

proceeding. Any issue actually raised or that could have been raised based on the evidence presented by that party and before the Patent Office will still be barred under my amendments. Thus, the adjustments to the law are fairly minor but, I think, fairly important as to the timing of the estoppel. These changes make the process fair and also perceived as fair.

Let me emphasize that the legislation I am offering is not designed to preclude or substitute for the possibility of litigation over important and valuable patents. It also will not make reexamination a substitute for situations where complex factual or legal issues must be resolved to reach a conclusion on validity of the patent. Instead, the legislation makes important but carefully measured enhancements to the system without undermining either the current structure of the process or its balance.

Indeed, this bill would ensure that the reexamination procedure retains important safeguards to prevent third parties from using the procedure to harass patent owners who hold valid patents. First, as noted, the estoppel imposed on unsuccessful challengers should prevent frivolous challenges. Those who challenge the patent in the PTO will not be able to challenge the patent later in a court on validity issues. Second, the PTO will still be required in every proceeding to first make an independent finding that there is a substantial question of patentability before it will start the proceeding. This is an essential component of the structure of the current law and any future system. Third, under the proposed system, no discovery or hearings will be allowed—meaning that a third party will not be able to conduct proceedings that will place the patent owner in a compromised situation.

In short, the legislation removes some of the shortcomings of the current inter partes system, and should present a viable and beneficial option for addressing the validity of some patents without the necessity of costly and complex litigation in a court.

Finally, I am honored that Chairman Howard Coble has agreed to be the principle co-sponsor of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER  
SERGEANT DALE E. BUCKINGHAM

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2001*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Dale E. Buckingham upon his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham has served our nation with honor and distinction for over 30 years, and his performance throughout his career has been characterized by the highest standards of professional ethics and commitment to the military. He grew up in Lowville, New York, and graduated from Lowville Academy and Central School in 1970. He entered the Air Force in 1971 and attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham was assigned to the 4642 Air Defense

Squadron (SAGE) at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, in 1972.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham's record of service is outstanding. In 1976, he was selected to be a recruiter with the 2543rd USAF Recruiting Squadron where he was named rookie recruiter of the year. In the following year he received the gold bald eagle signifying top recruiter and recruiting excellence. In 1983, Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham was assigned to Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. While there, he served with the 1st Combat Evaluation Squadron and Strategic Air Command Bombing and Navigation Division.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham, in 1987, was selected for the Defense Attache System being posted at the American Consulate in Hong Kong. Two years later he was reassigned to the American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey, as the Operations Coordinator. Following the completion of his tour in Ankara, Turkey, he was then assigned to Whiteman AFB, Missouri, and the 509th Bomb Wing. At Whiteman, he served as the base's chief of information management responsible for over 100 information managers. Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham was then assigned as the superintendent of the information systems flight in the Communications Squadron. In March 1998, he developed and established the First Term Airmen Center to help ease the transition for young airmen moving to Whiteman. He became the Command Chief Master Sergeant in March of 1999.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham is married to the former Christina Kay Rockey of Hiawatha, Kansas, and they have two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Chief Master Sergeant Buckingham and his wife, Christina, all the best. We thank them for over 30 years of service to the United States of America.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL  
AMERICANS: REV. DR. HENRY A.  
CHAN

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2001*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as the nation of Guyana celebrates its 35th Independence Anniversary, I would like to salute an outstanding Guyanese American, Rev. Dr. Henry A. Chan as a Point of Light for all Americans.

The Rev. Dr. Henry A. Chan was born in Guyana in 1946 at Golden Grove, East Bank Demera to Ruby and Clarence Chan. While growing up at Pin Schoon Ord, he attended primary schools on the West Bank of Demerara and obtained his secondary education at Queen's College in Georgetown, Guyana.

At the age of thirteen, Dr. Chan felt the call to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church and

was tutored in his teenage years by then Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop of Guyana, the Most Reverence Dr. Alan John Knight.

On completion of his studies at Queen's College in 1964, Dr. Chan was directed by Archbishop Knight to work for some years in order to obtain experience in the world before going on to Codrington College in Barbados and afterwards, to Durham University in England.

In 1967, instead, Dr. Chan came to the United States of America to further his studies in Engineering and Computer Science. He felt that the priestly vocation might have been a boyhood fantasy. But God had endowed Dr. Chan with many gifts and a broad knowledge during his Queens College years. He enrolled initially as a student in the Electronics Technology program at RCA Institutes.

During the ensuing years, Dr. Chan discovered that he had a hobby—collecting academic degrees. His degrees include Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Science (State University of New York, 1978); Master of Business Administration in Management (Dowling College, 1980); Doctor of Public Administration (Nova Southeastern University, 1981); Doctor of Ministry (University of the South, 1987); Master of Sacred Theology in Spiritual Direction (General Theological Seminary, 1990) and Doctor of Philosophy in Pastoral Psychology (Graduate Theological Foundation, 1994). He is also a 1982 graduate of the Mercer School of Theology in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, New York.

During the years 1969–1982, Dr. Chan held many positions in data processing, including systems analysis, project management, and long-range planning.

Dr. Chan is married to Jean Flora Chan, and they have three children, Anthony, Andre and Natasha. Dr. and Mrs. Chan became proud grandparents for the first time when Anthony and his wife Gloria, were blessed with a son, Justin on May 24, 2001.

Events in his life led Dr. Chan to test his vocation to the ordained ministry in the Episcopal (Anglican) Church. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1982 and to the Priesthood in 1983 in the Diocese of Long Island, where he has served up to this day. Dr. Chan has been at St. Peter's Church, Rosedale from January 1, 1988 to the present. He came to St. Peter's Church at a time when one of the considerations for the future of this Church was to close its doors because of the small size of the membership and financial giving. Under his pastoral leadership, however, St. Peter's is a thriving Church today with a membership of about 150 families from all parts of the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the United States of America. Furthermore, the Church is debt-free. During the past thirteen years, the buildings and ground have been restored and the people can tell from this that God is present in Rosedale and surrounding communities.

Each year in January and August when Dr. Chan has a break from his parish duties at St. Peter's Church, he travels to Guyana at his own expense, to render assistance to the Diocese of Guyana where there is an acute shortage of clergy. Dr. Chan eagerly looks forward