

a degree of comfort to their families in honoring them today.

Bryan Paul Richmond and Brendan James Allan shared much in terms of common experience. Bryan was a senior at Truckee High School, while Brendan was in his last year at Prosser Creek Charter School, in Truckee. Both excelled academically and planned to attend college upon graduating. They also had a mutual love of skiing and were nationally ranked competitors with the Squaw Valley Ski Team. In fact, they were both named to the Far West Ski Team, an honor given to the top skiers in the Far West Division. They shared the dream of becoming members of the U.S. Ski Team one day.

In a sad, but perhaps fitting twist of fate, these two friends who were born only one day apart, and who shared a talent and passion for skiing, left this world on the same day doing what they loved most. Their lives were claimed by the very mountains that had given them so much joy.

Bryan is survived by his mother, Patti Robbins-Nicols, his father, Don Richmond, and his younger sister, Diane.

Brendan leaves behind his mother, Shelly Allan Boone, his father Gary Allan, and his younger sister, Heather.

May both families remember these young men with fondness whenever they gaze up at the majestic, snow-covered peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. May they hear the exuberant laughter of two boys when the gusty mountain winds blow. May they sense great calm when the first snow of a new season blankets the world in silence. And may Bryan and Brendan rest in peace while their memory burns bright in the hearts of their loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING PROFESSOR DOCTOR E. EDWARD SEE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2001*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career in the field of education is coming to an end. Dr. E. Edward See, of Warrensburg, Missouri, will retire from Central Missouri State University on June 30, 2001.

Dr. See has been a popular and highly respected educator in the state of Missouri for nearly forty years. A graduate of Central Missouri State University and Missouri University, Dr. See has specialized in theater and speech. Throughout his career he taught junior and senior high school in the Raytown, Missouri, school district, as a graduate assistant at Central Missouri State University and Missouri University, and as a professor and chair of the theater department at Central Missouri State University.

In addition to his commitment in the classroom, Dr. See has directed approximately 45 plays at Central Missouri State University and served as president and on the board of directors for the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri. He has been honored for endeavors in teaching and drama. He was nominated for

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the Outstanding Teacher Award by the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, directed a play which received commendation from the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, and saw the establishment of seven different scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. See deserves the thanks and praises of the many students that he has served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this exceptional teacher.

LET'S MAKE SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT FOR 75 YEARS AND BEYOND

**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2001*

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, we all want to ensure Social Security's long-term solvency. So, the only remaining question is how we get it done.

Congress could reduce benefits or increase the retirement age like the Social Security reform measures enacted in 1977 and 1983. During these past efforts, Congress phased in an increase in the normal retirement age from 65 to 67 and reduced benefit levels. I haven't heard a lot of support lately for further increasing the retirement age or cutting benefits for future retirees.

Some believe we should create individual accounts to invest funds in the private market. This proposal would accelerate the Social Security solvency problem by taking funds out of the system that have already been counted when estimating long-term solvency.

Further, concerns have been raised that using individual accounts would jeopardize the progressive nature of the system, which helps ensure low-income workers a basic benefit level. Social Security was established as a guaranteed minimum retirement package. Individuals already have the option of supplementing this plan with private savings and investments.

Others suggest investing Social Security funds in equity markets, while also retaining guaranteed benefits. This approach might increase the earnings of the trust funds, but would also involve greater risk.

I recommend another option—increase the interest rate we pay to Social Security. Over the past 10 years, the Social Security trust funds have received interest of about 4.5 percent over inflation. I propose that we raise that rate—or “refinance”—at 6 percent over inflation, making Social Security solvent indefinitely.

Under my approach, funds to ensure Social Security solvency must come from the General Treasury. This plan keeps our commitment to extend Social Security for future retirees, and provides for a straight-forward accounting of the cost of these obligations within the budget framework that we use to fund our national priorities. It is not an instant solution, but an honest path to address the Social Security solvency problem for the coming wave of Baby Boom retirees.

IN MEMORY OF JUSTICE EARL STOVER

**HON. JIM TURNER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2001*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Justice Earl Stover, a pillar in the community of Silsbee, Texas, whose passing last month shook so many of us who have been touched by his passion for life and his compassion for his fellow Texans.

As a college football player, Earl Stover became known as “Smokey” Stover—and the name stuck. Smokey's life touched every corner of his community in Silsbee.

If you ask former Silsbee School District Superintendent Herbert Muckleroy what he thought of Smokey, he'll tell you about Justice Stover's respect for education: “He believed in education. His boys got a good education and he wanted everybody else to get the same. And he supported whatever it took to do that.”

Eddie Doggett, who worked for Smokey almost half a century ago in 1957, will tell you about Justice Stover's work ethic: “He believed in loyalty. He set goals and accomplished them.”

And Chief Justice Ronald Walker, who served with Smokey Stover on the Ninth Court of Appeals, will tell you tales about Smokey's sharp legal mind: “Many of his opinions are now recorded for the posterity and benefit of this state's jurisprudence.”

Justice Stover served his community as president of the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce, president of the Silsbee Kiwanis Club, as a trustee of the Silsbee School District, as a strong supporter of the Silsbee Doctors Hospital, and as an active member of his church.

His contributions to the Texas legal community were equally memorable. Justice Stover served as the Hardin County Attorney, as presiding judge of the 88th Judicial District Court for nine years, and a Justice on the Ninth Court of Appeals for seven years.

Along with his other friends, my life was enriched by knowing Smokey. He always brought a smile to your face and he always offered an encouraging word. He understood the important role government could play in the lives of ordinary people. Justice Stover was firmly committed to the proposition that in the courtroom before the bar of justice, the powerful and the powerless stood as equals. He knew that in the halls of Congress and the Legislature, the workings of the democratic process can guarantee every citizen an equal opportunity to share in the American dream. Smokey always reminded me to “watch out for his Social Security.” I knew he didn't just mean for him, but for every American who deserves to live their latter years with independence and dignity.

On December 9, 2000, Smokey Stover's battle with cancer took his life, leaving a void in our community that cannot be replaced. The words of his Silsbee neighbor Mitch Hickman best expressed the admiration we all held for Justice Stover.

“You could go home and dust off your Bible, read it cover to cover, and not find enough good words to say about Smokey Stover.”