EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Tim McCallion, who will be inducted into the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association’s Hall of Fame on September 29, 2001 in recognition of his distinguished career with GTE.

Mr. McCallion is an individual of great distinction, and we join with his colleagues, family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements in the telecommunications industry and his service to his community.

Tim’s long career with Verizon, formerly GTE, began in 1976 when he joined the accounting department in Erie, Pennsylvania, as he was finishing up his MBA at Gannon University. Over the next two decades, Tim’s career with GTE took him all around the country from Pennsylvania to Indiana, Connecticut, Hawaii and finally to California.

Though Tim’s career began in the accounting field, he quickly moved into public policy. Tim currently serves as the Pacific Regional President responsible for Regulatory, Government Affairs, Public Affairs and corporate interests in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Tim’s colleagues refer to him as the “go to guy.” A man who applies initiative and creativity to his service, Tim never fails to take on daunting tasks. When the ITPA needed to have their books audited, and incredibly demanding job with Verizon, Tim volunteered. His colleagues remark that in the fast paced and ever changing telecommunications market it is nice to know that there are people like Tim willing to help.

I personally know this to be true. As a member of the California State Assembly and Senate, I worked closely with Tim over the years on several pieces of telecommunications legislation. I could always count on Tim for his tenacity and his expertise in telecom regulation and policy. He worked to spearhead telecom legislation in California that greatly benefited my constituents and the rest of the state. It was always a pleasure and an honor to work with Tim.

Tim has continued to be a valued informational resource to me here in Congress. America leads the world in the Telecommunications Revolution, but there are still many goals to accomplish. I salute Verizon for its efforts to end the Digital Divide. Verizon has been a key supporter of HR 1542, the Tauzin-Dingell Bill, which will stimulate competition in the high speed internet market, giving consumers more choices, lower prices and more services. Tim’s hard work supporting this important legislation has been critical in the two-year struggle that I have been involved with since I came to Congress to bring this bill to fruition.

Tim is not only being recognized for his career achievements with Verizon. A man committed to his community, Tim serves on the boards of several civic and charitable organizations. He is very involved in his local Catholic Church in Thousand Oaks, California and remains highly dedicated to the United Way of Ventura County having served on the Executive Board as co-chair, vice-chair and campaign chair. He has also acted as Verizon’s Executive chair on annual United Way campaigns. Tim has displayed his civic leadership on the boards of the Los Angeles Urban League, the California Telephone Association, Los Angeles Children’s Museum, and the Ventura County YMCA, and as a member of the California Chamber of Commerce, and the California Business Roundtable. It is precisely this commitment to his community that makes him such a vital asset in public policy.

I have personally seen how Tim brings community service to Verizon. Tim facilitated Verizon’s support of young students from my district who came to the Nation’s Capitol to perform Mariachi music during Cinco de Mayo. It is employees like Tim McCallion that make Verizon a leader in community and charitable events.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I join Tim’s loving family, wife, Anne, sons, Brian and Keith, and daughter in law, Melinda, numerous friends and colleagues at Verizon in admiration of Tim McCallion’s long and distinguished career in telecommunications and public policy, and we express admiration that he has received this wonderful and well-deserved honor from the ITPA.