The cellular industry has no clear, definitive guidance regarding the class lives and recovery periods of cellular assets. Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service and cellular companies have been left to resolve depreciation treatment on an ad hoc basis for these assets as the industry has rapidly progressed.

The result is that both cellular telecommunications companies and the Internal Revenue Service are expending significant resources in auditing and settling disputes involving the depreciation of cellular telecommunications equipment. This process is obviously costly and inefficient for taxpayers and the Service, but it also leaves affected companies with a great deal of uncertainty as to the tax treatment, and therefore expected after-tax return, they can expect on their investments.

The Treasury Department’s “Report to the Congress on Depreciation Recovery Periods and Methods” tacitly acknowledges this point. In its discussion about how to treat assets used in newly-emerging industries, such as the cellular telecommunications industry, the report states:

Rather than force cellular telecommunications equipment into wireline telephony “transmission” or “distribution” classes, a better solution would clarify that cellular telecommunications equipment is “qualified technological equipment.” The Internal Revenue Code currently defines qualified technological equipment as any computer or peripheral equipment and any high technology telephone station equipment installed on a customer’s premises.

The cellular telecommunications industry has been one of the fastest growing industries in the United States since the mid-1980s, as evidenced by the following statistics:

- The domestic subscriber population has grown from less than 350,000 in 1985 to 86 million by 1999, and is projected to grow to 175 million by 2007.
- The industry directly provided 4,324 jobs in 1986, which increased to over 155,000 directly provided jobs and one million indirectly created jobs by 1999.
- Capital expenditures on cellular assets exceeded $15 billion in 1999.

The rapid technological progress exhibited by the cellular telecommunications industry illustrates how the tax code needs to be flexible to adapt to future technologies and technological changes. Continued rapid advancement is on the horizon, including wireless fax, high-speed data, video capability, and a multitude of wireless Internet services. It is impossible in 2001 to anticipate properly the new equipment that will support this growth even two years hence. I urge my colleagues to support this important clarification to the tax law.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young Mississippi student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community, Jazmyn Smith of Greenville, Mississippi. Jazmyn Smith has just been named one of my state’s top honorees in The 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Smith is being recognized for the creation of a youth service club that gives teens a safe and healthy social outlet for providing valuable volunteer service to the community.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it’s vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individuals, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Smith are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention — The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards — was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past six years, the program has become the nation’s largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Smith should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Smith for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today’s world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can — and do — play important roles in our communities, and that America’s community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in saluting a great young role model, Ms. Jazmyn Smith.

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Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that one man can make a difference. And I will always hold on to that belief, because it goes to the very core of what America is all about. We are a free nation, fashioned out of the heroic efforts of men and women who never considered that failure was an option. Each one made a difference.

The recent retirement of Julio F. Mercado, the Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, brings to a close a distinguished career in Law Enforcement. Julio Mercado served his country and he made a difference during the nearly three decades that he wore a badge and carried a gun. Special Agent Mercado is one of those American patriots who has always made a difference. Born in Puerto Rico and growing up in the South Bronx of New York City he knew why law enforcement must be a community-based effort, better than anyone else. The enforcement of the rule of law and community participation has been the hallmark of his career.

His concept of service to his country always transcended his own personal plans and desires; as you could ask his wife, Elizabeth, and his four children. His duty came first initially as a United States Marine, then as a dedicated lawman, and lastly, as a concerned and active citizen of this great nation. The men that served with him in the United States Marine Corps would have followed him anywhere — because he is a leader. The Policemen he served with in the 47th Precinct in the New York Police Department considered him a “cop’s cop.” His fellow DEA agents knew that when Julio Mercado was on a case, everything would turn out alright and everyone would go home in one piece. There is no greater praise for a D.E.A. agent working the streets.

His technical and tactical competence set the standard for the men and women who followed him. His undercover work, in the most dangerous of situations, is the stuff that legends are made of. He rose to the very top of his profession in the D.E.A. by working harder and more wisely, and helping others to help others.

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the essence of what Julio F. Mercado has meant to international law enforcement. His name is spoken with great respect and warmth wherever honest cops gather. He is truly a “cop’s cop.”

I am proud to stand in the halls of the United States Congress to recognize Julio F. Mercado for his superb service to this great nation. He is a role model for young Americans. He grew up in the D.E.A., and the D.E.A. grew with him. The success of this great law enforcement agency is the culmination of the efforts of men and women like Julio Mercado. His story is an outstanding example of how one man, who came from humble beginnings, can serve his country and his fellow man and can truly make a difference. Our country owes him and his family, a great debt of gratitude.

JULIO F. MERCADO, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Julio F. Mercado began his law enforcement career with the New York Police Department, assigned to the 47th Precinct, in 1973. During that period, he worked with DEA as Task Force. Mr. Mercado’s employment with DEA commenced in 1979, with his assignment to the New York Field Division. During his tenure, he conducted nearly 700 undercover buys and had a 100% conviction rate. Mr. Mercado, who is fluent in the Spanish language, remained in New York until his assignment to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1984. He was promoted to Group Supervisor in 1987 and was transferred to the McAllen District Office, McAllen, Texas, in 1991. Mr. Mercado received his first Headquarters assignment and served as Staff Coordinator of the Heroin Investigations Section until 1992. Next, he was assigned to the Special Operations Division, where he served as the Deputy Chief. In 1995, Mr. Mercado was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Caribbean Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico. During this assignment, he became involved in many high-profile cases, as well as community drug education and prevention programs in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Mercado was selected as Special Agent in charge, Dallas Field Division, Dallas, Texas, in 1997, and reported on May 25, 1997. On November 2, 1999, Mr. Mercado was named Acting Deputy Administrator of the DEA and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Deputy Administrator on June 29, 2000. He was sworn in on September 12, 2000.

Mr. Mercado is a member of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission; the Texas Police Chiefs Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. He attended John Jay College in New York, with a major in Criminal Justice. Mr. Mercado and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children and four grandchildren.

HONORING MR. JOHN YOUNGER OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BOB CLEMENT OF TENNESSEE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Younger of Nashville, Ten-