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Working with, and writing about, federal employees and military personnel has been a treat. If there are more dedicated people in this country, I have yet to meet them. I have known lots of people who would die for this country, and several who did. Few bankers, columnists, lawyers or CEOs can make that claim.

Bureaucrats—and I don't have to say this anymore—are indeed beautiful. And don't you forget it.

I could go on, but I hope you get the idea. Besides, time and space—as always—are limited.

So has this been fun? And rewarding? Short answer: You bet!

But this isn't a wake. Or even a goodbye. More in the order of see-you-later. I hope.

Next stop for me is the brave new world of the Internet. I'll be at 1825 I St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006. Stay in touch.

I'm leaving here, but The Post will always be home. Always.

This column has been around since the 1930s. It's been on loan to me for a long time. My successor, Stephen Barr, is an old friend. He's a Texan and a Vietnam vet, and he knows the beat. Best of all, he's a very nice guy.

I hope Steve has as much fun as I did. Remember, he's had nearly half a century to prepare for his first column, which will begin Sunday. But he will have only one day to write his second column. So a little help and encouragement from you would be nice.

Thanks.
Mike.

IN HONOR OF THE ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to one of the nation's most successful technology transfer programs impacting our daily lives and which promises economic advantage to our great country in the very competitive area of telecommunications. This project, call the Advanced Communications Technology Satellite (ACTS), is the culmination of a decade of satellite technology development by NASA. The ACTS mission will conclude in June 2000 after 81 months of operations far exceeding its 4-year design life. Before this innovative flight project reaches its operational conclusion this summer, permit me to share with you more about its outstanding contributions and examples of how our government research spurs industry growth and jobs, and continues the worldwide preeminence of our technology base.

The explosion of the Information Age and the evolution of the National and Global Infor-

mation Infrastructure has created a critical need for the next generation of communications satellites. The ACTS Project centers around an experimental payload that incorporates an architecture of advanced technologies typical of what will be found in the next generation of commercial communications satellites. NASA funded this development to maintain America's dominant position in providing communications satellites to the world. This project has been led by a dedicated team of researchers and technologists at NASA's Glenn Research Center, which, I am proud to say, is within my Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to tell you more about this success story in space. The technologies selected for ACTS were those that had the potential to enhance dramatically the capabilities of the next generation of satellites. The technologies ACTS pioneered included use of a previously unused high frequency band (called Ka-band which is 20/30 GHz.), a futuristic dynamic hooping spot beam antenna, advanced on-board processing and switching, and automatic techniques to overcome increased signal fades experienced at these higher frequencies.

After its launch in September 1993, NASA partnered with major corporations and small businesses, academia, and other governmental agencies to demonstrate the new technology in actual user trials. An experiments program involved over 200 organizations that used the satellite for demonstrations, applications, and technology verification across the far reaches of our nation. With an ever-increasing global economy, ACTS was used to demonstrate wideband communications in five other countries (Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, and Antarctica).

Applications over the satellite have been done to improve living conditions and ensure a safe and prosperous life style in areas such as telemedicine by transmitting data-intensive imagery for linking urban medical specialists to underserved areas of the U.S.; control of power grids for electric utility companies using ultra-small terminals to pool the grid in remote areas; distance learning utilizing high-quality interactive video and audio for delivery of advanced degree, continuing and remedial training to all people without regard to location; integrating design teams for business and industry; natural exploration by connecting remote research equipment over high-speed links with major companies analysis facilities; and personal and airborne mobile communications services including technologies enabling advanced passenger services onboard the U.S. commercial airline fleet.

The innovative technologies proved that on-demand, integrates communications are viable, economical, and of national importance for the future of communications. The ACTS users have transformed this space technology into commercial products and services. As a result of the program, the satellite industry is on the cusp of initiating whole new constellations of satellites that represent a market size in the \$10s of billions that use many of the concepts developed and verified through the ACTS program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share other success stories of how ACT has benefited this

country in the area of satellite manufacturing. Motorola used ACTS-type on-board processing and Ka-band communications in the first operational system using ACTS technology—Iridium, and continues to include these technologies in the next generation wideband system. Hughes Space and Communications' Spaceway system will utilize an ACTS-like spot beam antenna at Ka-band frequencies to provide low-cost, global high-speed, communications to both residential and commercial users. Loral's Cyberstar will also incorporate Ka-band ACTS-type technology. Lockheed Martin's nine-satellite Astrolink system being developed includes such advances as Ka-band, on-board processing, and spot beam technology. The Teledesic system will provide service with a network of hundreds of satellites using on-board switching to route information between satellites and users. All of these systems show that our country's satellite manufacturers are integrating the ACTS design concept and technologies into their communications systems. This increases the number of highly technical jobs in the U.S. and improves the balance in trade with the strong international market for communications satellite systems.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me the opportunity to salute this special project with my colleagues. I congratulate NASA and the men and women who developed and operated this satellite technology for the benefit of our nation. It's because of their personal dedication that this country benefits.

INTRODUCTION OF EMT/FLSA LEGISLATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will provide an overtime exemption for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) from section 7(k) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). This exemption is already provided for fire protection and law enforcement personnel.

Currently, EMTs are asked to work the same hours as fire protection or law enforcement personnel, but state and local governments are required to pay these employees overtime for any hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a work-week. The overtime costs are quite expensive for state and local governments and interfere with their ability to manage their employees in emergency situations.

Last year, legislation was passed that extended the overtime exemption to emergency medical technicians who work in fire departments. This bill, however, did not include a significant number of county, city and other public sector employees who provide emergency medical services. For example, in Kansas the two largest public sector emergency medical service agencies are county agencies that function separately from fire departments and therefore are not covered by the recent legislation. Despite this separation, the duties for the EMTs and fire protection personnel in these areas are virtually identical. They are

frequently required to work long hours in certain situations and they are often on-call; therefore, there should be no difference in the treatment of EMTs under the FLSA.

This legislation will clarify the overtime exemption to include paramedics, emergency medical technicians, rescue workers, and ambulance personnel. It will provide flexibility to emergency managers by allowing them to schedule their employees based on need instead of being restricted by state and local budget constraints.

I was asked to introduce this legislation by county officials from Johnson County, Kansas. I have included at the conclusion of this statement a letter of support from the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters. This proposal also has the endorsement and full support of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will enable emergency managers to offer our communities the best public safety services, will lead to public accountability, and will save our state and local governments millions of dollars nationwide, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 64,
Kansas City, KS, May 3, 2000.

Congressman DENNIS MOORE,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MOORE: IAFF Local 64 fire fighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians would like to ask you for your support for the Fair Labor Standards Act bill as it relates to emergency medical technicians.

Thank you for your assistance on this bill.
Sincerely yours,

ROBERT S. WING,
President, IAFF Local 64.

WILLIAM P. YOUNG,
Secretary-Treasurer, IAFF Local 64.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF QUARTER-
MASTER WILLIAM P. SHATRAW

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a truly outstanding Chief Petty Officer in our great Navy. Chief Quartermaster (Submarines) William P. Shatraw completes more than twenty years of service to our nation and transfers from our newest and most capable attack submarine, U.S.S. *Connecticut* (SSN 22) to the Fleet Reserve of the United States Navy. A ceremony is being held on Friday in his honor at the Historic Ship *Nautilus* in Groton, Connecticut. It is a pleasure for me to recognize just a few of his outstanding achievements.

A native of Albany, New York, he enlisted in the United States Navy after receiving his high school diploma from Christian Brothers Academy in Albany. Following recruit training in Orlando, Florida, he attended a series of schools to prepare him for his first assignment, in the Navigation department aboard U.S.S. *George Washington Carver* (SSBN 656) (Gold). Chief Shatraw completed five patrols aboard *Carver*.

Leaving the *Carver* in May 1985 he reported to the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut where he taught others the art of navigating the world's oceans.

In February 1989, he returned to sea aboard U.S.S. *Providence* (SSN 719) where he completed four deployments that were vital to national security. After a promotion to Chief Petty Officer in 1991, he was transferred to the attack submarine U.S.S. *Gato* (SSN 615) where he served as the Assistant Navigator until March 1994.

In April 1994 he reported to the Staff of the Commander Submarine Development Squadron Twelve in Groton, Connecticut, for duty as Assistant Operations Officer. During this assignment he provided assistance to assigned submarines in their preparation for extended deployments and he coordinated exercises and operating area management.

Chief Shatraw was selected as a member of the pre-commissioning crew for U.S.S. *Connecticut* (SSN 22), reporting for duty in April 1997. He organized and trained an inexperienced Navigation division, molding them into one of the finest teams in the Atlantic Fleet.

Even as Chief Shatraw enjoys his well-earned retirement in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, the Navy will continue to benefit from his service. He has left behind a legacy of excellence in the dozens of young submariners he has personally trained. They will continue to patrol the ocean depths ready to project power from under the sea.

Mr. Speaker, during Bill Shatraw's twenty year naval career, he and his family have made many sacrifices for this Nation. I would like to thank them all—Bill, his lovely wife Sharon, and their two children, Kendra and Billy—for their contributions to the Navy and to our nation.

As Chief Shatraw departs the Navy for new challenges ahead, I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to wish him every success, as well as fair winds and following seas.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LALONDE FAMILY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a family that has reached a significant milestone. On May 7, 2000, the LaLonde family of Standish, Michigan celebrated 100 years of continuous family farming.

On May 7, 1900, Samuel and Helen LaLonde purchased and began farming a plot of land in Arenac County that once belonged to the Saginaw Railroad Company. They produced various crops and had a herd of dairy cows. Through hard work, long hours and complete dedication to farming they were able, over the years, to purchase additional surrounding land and expand their family farm.

In 1913, Samuel and Helen LaLonde passed the land down to Mose and Eva LaLonde, their son and daughter-in-law. The second generation of LaLondes continued to farm until Mose's death in 1951, when their

son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Bernadine LaLonde, began managing the property. In 1961, they purchased the farm and continued to manage and reside on the LaLonde farm. In 1967 the barn that housed their dairy operation burned down. Unwilling to give up, the LaLonde family switched operations and increased their production of corn, soybeans, green beans and sugar beets.

The LaLonde family has been one of the lucky few who have held on to their farm through two World Wars, the Great Depression, and numerous other economically difficult times in American agriculture. They have responded to America's call for better conservation, vigilance in food safety and attention to nutrition while always making sure that the steady flow of food is uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker, the LaLondes are a fine example of American farmers who have lived life with uncertainty in order to put food on our tables. Each day they rise before the sun in order to cultivate the land or tend livestock, not knowing what the weather will bring or how market conditions will affect their bottom line. Farmers and ranchers across the country provide a solid foundation for our nation by ensuring that our basic food needs are taken care of—they are the backbone of America.

One hundred years of family farming is a rare feat. I commend the LaLonde family for their hard work and commitment to American agriculture. I wish them another 100 years of prosperous and successful family farming.

CONGRATULATING AMBASSADOR
STEPHEN CHEN UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, after serving nearly fifty years as a diplomat for his country and his last two years as his country's Representative in the United States, Ambassador Stephen Chen will be resigning from government service and returning to Taipei. Always gracious and diplomatic, Ambassador Chen has impressed everyone with his industry, his wit and humor, and his erudition. An expert on subjects familiar and arcane, Ambassador Chen is a diplomat's diplomat.

Even though Ambassador Chen represents a country that has no formal ties with the United States, Ambassador Chen, with the very able assistance of aide Leonard Chao, has overcome many formidable obstacles in maintaining proper contacts with our State Department, and in building many friendships on Capitol Hill. When it comes to working for his country and his people, Ambassador Chen says with a smile: "To make up our lack of access to executive branches, we must work with our friends on the hill. We must help lawmakers see that Taiwan is a full democracy, sharing many of the democratic ideals with the United States. We must stress to our friends that it is not necessary for the United States to sacrifice Taiwan's interests in order for the United States to improve its relations with the PRC." In my opinion, Ambassador Chen has