has recently retired after three decades of change. Dr. Gerald E. Howe officially retired from active medical practice on December 31, 1999.

Born in Deadwood, SD, Gerald undertook his undergraduate studies at the University of Colorado and the University of South Dakota, then medical school at Temple University in Philadelphia. Gerald and his family decided that they wanted to move from the crowded east coast and Vermont. Milder winters and nearby mountains lead them to Montelores, CO in 1969.

Gerald has served in many medical staff leadership positions throughout his career. He has been chief of medical staff several times and served on the hospital board. He was on the hospital board which supported the development of Montezuma County Hospital District and was instrumental in the building of the Vista Grande Nursing Home facility at its present location.

Gerald has always considered patient care to be the most important issue in the medical profession. With changes in policy and technology, Gerald still regards the patient as the “hallmark of medical care.”

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer tribute in honor of Dr. Gerald Howe’s retirement and thank him for his years of hard work, dedication and service.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER  
INTEROPERABILITY AND PORTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 31, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in support of the Electronic Benefit Transfer Interoperability and Portability Act of 1999. This legislation will enable food stamp shoppers to redeem their nutrition benefits electronically in authorized stores located beyond the borders of their States. The need for this legislation is significant.

According to a recent study conducted by Benton International on behalf of the National Automated ClearingHouse Association (NACHA), there were 1,685,857 interstate food stamp transactions during a 6-month period. If we assume that interstate food stamp transactions existed nationwide for the entire year of 1999, the projected annual nationwide volume of food stamp interstate transaction would be 5.7 million. Although the vast majority of food stamp recipients spend their benefits at retailers close to home, the Benton study proves that a significant number of shoppers need the flexibility to shop at stores across State lines, which is a program benefit enjoyed without restrictions under the previous coupon redemption system.

When the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) replaced food stamp coupons with “Electronic Benefit Transfer” cards, program participants and retailers experienced enormous difficulty since there was lack of uniformity among State EBT equipment. Furthermore, FNS incurs additional costs to implement its regulation requiring States to equip authorized food retailers, upon request, with EBT-only terminal. For example, using a leasing fee of \$21.50 per month per terminal, the annual cost of the government for EBT-only terminal deployment nationwide may range from \$25,000 to 75,000. Even with the EBT-only terminal, the different designs and procedures in State equipment continued to prevent shopping in other States.

S. 1733 is a practical legislative solution to these problems. First it gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to develop a national uniform standard of interoperability based on the “QUEST” rules which were developed by retailers, State Food Stamp Program Administrators, and the Food and Nutrition Service under the guidance of the NACHA EBT Council. Although the QUEST rules are being used by a majority of the States, this legislation gives the Secretary authority to make the changes needed to fit the goal of the Food Stamp Program.

Also, S. 1733 limits the annual costs of switching and settling fees at \$500,000.00. This is a positive change from the original draft of this legislation because the Federal Government should not finance new technology utilized by retailers.

From the outset, the administration has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Food Stamp Program’s conversion to elec-

tronic benefit delivery, and I offer my continued commitment and support in making sure that this critical nutrition assistance is provided efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

*February 2, 2000*

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2000*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2000, I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed two votes. Had I been here I would have voted: “yes” on the passage of H. Con. Res. 244, rollcall vote No. 2; “yes” on the passage of H.R. 2130, rollcall vote No. 3.

DAVE M. DAVIS, RECIPIENT OF  
THE 2000 GOVERNOR’S AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the winner of the 2000 Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts, Dave Davis.

Dave was nominated by the Grand Junction Commission of Arts and Culture for his activism as founder of Art on the Corner, a former executive director of the Art Center, a past appointee of former Colorado Governor, Roy Romer, to the Colorado Council on the Arts, and one of the leading artists in the Grand Valley since the late 1970’s.

Dave was Executive Director of the Western Colorado Center for the Arts for 9 years. During his tenure he created a multitude of innovative programs, quality exhibits, outreach efforts to underserved areas, and expansion of facilities, collections, and classes. Dave’s belief that the Grand Valley could become a renowned arts community is the foundation of everything he does.

Dave opened an exhibit, Art on the Corner, in downtown Grand Junction in 1984. This unique outdoor sculpture exhibit began as a display of 33 sculptures by Dave and other area artists along Main Street. Every year the exhibit is rotated and has grown to include over 100 works of art.

Dave is a native of Boulder, CO who moved with his family to Grand Junction in 1972. He attended Mesa State College. Dave’s full-time pursuit of the arts began in 1977. He creates abstract and realistic sculpture. He is adamant in his desire to promote the arts both as a major economic force and as an industry. He is adamant in his desire to promote the arts both as a major economic force and as an industry.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to Dave Davis with congratulations on being named the recipient of the 2000 Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts.