

issues, Carl Elliott chose to be on the right side of history and do what was just rather than what was politically expedient. Long after the debate was over and their own political futures were secure, many public officials in the South expressed regret for their positions in opposition to civil rights and race issues in the '60's. But it was people like Carl Elliott who bravely faced the political winds and surrendered their offices, yet not their principles.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in honoring a good man and public servant who did much for his state and country, Carl Elliott.

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2000**

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to help mark the 10th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Members in this body can be justifiable proud of efforts taken to enact that law which has been a force for good and has given many persons otherwise excluded from participation in our society the opportunity to contribute their talents and enjoy the full benefits of our Nation.

I recall the ringing support for enactment of the act before my Judiciary Committee from the then-Attorney General, Richard Thornburgh, who had been the Governor of my State of Pennsylvania. Attorney General Thornburgh's view of the disabled and their struggles was influenced by a family encounter himself with disability—as was also President Bush. Their sensitivity to the condition of others provided the environment that enabled the ADA to be enacted.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan received a report entitled "Toward Independence" from the National Council on Disability. That report recommended the enactment of comprehensive legislation to ban discrimination against persons with disabilities. Subsequently, the Bush administration, together with the Congress and the disabled community, crafted this excellent legislation which has meant so much not only for those disabled by nature but also those additionally victimized by society's ignorance and neglect. Because of this law, great talent has been unleashed by simple changes in the physical environment in homes and in the workplace. But even more so, our physically enabled citizens have gained immeasurably themselves from contact with their disabled brothers and sisters. They have seen on a daily basis the struggle, the effort, and the dedication of those who have overcome so much to enter an environment from which they were formerly excluded. These people did not want a handout, they wanted to put their hands out, to work and live in their own communities and all of us are better for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, only 10 years have passed since the enactment of the ADA but it has already enabled countless citizens to begin this

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journey toward our goal of complete integration of society based upon talent, merit, and effort. We have seen with our own eyes the progress that has been made as we stand at the act's 10-year anniversary and I am anxiously anticipating the dreams that will be realized in the future for all Americans.

**NATIONAL RECORDING
PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000**

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the physical condition of many of the nations' culturally, historically, and aesthetically important sound recordings are at-risk because of poor storage conditions and inadequate preservation. With the passage of H.R. 4846, the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000, the Congress will create a public-private partnership to ensure that important sound recordings are preserved and restored.

With the National Digital Library, the national audiovisual conservation center at Culpeper, VA, the Library of Congress's film registry program and now the sound recording registry program, the Congress has created groundbreaking public/private partnerships that minimize taxpayer investment while ensuring the preservation of America's cultural history.

I would like to thank the ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration, Mr. HOYER, the Committee on the Judiciary and its chairman, Mr. HYDE, the Library of Congress, interested Members of Congress, and the sound recording industry for working to make this legislation possible.

**BULLETPROOF VEST
PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2000**

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to come before you today in support of H.R. 4033, the Bulletproof Vest Reauthorization Act of 2000. This noncontroversial, bipartisan legislation was introduced by the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. VISCLOSKY and myself on March 20, and passed out of the full Judiciary Committee by voice vote on July 20.

To me, this is a very simple issue and one that I know well. I firmly believe that when a police officer is issued a badge and a gun, they should also be issued a bulletproof vest. When police officers put their lives on the line everyday protecting our neighborhoods—they deserve the highest level of protection and security, which only a bulletproof vest can provide.

When I first introduced the original Bulletproof Vest bill during the 105th Congress, I modeled the program after the Vest-a-Cop and Shield-The-Blue programs established in

Southern New Jersey many years ago. When I was first elected to Congress, then-Sergeant Rich Gray, an Atlantic County police officer in Pleasantville came to me telling me of a program that they had put together in Atlantic County, NJ.

Sergeant Gray, who is now Chief Rich Gray of the Pleasantville Police Department, and a very dedicated group of police officers decided that it was time to do something about those who were defending our citizens every day without protection. They started a program called Vest-A-Cop. The Vest-A-Cop program began to grow in Atlantic County and it was the genesis for the idea that I had and subsequently found out that my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), had from his district in Indiana.

At that time, the Vest-A-Cop program was actually raising money in a variety of different ways. They were reaching out to the community asking people to understand the needs of police officers and asking those in the community to contribute. We had Scouts who were basically baking cookies and cupcakes and selling them. We had events of all different kinds that were providing vests one and two and three at a time.

This program is one that we modeled after at, and we realized that doing it piecemeal was not going to really cut it and protect our officers for what they needed.

The current Bulletproof Vest Partnership program has enabled police jurisdictions across the nation to purchase over 180,000 bulletproof vests in the last 2 years—180,000 vests that probably would not have been purchased otherwise. However, due to the tremendous popularity of the program, and the program became much more popular than we ever anticipated, we were not able to meet all of the demands. None of the jurisdictions received the full 50–50 federal/state match this year, and, in fact, the Department of Justice reported that jurisdictions with under 100,000 residents received a disproportionately low share of federal funds—an average of only .22 cents on the dollar came from the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what we in this House originally intended, and this legislation helps correct that.

This bill before us today will extend and improve the current Bulletproof Vest program. First, the annual authorization will be doubled from \$25 million to \$50 million per year through the year 2004, extending the program for 3 more years. Extending this program is critical in enabling officers across the nation with the opportunity to take advantage of this program which has been proven to save lives.

Second, language was included in the bill which guarantees smaller jurisdictions a fair portion of funding.

Finally, those jurisdictions and corrections officers who have been waiting for the national stab-proof standard to be approved by the Department of Justice will be able to purchase state-approved bulletproof and stab-proof vests. This is a very big improvement from where we were on the last go-around.

The stab-proof issue is of particular interest to me because it hits very close to home. Corrections Officer Fred Baker of my district in New Jersey was stabbed to death while on