

February 7, 2001

IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
HARRISBURG BULLDOGS

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2001*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize and congratulate one of my district's high school football teams. The Harrisburg Bulldogs of Harrisburg, IL recently won the Illinois Class 3A state football championship. The Bulldogs defeated the Oregon Hawks 41-13 in the championship game at University of Illinois' Memorial Stadium. The Bulldogs ended their season with a perfect record of 14-0.

Led by coaches Al Way and Greg Langley, members of the 2000 Harrisburg Bulldogs include Roth Clayton, Braden Jones, Joey Pilcher, Kyle Smithpeters, Walker Franks, Bob Dovell, Noah Stearns, Blake Emery, Brad Brachear, John Potts, Jeff McDonald, Mike Hancock, Nathan Potts, Cameron Chapman, Matt Oshel, A.J. Smith, Kyle Hicks, Jared Borders, Seth Hall, Tyler Rumsey, Justin Aud, Chris Stokich, Jacob Potter, Jacob Grubbs, Mark Hancock, Houston Ellis, Bard Karnes, Denver Milligan, Marques Scott, Kory Potts, Josh Goemaat, Patrick Beal, Travis Jerrels, Joe Speaks, Nick George, Alan Hurd, Jason Pigg, Justin Milligan, Daniel Henderson, Travis Boots, Travis Butler; cheerleaders, Casey Sowels, Jayna Beal, Sophia Hobson, Brooke Lane, Krystal Eudy, Liz Franks, Erin Brannock, Devin Kielhorn, Ashley Williams, and Brittany English.

The members of the Harrisburg Bulldogs should be proud of their achievement. I congratulate them and wish them good luck in future football seasons.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN R. STOKES,  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize Humboldt County attorney and World War II hero John Reynolds Stokes, who died Friday, January 5, 2001 in Arcata, California at the age of 83. His life was dedicated to the defense of democracy in war and in peace.

John Stokes grew up in Southern California and received his undergraduate education at Santa Barbara State College. In 1942 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and was trained to fly the Martin B-26 Marauder. Stationed in England, he flew many missions over France. His 29th mission was the D-Day bombing of the Normandy Coast. After the liberation of Paris, Group Commander Stokes, based in France, made his last combat flight on March 13, 1945. He served with valor and distinction and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with ten Oak Leaf Clusters. Throughout his life, he stayed in touch with survivors of the 344th Bomb Group with whom he had shared

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

the perils of war. He returned often to France to visit with French comrades.

John Stokes returned to California and entered Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. After graduation in 1948, he moved to Arcata, California with his wife Edith where he practiced law for more than fifty years. He served that community as City Attorney from 1950 to 1983. He was a member of the State Bar Board of Governors from 1979 to 1982 and was Chairman of the Committee of Bar Examiners from 1985 to 1986. Many young lawyers, new to the practice of law, were grateful for his guidance and counsel.

A life-long Democrat, he took particular pleasure in helping young people who sought careers in public service. Many successful candidates valued his advice and support. He served as Chairman of the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee for ten years.

Courageous in war, honorable and valiant in the pursuit of justice, John Stokes devoted his life to safeguarding the liberties we all enjoy as American citizens.

He has left a distinguished legacy to his five children, Katherine, John, Mary, Lucy and Emily, as well as his grandchildren, Sam, Catherine and Anna.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize John Reynolds Stokes for his unwavering commitment to the ideals and values that sustain our great country.

TRIBUTE TO MISS REBECCA PASSION,  
MISS RODEO USA OF ATHENS,  
ALABAMA

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2001*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding success of Rebecca Passion of Athens, Alabama. Crowned Miss Limestone Rodeo 2000, Miss Passion represented Limestone County at the IPRA National Finals in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on January 15. Miss Passion was crowned Miss Rodeo USA on January 20. As her community gathers to honor her victory this Saturday at the Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo Arena, I would like to join them in congratulating her.

Miss Passion's win is a testament to her talent, hard work and perseverance. The grueling competition included a test of riding skills, a public speaking portion and a lengthy interview. She excelled in all levels and surpassed the other competitors easily.

I know that Limestone County is very proud of their "hometown hero". They have supported her every step of the way. The Miss Rodeo USA crown is a crown that she shares with her community. Miss Passion is a wonderful role model and I know that she will use her time as Miss Rodeo USA to serve her community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate Miss Passion and wish her a rewarding reign as Miss Rodeo USA. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

1549

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 7, 2001*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I have the pleasure of introducing the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2001.

As many will recall, last year I introduced H.R. 3850, the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2000, to lessen the burdens on small and mid-sized telephone companies and allow them to shift more of their resources to deploying advanced telecommunication services to consumers in all areas of the country.

Small and mid-size companies are truly that—while the more than 1,200 small and mid-size companies serve less than 10% of the nation's lines, they cover a much larger percentage of rural markets and are located in or near most major markets in the country.

Some of these telephone companies are mom and pop operations typically serving rural areas of the country where most other carriers fear to tread—in high cost places where it is less profitable than more populated areas.

In 1996 Congress passed historic legislation in the form of the Telecommunications Act. Section 706 of the Act sent a clear message to the American people and to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that the deployment of new telecommunications services in rural areas around the country must happen quickly and without delay.

Unfortunately the FCC has not made it any easier for small telephone companies to deploy advanced services in rural areas—in some cases they've actually made it more difficult. The reason is that the FCC more often than not uses a one size fits all model in regulating all Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs). This type of model may be fine for the big companies that have the ability to hire legions of attorneys and staff to interpret and ensure compliance with the federal rules.

However, I for one would rather see the small and mid-size companies use their resources to deploy new services and make investment in their telecommunications infrastructure.

Two examples of these burdensome FCC requirements are CAM and ARMIS reports.

These reports, separately, cost about \$500,000 to compile and would equate to a small phone company installing a DSLAM or other facilities to provide high speed Internet access to customers in rural areas.

Just to give you an example of how burdensome these reports are, the Commission's instructions for filling them out are over 900 pages long. More often than not, the FCC does not refer to—and in some cases simply ignores—the data filed by mid-size companies.

Let me be very clear, however, that the bill does nothing to restrict the Commission's authority to request this or any other data at any time.

I want to be fair—the FCC should be commended for their efforts to bring some of these

reporting requirements down to a reasonable level. In fact, during our hearing on this legislation, the FCC told the Telecommunications Subcommittee that it may be issuing a notice of proposed rule-making on the reporting requirements for 2 percent companies sometime this fall.

The problem, though, is that the agency's time frame on issuing these proposed rules has changed like the Wyoming winds. It's time those obligations are met and this legislation would solidify what the FCC has promised to do for a long time.

In addition, I want everyone to know that I have bent over backwards to accommodate many of the initial concerns that some members had with this legislation and have incorporated a majority of their helpful suggestions.

Some of the changes that were adopted during the Commerce Committee's consideration of the bill took into account several technical provisions that will continue to allow the FCC to do its job but in a way that still ensures that small and mid-size companies are treated differently.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record what this legislation does and what it does not do.

The bill does not reopen the 1996 Act; it does not fully deregulate two percent carriers; and it does not impact regulations dealing with large local carriers. It would, however, be the first free-standing legislation that would modernize regulations of two percent carriers; it would accelerate competition in many small to mid-size markets; accelerate the deployment of new, advanced telecommunication services; and benefit consumers by allowing two percent carriers to redirect resources to network investment and new services.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is critical for rural areas across the country where these small telephone companies operate.

Without this bill, these two percent companies will continue to be burdened with this "one-size-fits-all" regulatory approach that has kept them from providing rural areas with what they need most—a share of the new economy.

I want to remind members of the House that H.R. 3850 passed with wide-spread support during the 106th Congress. Unfortunately, the Senate wasn't able to bring up the bill due to time constraints, but I am confident that we will continue to garner support for this common sense regulatory initiative.

In closing I want to thank the original cosponsors of the bill: Reps. BART GORDON, CHIP PICKERING, and TOM BARRETT. The cosponsors and I acknowledged that there may be room for improvement and welcome refinements. As I acknowledged earlier, last year I was very receptive to concerns that individual members and industry representatives brought to my attention. My office has always had an open door policy and that will never change. We look forward to working with incumbent and competitive interests so that in the end the ultimate goal will be realized: improved access to advanced telecommunications and common sense regulatory changes that lessen the burdens on small and mid-size telecommunications providers.

We collectively acknowledge the new leadership at the Federal Communications Com-

mission and look forward to their thoughtful suggestions as well as their own internal changes that will hopefully improve the regulatory environment that these small and mid-size companies operate under.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members of the Commerce Committee for their help in moving this bill last year and ask my colleagues to once again unanimously support this very important piece of legislation.

RAISING THE SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY AMOUNT FOR PERSONS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would provide Social Security disability beneficiaries with severe spinal cord injuries the same protections as are afforded the blind.

Many people who suffer from spinal cord injuries are unable to earn a living, and receive Social Security disability.

My legislation seeks to help those who have overcome their debilitating injury, and are able to work.

Under current law, recipients of Social Security disability are eligible for benefits if they are unable to earn no more than the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount, which is \$740/month.

The Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995 increased the SGA amount for blind individuals to \$1000/month. The provision allows blind individuals to qualify for Social Security disability even if their income is \$1000/month. In 2001, the monthly SGA amount was raised to \$1,240/month.

My bill would raise the SGA amount for persons with spinal cord injuries to \$1,240/month. These individuals should not be discouraged from earning income that could supplement their disability payments.

Social Security disability benefits should not be withdrawn from persons with spinal cord injuries because they have the courage to return to work.

I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2001

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Community Access to Health Care Act of 2001, legislation I am introducing to help our states and communities deal with the crisis of the uninsured.

More than 42 million Americans do not have health insurance and this number is increasing by over a million persons a year. Most of the

uninsured are working people and their children—nearly 74 percent are families with full-time workers. Low income Americans, those who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level or \$27,300 for a family of three, are the most likely to be uninsured.

Texas is a leader nationally in the number of insured, ranking second only to Arizona. About 4 million persons, or 26.8 percent of our non-elderly population, are without health insurance.

The uninsured and under-insured tend to be more expensive to treat because they fall through the cracks of our health care system. The uninsured and under-insured often can't afford to see the doctor for routine physicals and preventive medicine. Consequently, they arrive in the emergency room with costlier, often preventable, health problems.

Research by the Kaiser Family Foundation underscores this problem. Nearly 40 percent of uninsured adults skip a recommended medical test or treatment, and 20 percent say they have needed but not received care for a serious problem in the past year. Kaiser also reports that uninsured children are at least 70 percent less likely to receive preventive care. Uninsured adults are more than 30 percent less likely to have had a check-up in the past year, uninsured men 40 percent less likely to have had a prostate exam and uninsured women 60 percent less likely to have had a mammogram than compared to the insured.

This broken health care system yields dangerous, sometimes deadly results. The uninsured are at least 50 percent more likely than the insured to be hospitalized for conditions such as pneumonia and diabetes. Death rates from breast cancer are higher for the uninsured than for those with insurance.

Our Nation's health care safety net is in dire need of repair. Communities across the country are identifying ways to better tend to the uninsured, to provide preventive, primary and emergency clinical health services in an integrated and coordinated manner. This kind of service can only be accomplished, however, if our safety net providers have the resources to improve communication to better reach this target population.

The Community Access Program (CAP) promotes this kind of interagency coordination and communication. It stems from a very successful Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded project that demonstrated how community collaboration can increase access to quality, cost-effective health care. The Community Access to Health Care Act of 2001 provides competitive grants to assist communities in developing programs to better serve their uninsured population.

Funding under CAP can be used to support a variety of projects to improve access for all levels of care for the uninsured and under-insured. Each community designs a program that best addresses the needs of its uninsured and under insured and its providers. Funding is intended to encourage safety net providers to develop coordinated care systems for the target population.

The Clinton Administration created a \$25 million CAP demonstration project in FY 2000.