

TEXAS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a special day in Texas because tomorrow, March 2, is the first Texas Independence Day of the new millennium. In 1836, 164 years ago today, the Republic of Texas was born.

Let me set the stage for what happened 163 years ago. On March 1, 1836, 54 delegates representing settlements across Texas gathered for the Convention of 1836 at the small farm village of Washington-on-the-Brazos.

From the beginning, it was an event marked by haste and urgency. Mexican forces under Santa Anna were closing in on the defenders of the Alamo. On March 2, the day after the opening of the convention, the delegates declared the independence of Texas from Mexico. Within days of that announcement, the Alamo would fall, the first in a chain of defeats for the small Texas Army, which would nevertheless emerge victorious at the battle of San Jacinto, 6 weeks later, on April 21.

Mr. Speaker, what were these brave Texans fighting for? Up to the point when they gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos, it was simply to restore the Mexican Constitution of 1824, which had been suspended by Santa Anna.

On the night of March 1, however, a group of five men stayed up late into the night, drafting the document that would be approved the next day by the full convention. This document, which echoed the lines of its American counterpart, was the Texas Declaration of Independence.

It started off in much the same way, with the words, "When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people." It spoke of the numerous injustices inflicted upon the settlers of the state of Coahuila y Tejas: the elimination of the state's legislative body, the denial of religious freedom, the elimination of the civil justice system, and the confiscation of firearms being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

Finally, it ended with the declaration that, because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision to "the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

Over the next two weeks, a constitution was drafted and an interim government was formed, despite daily reports from the front detailing the collapse of the Alamo and subsequent advance of the Mexican Army through Texas. On March 17, 1836, the government was forced to flee Washington-on-the-Brazos on the news of the advance of Santa Anna.

Just over a month later, however, independence would be secured in the form of a victory over that same army by Sam Houston, a delegate at the very convention, and his courageous fighters at the battle of San Jacinto.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind folks from Tennessee that Sam Houston served in this Congress from the State of Tennessee. I have at times told my friends from Tennessee "The best of Tennessee immigrated to Texas in the 1830's."

From that point on, Texas was firmly established in the community of nations; and for 10 years she stood as an independent nation, until President James K. Polk signed the treaty admitting Texas to the United States in 1845.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Congress and the whole country will join us in a day that in Texas we celebrate, our schoolchildren celebrate, Texas Independence Day.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. H. ROBERT AND LYLA DAVIS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the lifelong achievements of two of my constituents Dr. H. Robert Davis and Lyla Townsend Davis.

Dr. and Mrs. Davis have lived and worked in Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District for most of their lives. Over those decades they have been dedicated to ensuring a better future for our young people in Cumberland County. From his years as a family physician to his service as School Board President, Dr. Davis promoted the health and well being of families throughout the community. Of course, his wonderful wife, Lyla, was always at his side, providing love and support and just as much hard work. The Davis's have truly been an inspiration to all who know them.

On March 4, the Bubbler Foundation will honor Dr. and Mrs. Davis for their years of community service. I am pleased to be among the many members of their family, church, friends, and community to recognize and congratulate them for their extraordinary efforts.

PROVIDING TARIFF RELIEF FOR MACHINERY AND COMPONENTS USED TO MANUFACTURE DIGITAL VERSATILE DISCS (DVDs)

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today legislation that would provide tariff relief on machinery and components for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs).

DVD, using cutting-edge optical disc technology, provides consumers the highest quality audio and video reproduction. Used both in DVD players as part of a home theater system and in DVD-ROM-equipped computers, these discs have grown enormously in popularity since their introduction in 1997. I have used this technology myself and certainly under-

stand its rapid growth. In the short time since the introduction of DVD hardware, demand for discs that play on these machines has grown from 8 million annually to an expected 394 million in 2000. In fact, it is expected that DVD technology will replace both videocassette tapes and video laser discs as the preferred medium for presentation of movies in the home.

There are at least 17 domestic producers of DVDs, including such electronics and entertainment companies as Time Warner, Panasonic, Sony, and JVC. Panasonic is also a major employer in the state of Georgia, with over 1000 employees in my district alone. In 1997, Panasonic opened the first disc replication facility in the United States to dedicated exclusively to the production of DVDs. Nine hundred Panasonic employees in the United States now produce over four million video discs per month for such movie companies as Universal, Fox, and Paramount. In total, companies in the United States produce 16.6 million discs a month, all using imported machinery.

DVDs are the "next generation" recorded video media in the marketplace, succeeding video laser discs (VLDs) that were produced in the early 1990s. These machines consist of several components (including a master recording system, injection mold machine, laser encoder, and finishing line) that function together to produce DVDs. Machines that produce DVDs use essentially the same technology as machines used to produce VLDs—a laser encoder creates the desired pits on optical disc media (plastic or glass disc substrates). Recent advancements in technology enable DVDs to hold more recordings on smaller discs than VLDs.

In 1994, Congress passed new, duty free tariff legislation for VLD manufacturing machines. This legislation helped companies like Time Warner (WEA Manufacturing) create and save jobs in the U.S. that were being lost as a result of foreign production of CDs and VLDs. Importantly, this legislation did not adversely affect any U.S. industry because optical disc technology, such as that used in VLDs and DVDs, was first developed overseas and there was no domestic production.

Shortly after passing duty free legislation on VLDs, however, home video entertainment shifted to DVDs. Companies shifted production of VLDs to DVDs using substantially the same systems, and companies like Panasonic began manufacturing DVDs in the U.S. DVD manufacturers import the machines used to make DVDs, purchasing them from the same foreign companies that produced VLD manufacturing machines. Under the established legal principal that legislation should be interpreted to take into account advancements in technology, DVD manufacturing machines should be classified under the same duty free provisions as VLD manufacturing machines. Customs, however, has ruled that DVD manufacturing machines are not classified under the duty free provisions for VLDs, and that the components of DVD manufacturing machines should be classified under 11 separate tariff headings, with an average duty of three percent. This ruling has had the effect of negating the benefits of Congress' 1994 legislation on VLDs.

My legislation would provide tariff relief on imported DVD machinery and components, thus reducing the cost of production for domestic manufacturers. Competition from Taiwan, Japan, and the European Union is very strong. A recent internal study indicated some overseas competitors are trying to sell their DVD discs in the U.S. as low as 75 cents each, compared to a cost of \$1.61 for domestic production.

Reduced production costs would help the seventeen U.S. producers of DVD discs be more competitive and ensure the continued employment of American workers in those companies. Indeed, duties on the discs produced using DVD manufacturing machines actually are lower than the duties now imposed on DVD manufacturing machines. The proposed legislation would remove such inequitable and inverted tariffs, thereby promoting U.S. jobs and manufacturing of DVDs in the U.S. New DVD products are being released each year. Recordable DVDs will be available in 2001. As U.S. consumers respond to the superior quality of digital sound and images, this legislation will help companies fulfill the demand for digital products and help increase jobs associated with the popularity of this important information technology media.

This legislation also will protect U.S. intellectual property rights. Movie studios have invested heavily in the protection of movie content for DVDs. Keeping production of DVDs in the U.S., rather than in countries that have weaker intellectual property laws and enforcement, will help prevent the mass piracy of software that occurs overseas.

The enactment of this legislation for DVD machinery and components would not injure any domestic producer, and it would ensure the continued growth of jobs and investment in the United States while protecting against the potential loss of valuable intellectual property. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING THE FIRST
SUCCESSFUL HAND TRANSPLANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Ms. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary event that took place in my district, Louisville, Kentucky, one year ago. The horizons of medical possibilities were expanded when an amazing team of doctors performed America's first successful hand transplant at Louisville, Kentucky's Jewish Hospital. I am pleased to report that one year later, everything is going well for the patient and four other hand transplants have taken place around the world. We are moving into a new frontier where transplant medicine's boundless capabilities to heal are no longer restricted to the life threatened, but can also apply to those with mechanical ailments. This giant leap in the application of surgical research reflects the dauntless will of doctors to bring the total health of the individual on par with the available science of today.

Such an outstanding achievement is just one example of what can happen when peo-

ple work together to achieve a common goal. The hand transplant was a joint project of Jewish Hospital, the University of Louisville, and Kleinert and Kutz Associates. This remarkable local partnership is the only one in the country capable of doing a hand transplant. This pioneering accomplishment and other research efforts will have a multiplier effect that can create 1,000 medical jobs in the next five years. But this is just in Louisville, for the effects worldwide are infinite.

We are also reminded to maintain profound respect for those who give. None of this would have happened without the hand, which came from Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates, the organization that coordinates donation and distribution of body parts in Kentucky, Southern Indiana, and Western Virginia. One person's decision to become an organ and tissue donor can benefit as many as 200 lives. One organ donor can enhance or save the lives of one heart patient, one liver recipient, two lung patients, two kidney patients, one diabetic, two people with impaired vision, three or four burn victims, and over 100 recipients of bone grafts. That is why in February, the House passed a resolution supporting the goals and ideas of National Donor Day. Miracles don't just happen—people make them happen.

As the success of this hand transplant demonstrates, a family's contribution of their loved one's organs can not only save a life, but improve the quality of life for others. I salute all those, doctors and donors alike, whose contributions help patients worry less about the little things in life that most people take for granted.

I am forever impressed by the kinds of medical miracles we can achieve when we support research endeavors in this country. I am honored to have such a fine team of doctors in Louisville and hope that the contribution of Jewish Hospital, the University of Louisville, and the doctors of Kleinert and Kutz can continue to be built upon by others. Their enthusiasm and dedication add to the vitality of the Louisville community and create a can-do attitude for all to follow.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION
AWARENESS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to introduce legislation to authorize the organ and tissue donation awareness "semi-postal" stamp.

With 67,000 people on the organ donation waiting list, there is no time to lose in educating the public about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

As a result of strong congressional interest, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 32-cent organ donation commemorative stamp in August 1998, but the postal rate increased to 33 cents just five months later. Even though this commemorative stamp is still available at some post offices, purchasers have to buy a 1-cent stamp to make up the difference in postage, which works to discourage people

from buying and using the organ donation stamp. Despite these difficulties, there are less than 3 million of these stamps remaining from the 50 million that the post office printed.

This time, we are seeking authorization for a "semi-postal" stamp that would sell for up to 25 percent above the value of a first-class stamp with the surplus revenues going to programs to increase organ donor awareness.

The decision to donate an organ is a life-saving decision, but one that is unfortunately not communicated among family members and loved ones. We strongly believe that every effort we make to remind people that this is a decision that should not wait until tragedy strikes, is an effort toward saving lives. Whether it is an organ and tissue donation postage stamp or a box that drivers may mark as they are renewing their drivers' licenses—these all serve to raise attention to the important issue of communicating a decision to become an organ donor with family members and friends before tragedy strikes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives MOAKLEY, THURMAN, and FRANKS, for being original cosponsors of this legislation. I urge you and other Members of this Congress to join with us and cosponsor this very worthwhile measure.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
R. WINTERS ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding individual from the state in Ohio. On Sunday, March 12, 2000, Mr. Thomas R. Winters will celebrate his fiftieth birthday. I certainly want to extend my warmest wishes to him on this event.

Tom Winters has attained a long and illustrious career working in all aspects of government and politics in Ohio. Tom served for more than ten years as a top assistant and Chief of Staff to then Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives Vern Riffe. In that time, Tom served as Clerk of the House, Executive Secretary of the House, and Majority Counsel. During his service, Tom worked very closely with members of the Ohio General Assembly and has maintained a strong relationship with current and past members of the Ohio House and Senate.

As President of the Ohio Senate, I had the opportunity to work with Tom first-hand and found him to be talented and helpful in my dealings with Speaker Riffe and the entire Ohio House. Although we were on opposite sides of the political fence, Tom worked aggressively for the benefit of all Ohioans, not just a select few. His commitment to sound public policy and positive legislative accomplishments is well documented and deserves our commendation.

Currently, Tom is a partner in the Columbus office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease LLP where he represents governments, businesses, and trade associations on legislative