

April 13, 2000

name a few. Businesses have found Cartersville to be an ideal community in which to locate. Tourism is also a major component of the local economy, and of special interest are Lake Allatoona and the Etowah Indian Mounds; evidence that Native Americans once lived and thrived in this area.

Numerous leaders in American life, outside of the business sphere, have ties to Cartersville. In addition to giving America congressmen and military leaders, Cartersville has given Georgia former Governor Joe Frank Harris and current Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Benham. In sports, baseball and horse racing, greats trace their origin to Cartersville. Finally, in the literary field, World War I correspondent Corra Harris, and humor columnist Bill Arp counted Cartersville as their home.

HEALTH CARE PREMIUM PAY CONVERSION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today introduced a new piece of legislation that will help Federal employees and retirees better afford health care.

The bill, which is titled the Federal Employees Health Insurance Premium Conversion Act, greatly expands a program already being utilized by several branches of the federal government. Under this bill, all current legislative branch employees, uniformed service employees, and all military and civilian retirees and their spouses would be able to have their health care premiums paid out of their pre-tax earnings.

Mr. Speaker, under this plan, which is already available to judicial branch and postal employees and will soon be available to all executive branch employees, federal workers who have previously struggled to pay their health care premiums will find that task just a little easier every month. Federal Retirees and their families, many of whom are on a fixed income, will also be able to pay their health care premiums without spending their entire months budget.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill will help federal employees compensate for the discrepancies between their pay and the private sector. It will further help us recognize the contributions made by federal retirees and allow them and their families afford health care.

In closing, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, and help get it passed so it can begin helping the people who need it the most as soon as possible.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BUSINESS CHECKING MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I support H.R. 4067, the "Business Checking Modernization Act" and urge my House colleagues who will be conferees negotiating with the Senate on this important legislation, to work for the inclusion of two specific provisions in any Conference Report.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4067 repeals certain banking laws to allow banks to pay interest on commercial checking accounts. The House of Representatives passed very similar legislation on October 9, 1998 by a unanimous vote. However, that legislation also included a key provision—allowing the Federal Reserve to pay interest on "sterile reserves". This feature should be added to H.R. 4067 because the bill as currently drafted would establish additional reservable accounts without providing for the payment of interest on sterile reserves required by the Federal Reserve for those accounts. In effect, the bill imposes new costs on banks without providing a way to offset those new expenses.

In addition, the bill currently before the House includes a phase-in period of three years before the law is changed to allow banks to pay interest on commercial checking accounts. While the bill passed in 1998 included a longer transition period than the current version before the House, a transition period of no less than three years is critical because the bill will be significantly changing the way banks have conducted their relationships with their customers. Under current law, banks have structured relationships with their business customers taking into account the prohibition against the payment of interest on commercial checking accounts. Banks frequently provide a variety of other services, and a sufficient transition period is needed to allow banks the opportunity to enter into new relationships with their commercial customers.

H.R. 4067 provides a three-year transition period, which I strongly urge my colleagues who negotiate the Conference Report to retain. Any shorter period would place an undue hardship on current banking customer relationships. I understand that House Banking Committee Chairman LEACH is supportive of these provisions, and I urge my colleagues to include these important provisions in any Conference Report, and reject any effort to shorten the transition period of three years in the bill.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE EDDIE CORRIGAN OF THE CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL HOUSING COURT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I honor Judge Eddie Corrigan who served on the Cleveland

5853

Municipal Housing Court for eight years in the late 1980's and early 1990's. He was a brilliant jurist.

After graduating from Yale University, Judge Corrigan served in the Army infantry in the Pacific during WWII, where he held the rank of lieutenant. He later earned a law degree from the Western Reserve Law School in 1949 and opened a law practice in Painesville, Ohio in 1950.

He realized early that people needed to be challenged in order to get the point, and he quickly became a master at this. His wit and wisdom added a sudden spark to often-routine court proceedings. Quick with a quip, insightful and incredibly perceptive, Judge Corrigan was a true spark plug in the court room. He was Cleveland's most entertaining legal venue. Judge Corrigan, who legally changed his given name of Edward to Eddie in 1980, saying it sounded more American. His unconventional approach to life was a breath of fresh air to the city of Cleveland, Ohio and to its Municipal Housing Court. Judge Corrigan managed to live an extraordinarily full life and raise a wonderful family, including his wife of 33 years, seven children and ten grandchildren, in the process. He has become a Cleveland icon and an inspiration to us all. He will be missed.

I ask you, fellow colleagues, to join me in honoring this unique and brilliant man, Judge Eddie Corrigan of the Cleveland Municipal Housing Court.

HONORING THE NORTH PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND FROM PICO RIVERA, CALIFORNIA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding achievements of the North Park Middle School Band from Pico Rivera, California. Time and again this forty-eight member marching band, through the leadership of director Ron Wakefield, concert master Karen Panganiban, drum major Jannette Aldana, assistant concert master Marytza Padilla, and administrative assistant Lou Diaz, have demonstrated a will, drive, and dedication whose efforts demand our respect and admiration.

The North Park Middle School band has performed in parades and concerts in Florida, Hawaii and Mexico, and their accolades encompass more than a hundred sweepstakes awards in parade competition. They were the first and are still the only middle school band to ever participate in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade.

Today, I am overjoyed to announce that these young men and women will be performing at the National Band Festival in Carnegie Hall on April 21, 2000. It is the only middle school band to have been selected to perform with high school and college bands throughout the country. Next year, they will be performing in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the following spring, they will be our ambassadors of music at a concert in St. Paul's Cathedral in England.