

September 25, 2001

Furthermore, in a recent GAO report that examined 102 projects under the STTR program, companies and research institutions indicated that they felt both contributed significantly to the research and development of new technologies. Their collaborative effort contributed to the construction and testing of prototypes and in providing equipment and facilities. Most of these projects were successful. For those projects that were discontinued, companies indicated insufficient funding for further technical development as a basis for terminating their projects.

This piece of legislation, encourages the continued viability of the STTR program. The legislation increases the percentage of the extramural budget required to be expended by agencies participating in the program from 0.15 percent to 0.3 percent. The permanent nature of the program is acknowledged by striking the word "pilot" as previously used to describe the program. Also, the amount a small business can receive under a Phase II award increases from \$500,000 to \$750,000, in line with the Phase II awards of the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program.

In addition, the legislation requires participating Federal agencies to collect and maintain information. This will allow for a quick oversight of the program's progress. Also, the information would be kept in similar databases that agencies have already created to monitor the SBIR program.

By passing this legislation we will endorse a program that has been successful since 1992. The STTR program will ensure that the partnership between research institutions and small businesses, which adapts research technologies for commercial use, continues till at least 2008.

Therefore, I urge all members to support this legislation that encourages the development of small businesses and the continued cooperation between federal agencies and small businesses in the research and development of new technologies that benefit the nation.

GENE AUTRY DAY FESTIVAL IN
TIOGA, TX

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the first annual Gene Autry Day Festival this weekend, September 28 and 29, 2001, in Tioga, Texas, in the Fourth Congressional District. Tioga is Gene Autry's hometown, and I join all those in Tioga and Grayson County, as well as friends and admirers throughout the Nation, in celebrating the life of this legendary American.

Gene Autry was born on a ranch near Tioga, Texas, on September 29, 1907, to Delbert and Elnora Autry. Gene's grandfather, William T. Autry, was a Baptist preacher who taught Gene to sing when he was five years

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

old. At the age of twelve, Gene bought his first guitar from a Sears and Roebuck catalog for eight dollars. In his autobiography, *Back in the Saddle Again*, Gene noted that by his fifteenth birthday he was comfortable singing and performing before audiences at school and around his hometown.

At a young age, Gene began working as a telegraph operator at the old Tioga railroad depot, where he reportedly sang and played for local townsfolk and passengers on the railroad. By the late 1920s, Gene was working as a telegrapher for the railroad in Oklahoma. While singing and playing in the office one night, Gene was discovered by the great cowboy humorist, Will Rogers, who recommended that he try performing on the radio. And thus began a career that would span more than 60 years in the entertainment industry and that would bring fame and fortune to this young man from Tioga, Texas.

Gene Autry was successful in radio, recordings, motion pictures, television, rodeo, and live performances. He is the only entertainer to have five stars on Hollywood's Walk of Fame—one each for radio, records, film, television, and live theatrical performance, including rodeo. Gene appeared in 94 feature films and made 635 recordings, over 300 of which he wrote or co-wrote. Some of his best known movies are based on his hit records, including *South of the Border* and *Back in the Saddle*. He sold over 60 million records, including more than a dozen gold records and two platinum records, *Here Comes Santa Claus* and *Peter Cottontail*. Another record, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, remains the second best selling single of all time, with sales totaling more than 30 million. From 1950 to 1955 Gene produced and starred in *The Gene Autry Show* and produced other popular television series as well.

In addition to his success in the entertainment industry, Gene was successful pursuing another passion—a love of baseball. In 1961 he purchased the American League's California Angels (now the Anaheim Angels) and held the title of Vice President of the American League until his death in 1998.

Gene Autry was always proud of his hometown, Tioga, and he would have been honored by this Festival and by the efforts of local citizens in memory of him. Proceeds from activities associated with the Gene Autry Day Festival will be used to build a Tioga Heritage Museum, featuring Gene Autry, and to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs through United Way of Grayson County. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the citizens of Tioga for planning this tribute to their hometown hero and to a legendary American whose contributions to our culture will long be remembered and appreciated—the late, great Gene Autry.

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CHILLING INDICATORS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in the events that have followed the tragic attack on our Nation, we have seen a flurry of activity in both responding to the attack, and attempting to uncover the network, financing, and planning behind the attack. Though I believe our law enforcement and intelligence agencies understand and are closing the apparent gaps that may have aided the terrorist's ability to launch the attack on September 11, there is a recent piece in the September 21 edition of *Washington Times* that gave me pause.

The *Inside the Beltway* column titled "Signs in Cyberspace" alleged that indications of the impending attack might have existed in certain registered domain names, recently expired, on the Internet. Some of the domain names quoted in the article were:

worldtradetowerattack.com;
nyterroriststrike.com;
pearlharborinmanhattan.com; and
terroristattack2001.

It is indeed chilling that no one appears to have taken notice until it was too late. Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that our federal agencies, along with Congress, continue to take a hard look at where our intelligence system failed and make the difficult and necessary decisions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 2001, I missed rollcall vote No. 349 and rollcall vote No. 350 due to a delay in my flight. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 717 and "yes" on H.J. Res. 65.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER JOAN MCKEE FOR HER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Joan McKee, who, on Sunday, September 30, 2001, will be honored at a special ceremony for her 50 years of service to the Sisters of Charity organization. The Sisters of Charity organization assists in ensuring adequate access to quality social services and educational opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged. The ceremony honoring Sister