

resident foreign nationals may make contributions to candidates for federal office. This section of law was enacted into law before American Samoa had a delegate in the House of Representatives. My concern is that if Congress changes this section of campaign finance law while we know of the U.S. national problem, our action could be interpreted to mean that Congress intended to prohibit non-citizen U.S. nationals from contributing to federal elections.

This would cause a major problem in American Samoa, because a majority of the residents of my Congressional district would be prohibited from contributing to candidates running for federal office, particularly the office of Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Moreover, the U.S. nationals residing in the states and other territories of the United States, estimated to be approximately 100,000 to 130,000, would also be prohibited from contributing. Few U.S. nationals are aware of the U.S. citizen/U.S. national distinction made in federal campaign laws, and many contribute to candidates for the U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and to candidates for U.S. President. One interpretation of the law could find these candidates in violation of campaign finance laws for having received contributions from persons not authorized under the law.

This substance of this bill passed the House in the 106th Congress as part of broader legislation on the subject of campaign finance reform, but the provision was not enacted into law. As we continue the debate the financing of federal elections, I hope that we will be able to clarify this point of law also.

TRIBUTE TO RUDY NICHOLS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and esteem that I congratulate Mr. Rudy Nichols and Mr. Lupe Valadez on their retirement from the United Steelworkers of America. Rudy has been a member of the USWA for over 45 years, while Lupe has served for over 50 years. These two men, along with their colleagues, help form the economic backbone for Northwest Indiana. Without their hard work and dedication, the communities of Northwest Indiana would indeed suffer. A retirement celebration will be held in their honor on April 21, 2001 at the Dynasty Banquet Center in Hammond, Indiana.

Rudy Nichols began his distinguished career at the age of 18 as an armature winder and motor inspector for Youngstown Sheet and Tube in East Chicago, Indiana in February, 1956. During that time, he became a member of USWA Local 1011 and served as an apprentice representative and shop steward. He later moved on to the Midwest Steel Division of National Steel in Portage, Indiana, where he became a member of Local 6103. Through his perseverance and undying loyalty he eventually became the president of the local, and served on several committees that were devoted to improving the quality of the workplace for its members. After 13 impressive years at

National Steel, Rudy moved on to become the Safety and Health Coordinator for District 31 in August, 1978. He quickly moved up within the union and became the Sub District 4 Director, the position he currently holds. With Mary, his wife of 45 years, by his side, Rudy has watched as their two children, Walter and Rhonda, have grown to be outstanding citizens and parents of their own.

Lupe Valadez was the fourth of six sons born to Gerardo and Ventura Valadez on the south side of Chicago. After serving with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, Lupe came home to follow in his father's footsteps and begin working at U.S. Steel South Works, where he immediately became heavily involved in USWA Local 65. He eventually went on to serve the local in many capacities, including Public Relations Director, Assistant Grievanceman, and three terms as Financial Secretary. After more than 20 years of devoted and outstanding service, District 31 Director Jack Parton recognized the important qualities that Lupe could bring to the District office and hired him as an organizer. Within ten short years Lupe became the Organizing Coordinator for District 31. When the union consolidated in 1995, he became the first Organizing Coordinator for District 7, which encompasses the states of Indiana and Illinois. Lupe's first concern, however, has always been his family. His loving wife Olivia, and sons Dino, Nick, Michael, and John Paul can usually be seen helping with the numerous activities he is coordinating.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Rudy Nichols and Lupe Valadez on their retirement from the United Steelworkers of America. Unions are a vital aspect of the communities of Northwest Indiana, and these two men have shown the loyalty, perseverance, and work ethic that allow the unions to thrive. Their efforts will surely be missed by their coworkers and the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION AND CLEAR CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced legislation commending the American Football Coaches Association and Clear Channel Communications for their dedication and efforts to protect children. These two organizations teamed up to provide a vital means for locating the Nation's missing, kidnapped and runaway children.

In 1997, the National Child Identification Program was created with the goal of fingerprinting 20 million children. This program provides a free fingerprint kit for parents. This ID Kit allows parents to take and store their child's fingerprints in their own home. This information then remains in the parents' possession. If it is ever needed, it gives authorities vital information to assist them in their efforts to locate a missing child.

In the program's first year, over 2 million identification kits were handed out at college football games across the country. Since that time, over 8 million of these kits have been distributed to parents. This is the largest child identification effort ever conducted.

Clear Channel Communications partnered with the American Football Coaches Association last September and has committed to raise millions of dollars to help provide a kit to every child in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I think our Nation would be a much better place if more organizations would join together like these have to help the innocent children in this country. Through this legislation, I would like to commend these two organizations for their efforts, and I hope my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this bill.

IN TRIBUTE TO SHEILA GONZALEZ

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 4, 2001*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sheila Gonzalez, who is leaving her post this month as executive officer, clerk and jury commissioner for the courts of Ventura County, California, after 14 years of dedicated service.

Fortunately for my constituents in Ventura County and Santa Barbara County's Carpinteria, she won't be going far. Sheila has accepted a position as the first-ever regional administrative director of Southern California for California's Administrative Office of the Courts. As liaison between the state and trial courts on technology, finance, human resources and other issues, Sheila will serve 10 counties, including those in my district.

Southern California is fortunate to have a dedicated, hardworking and intelligent professional working for them.

Sheila began her career in 1968 as a deputy clerk at the Glendale Municipal Court. She rose to court administrator before leaving in 1986 for her position as executive officer and clerk of the Ventura County Municipal Court. In 1989, the administrations and staffs of Ventura County's Municipal and Superior Courts combined, and the county's judges selected Sheila to oversee the new arrangement.

At Ventura County, Sheila earned a statewide reputation as a tireless administrator and innovator, which is why California recruited her for this new position. Among her innovations is the Taking the Courthouse to the Schoolroom program, which aims to educate students and teachers about the court system. She also chairs the Community Outreach Team.

Because of her dedication and innovative spirit, Sheila has received several prestigious awards. She received the 1993 Warren E. Burger Award for outstanding court achievement in court administration and the 1995 Judicial Council Distinguished Service Award for contributions to, and leadership in, the profession of judicial administration.

In addition, Sheila received the 1997 National Association for Court Management's Award of Merit for demonstrated leadership and excellence in administration and application of modern management and technological