

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA,  
LAUDED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL  
ADVANCES IN VOTE-BY-MAIL

### HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2000*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today, April 3, 2000, the 2000 Information Technology Innovation Collection will be formally presented to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. I am proud to let my colleagues know that the Maricopa County (Arizona) Election Department's Vote-By-Mail technology program will become part of the Permanent Research Collection on Information Technology at the Smithsonian in recognition of how Maricopa County is utilizing new information age tools to extend the benefits of technology to voters.

Maricopa County is the fifth largest county in the United States, and is more than 1.4 million voters. In an effort to provide alternative methods of voting to increase voter participation, reduce voter apathy and thwart the stereotype that government is antiquated and inflexible, the Elections Department has devised and implemented a Vote-By-Mail program in which voters are encouraged to request mail-in ballots by phone, mail, Internet, or walk-in. Overall voter participation has increased since 1992 when Vote-By-Mail was first available for all voters, and mail-in ballots have grown to account for a third of the total ballots cast in the last election.

The benefits of the Vote-By-Mail process include ease and convenience, more time to study issues or candidates appearing on the ballot, and relief from time constraint problems on election day such as conflicting job hours or transportation issues. The most evident benefit in past election statistics is the overwhelming increase in voter turnout.

Through the implementation of several new hardware and software technologies, the Maricopa County Elections Department has created a system which allows for the timely, reliable and secure storage and access to voter affidavits, efficient yet stringent and accurate tracking, processing and return of voters' ballots, systematic record-keeping, and a verification system for ballot security which checks the voter's signature as well as insuring that a voter meets the criteria that they maintain their registration throughout the 33-day early voting period which insures confidence in a fraudulent-free voting method.

Nominated by Michael Dell, Chairman and Chief Executive Office of Dell Computer Corporation, in the Government & Non-Profit Organizations category, Maricopa County Election Department's work is part of a collection that includes over 440 of the year's most innovative applications of technology from 38 states and 21 countries.

Karen Osborne, Maricopa County Elections Director; Reynaldo Valenzuela and John Stewart of the staff from the Maricopa County Elections Department will be attending today's Presentation Ceremony, returning to Phoenix to present the Medal to the Maricopa County Recorder, Helen Purcell, in a special ceremony at the Recorder's Office on Thursday, April 6, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I bring this special recognition to the attention of my colleagues as a tried and true technological means to increase voter participation, and congratulate Maricopa County Recorder Helen Purcell, Elections Director Karen Osborne and their staff for their outstanding work and well-deserved recognition for conducting Vote-By-Mail efficiently, accurately and safely.

### OPPOSITION TO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2000*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I state my opposition to recent efforts to raise the government-mandated minimum wage. I am convinced that a higher mandated minimum wage would dramatically reduce job opportunities for those who truly need them and stifle the growth of our economy.

Congress raised the minimum wage twice in recent years. It is my belief that employers should have the right to choose when to give employees raises. Several economists have stated that mandating a higher minimum wage will encourage employers to replace people with machines, or move their businesses to countries that do not have a mandated minimum wage. Either way, this will result in fewer jobs for Americans.

If we truly support increased opportunities for teens to get work experience, and for poor men and women to escape unemployment, we must not legislate an even higher minimum wage that prices them out of the job market. Instead, Congress needs to focus our efforts on achieving regulatory reform tax relief and legal reform which will increase the capital available to the business sector for wage increases. Congress must also focus on reducing individual income taxes so that citizens can keep more of their hard-earned money.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY BRADFORD,  
JR. OF HUNTSVILLE, ALA-  
BAMA

### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2000*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., to Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the spiritual community at large in northern Alabama. His list of credentials fills many a page. Dr. Bradford has been a moral mentor for Church Street Presbyterian for 36 years.

For almost four decades Dr. Bradford has imparted his wisdom from the pulpit. The community refers to Dr. Bradford as "everybody's pastor" which reflects his selfless service to our entire city.

I believe this is a fitting tribute for one who has given so much of himself for the betterment of others. Aside from his pastoral duties, Dr. Bradford has served as chairman of the board of directors of the Harris Home for six years in addition to numerous other board positions. Bradford's vocal talents have been enjoyed by our community as he has been a narrator for Huntsville museums and the orchestra. He has graciously shared his musical talents also as Chairman of the Department of Music Education at Alabama A&M University and as a music professor at Oakwood College.

I want to offer my best wishes to Dr. Bradford, his wife Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford, their children Dr. Henry Lane Bradford and Andrea Bradford and their grandson, Henry Lane. He has inspired so many to seek truth and to use their talents to serve the community. I congratulate Dr. Bradford on his retirement and wish him a well-deserved rest.

### LEHIGH VALLEY HEROES—LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

### HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2000*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a group of my constituents who do volunteer work helping others in my district. Over 100 volunteers for the Lehigh Valley Hospice will soon receive awards for their service. These volunteers, who come from all areas of eastern Pennsylvania, help to improve the lives of thousands of terminally ill patients in the community.

From assisting with chores to providing respite for patients' families, the acts of these volunteers show the depth of their generosity and compassion. Hospice volunteers provide much

● 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.