

served as Chairman of the county bar association.

Before his election to Congress in November of 1970, he served two terms in the Indiana House of Representatives. As a Member of the U.S. Congress, Bud was known for a unique combination of genteel civility and firm resolve. During his years in Washington, he was noted for his leadership on several issues of vital importance to Hoosiers and to the nation as a whole.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Bud was instrumental in the development and deployment of the M-1 tank and the preservation of Grissom Air Force Reserve Base. He took a serious interest in the automobile industry as a founding member of the Congressional Auto Task Force and was a leading advocate of the rescue of Chrysler. He was also a strong force in the Congressional Steel Caucus as Vice President of the executive committee. Bud also took seriously our nation's commitments to our veterans. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he was a leader in caring for our country's veterans, and was instrumental in the construction of the outpatient clinic at Crown Point.

Mr. Speaker, Bud Hillis has a distinguished record of service to his country and to the people he represented here in the House of Representatives. The dedication of the Kokomo post office, would be a fitting tribute for such an honorable and accomplished man.

HONORING LESLIE BELCHER
SOWELL

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my chief of staff, Leslie Belcher Sowell, who is leaving the service of Oklahoma's Third Congressional District this past Thursday, May 24, 2001 after many, many years as a member of my staff. Leslie is a multi-talented young woman whom I have watched grow and mature from a young congressional intern into a true professional as my top congressional advisor and most trusted political assistant.

Leslie grew up in Chandler, Oklahoma, in the Third District. She is a graduate of Chandler High School and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Leslie first joined my staff as a congressional intern. Later, after she graduated from college, Leslie joined my office full-time as a staff assistant and receptionist. It wasn't long before Leslie earned a promotion to legislative assistant, and she eventually became one of my top assistants for the House Appropriations Committee. Her assistance as invaluable to my efforts to help the economic and job growth of the Third District.

When I left Congress after 1990, Leslie returned to OSU where she served on the staff of the university's government relations office. She returned to Capitol Hill a few years later to work as legislative director for my successor in the Third District, Rep. Bill Brewster, D-Oklahoma.

In 1996, when I decided to return to Congress, Leslie again joined me, this time as my

chief of staff and top political advisor. In addition, she served as my legislative director and press secretary during the initial period of my first term back in Congress when we were organizing my new staff.

In 1997, during consideration of a major tax bill, Leslie became an underlying catalyst in my efforts to make sure former Native American lands in Oklahoma were eligible for tax incentives created to encourage economic development on Native American reservations. Leslie helped me guide this hallmark legislation through the Ways and Means Committee, through the full House, and through final passage. This legislation has meant more to economic growth and job development in Oklahoma than any efforts in recent history. Without Leslie Belcher Sowell's efforts, it would have been nearly impossible for me to see this legislation passed into law. Her last action in our office was making a phone call trying to get this process extended until 2009.

Leslie has always shared my goal of improving the economic conditions in rural Oklahoma, which is why she has been such a perfect fit for my staff. Leslie has been dedicated and committed to my efforts whether I was Democrat, Independent, or Republican.

I have had the privilege of watching Leslie grow in her career, seeing her marry the love of her life, taking on her most challenging and rewarding job ever—becoming a mother. Leslie is a dear friend, and I thank her for her service to the Third District, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.

Leslie: I will miss you, and the Third District will miss you. May God bless you and your family. I tip my hat to you, and thank you for your loyal friendship and a job well done.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ENERGY
POLICY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, for months now, people in our area and all over the country have been upset with the ever-increasing cost of gasoline, and rightfully so. At a time when we are facing one of the most serious energy shortages in history I am especially interested in President Bush's plan for a national energy policy. I have strongly supported a long range energy policy for our country.

I believe the President's energy plan has many good points including a \$2 billion coal initiative and increased use of reformulated gasolines using ethanol. However, I believe his proposal can be improved upon. For example, we have the ability now, to use reformulated gasoline in a much greater capacity. In addition, Congress needs to ensure the President's new Clean Coal Power Initiative is adequately funded. Coal, which we have an abundance of in Southwestern Illinois, is an excellent alternative use of fuel. I think the President's coal initiative is a great idea that can be expanded to include incentives for new and improved clean coal technologies. We can and should use this abundant resource in an environmentally sound way. Coal usage will

greatly reduce our dependence on foreign oil and avoid a band-aid approach, like drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, excluding California and Hawaii, my home state of Illinois is faced with the highest gas prices in the country. Cutting gas prices now is essential! This can be done in a variety of ways: opening marginal use wells, producing more ethanol and ensuring oil companies are not making record breaking profits from increased gas pricing.

I have also started hearing from many farmers who want to hear more about the role ethanol will play in the President's plan. I was very disappointed to learn that Vice President CHENEY does not believe alternative fuels are a viable option right now. CHENEY stated "Years down the road alternative fuels may become a great deal more plentiful. But we are not yet in any position to stake our economy and our own way of life on that possibility." We can and should use alternative fuels now! In 2000 alone the ethanol industry expanded production by 155 million gallons and is on course to increase by an additional 400 million gallons in 2001. Each day more than 5 million gallons of ethanol are blended into about 65 million gallons of gasoline—adding critical volume to a tight gasoline market and reducing the pressure on price. Ethanol is far less expensive than MTBE—refiners could replace \$1.50 of MTBE with 50 cents of ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will ensure improvements are made to the President's plan that will allow for immediate relief and assure our constituents that we will not continue the upward spiral of higher gas prices or greater dependence on foreign oil year after year.

TRIBUTE TO PROVIDIAN
FINANCIAL CORPORATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely honored and proud to rise today to salute Providian Financial Corporation for its selection as this year's Quality Cup service industry award winner, as named by the Rochester Institute of Technology and USA Today.

On learning of Providian's selection, I felt a special sense of pride in knowing that this company is based in the Bay Area and that thousands of its employees live and work in my district.

Providian is an outstanding corporate citizen. In my own district, Providian partnered with the NFL Oakland Raiders to raise more than \$40,000 last year for a children's education center. The company's dedication to the community translates to its business practices as seen by this recognition of its high quality customer service.

Providian also deserves commendation serving people along every point of the economic spectrum. The company believes that providing access to credit helps people build better lives. And, it works hard to help people obtain and manage the credit they need.