

FAREWELL TO BILL IVEY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have never been timid about my support for the National Endowment for the Arts or my passionate belief about the importance of the arts in our culture and the role of the federal government in fostering the arts. Just as profoundly, I believe we have been blessed to have Bill Ivey at the helm of that agency at a critical time.

I have thousands of civil servants among my constituents. I know the dedication they bring to their work.

Billy Ivey would rank among the top of those who come into government only for a time—contributing their special backgrounds and abilities. His appointment to be Chairman of the NEA was an inspiration.

Bill did not have to be converted to the idea of connecting the arts and the NEA to communities and families. He was one of its prophets.

As a life-long folklorist, when Bill Ivey talks about America's Living Cultural Heritage, it's clearly not a phrase from a good wordsmith. That devotion comes from his very soul. When he says "Living Cultural Heritage," you can practically see his toes growing into the ground like tree roots.

He also brought another skill to the NEA, one that is as critical to success as it is often overlooked. From having run a non-profit organization for more than 25 years, Bill understood, and had met, the challenges of leading and managing a large organization. We never saw that directly on the Hill. But I have heard from my constituents who have worked for Bill at that agency that he was extraordinary. We have certainly seen the results.

Most heads of agencies or programs might get to know the Chairmen and a few key Members of the Authorizing and Appropriating Committees with relevant jurisdiction. Bill Ivey tried to meet all of us, especially all of the critics of the NEA. He pounded the terrazzo and marble of our halls to meet hundreds of Members of Congress, reinforcing the agency's supporters and disarming its detractors. He gave us concise briefings on the NEA's programs and procedures, and on his vision for how the NEA could enrich our families and communities.

He took back to the NEA the priorities of our constituents. He instituted many experimental programs, among them: for fostering partnerships among local community organizations, for positive alternatives for young people, and for enhancing the use of arts in education. He promoted outreach in formal and informal initiatives—and in simply making outreach a priority in everything the NEA did. In the last four years, with mostly a flat budget, the NEA increased the number of applications received, and doubled the number of grants given. Bill Ivey, and the National Endowment for the Arts under his leadership, gave Congress more than ample reason for FY 2001 to give the agency its first budget increase in eight years.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Ivey is moving on to other challenges, but his accomplishments in lead-

ing the NEA can never be exceeded. Personally I will miss him.

Our nation now faces a new challenge brought upon by the terrorists attacks on September 11th. I share Bill Ivey's belief that the Arts can play a critical role healing this country. Following Bill Ivey's tenure at the NEA, the Arts community is in a better position to respond to this new challenge.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY BOY
SCOUT TROOP 214**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Liberty Boy Scout Troop 214 for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of organizations like the Liberty Boy Scout Troop 214 signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Liberty Boy Scout Troop 214 has raised more than \$6,000 by selling ribbons to assist in the rescue efforts and to provide for the grieving families. The patriotism and persistence of Boy Scout Troop 214 is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. IVEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize William J. Ivey for the extraordinary work he has done over the past three years on behalf of the arts.

During his tenure at the NEA Chairman Ivey developed a nonprofit cultural organization and worked to protect America's living cultural resources. An advocate for various art forms, he has, without a doubt, fulfilled the Endowment's mission to "foster the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in the United States, and to broaden public access to the arts."

Chairman Ivey, I thank you for all your hard work over the past three years and wish you well in your future endeavors.

THE DISPLACED OLDER WORKER
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide targeted tax relief to all workers who are laid off and who receive severance benefits, and to grant re-training assistance to older workers who often have special difficulties when trying to find new employment after a lay-off.

My legislation would allow all workers, of any age, to exclude up to \$15,000 from their taxable income for severance pay, effective after the date of enactment.

This legislation is based on the common-sense principle that having one's employment terminated is painful enough for a family to deal with. Clearly, the federal government should not make matters worse by levying additional taxes on non-recurring severance payments.

Severance benefits often create the impression of affluence on paper, and when they are counted as ordinary income (as is the case under current law). The payments boost family incomes into higher tax brackets, and result in higher tax liability. In many cases, a sizeable portion of the severance benefit is lost to the I.R.S. in the form of higher taxes.

This glitch in our tax code was brought to my attention several years ago by a constituent of mine, Mr. Bill Giovannetti of Hamilton, when he told me that he lost thousands of dollars of his severance benefits when he was forced to take early retirement in the early 1990s, as his company was downsizing. Because he was a long-time employee, his severance benefit was fairly significant, and it put him into a higher tax bracket. He protested this taxation to the I.R.S., thinking initially that it was some kind of mistake. Common sense would suggest that the I.R.S. would not want to kick a man when he's down on his luck and out of a job by hiking his taxes and taking away part of his severance package. When he