June 27, 2001

Most Valuable Player (MVP). Scoring 11 runs, 6 RBI’s, and 15 hits—including 11 singles, two doubles, one triple, and a homer, this Giant’s catcher/first baseman was enough to merit the coveted award. His second year in a row as MVP, Benjie finished the series 15-for-18 for an .833 batting average. A feat that will go down in GML history, Benjie’s batting average broke the series record of .556 set in 1993 by Fernando Díaz.

Always a team player, Benjie claims to have derived more satisfaction from the fact that his team won the championship. He recognizes that this is a feat that was not singlehandedly accomplished. Despite his superior performance, he still credits all of his team members for the victory. He notes that although the Giants have lost formidable players in the past, a new crop of athletes has emerged to fill in the void. In addition, he credited the team’s family members for their sacrifices and support in giving the players the chance to be out on the field and have such a wonderful season. Benjie is married to Nicole Oulette Pangelinan and they have a three-year-old child, Kianna.

Regional and local competitions such as the Guam Major League baseball games provide entertainment, promote community relations and prepare our athletes for higher levels of competition. Once again, I would like to commend and congratulate the Pepsi Giants and especially the series MVP, Benjie Pangelinan, for their superb performance and efforts which resulted in this year’s championship. I am sure that they will stay committed to their winning ways in the years to come.

A BILL TO MAKE PERMANENT THE AUTHORITY TO REDACT FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS OF JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS

HON. HOWARD COBLE
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, Representative Berman, I rise to introduce a bill to make permanent the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers.

Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. However, due to the nature of the judicial function and the increased security risks it entails, section 7 of the “Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998” allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where the release of the information could endanger the filer or his or her family. This provision will sunset on December 31, 2001, in the absence of further legislative action.

The Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure recently submitted a report on section 7. The Committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute, reviews redactions requests, and approves or disapproves any request for the redaction of statutorily mandated information where the release of the information could endanger the filer. In 2000, the Committee noted that: (1) 13 financial disclosure reports were wholly redacted because the judge was under a specific, active security threat; (2) 140 judges’ reports were partially redacted (9) of which were based on specific threats; the other 81 due to general threats and the potential risk of disclosure of a family member’s unsecured workplace or a residence of a judge or a judge’s family); and (3) a total of 218 financial disclosure reports, which include reports from previous years, were partially redacted.

The purpose of the annual financial disclosure reports required by the Ethics in Government Act is to increase public confidence in government officials and better enable the public to judge the performance of those officials. However, federal judges should be allowed to redact certain information from financial disclosures when they or a family member is threatened. Importantly, the practice has never interfered with the release of critical information to the public. This bill will eliminate the sunset in section 7 and permit the Judicial Conference to permanently redact information in financial disclosure reports where the information could endanger the filer or his or her family. This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it when it is brought to the House Floor for consideration.

REMARKS HONORING FORMER DALLAS COWBOY’S QUARTERBACK TROY AIKMAN

HON. KAY GRANGER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend NFL quarterback Troy Aikman on his very successful football career, and extend my gratitude for his steadfast dedication to improving the lives of children. Mr. Aikman has more than equalled his professional career with his personal involvement in the community. His character both on and off the field has been a tremendous asset to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Troy Aikman was born in West Covina, California. His family moved to Henryetta, Oklahoma where he graduated from Henryetta High School. Aikman went on to play college football at the University of Oklahoma and the University of California, Los Angeles. He quickly became a star. Upon Mr. Aikman’s graduation, he was the third highest rated quarterback in NCAA history. He also won the highest award for college quarterbacks, the Davey O’Brien National Quarterback Award.

When Mr. Aikman was drafted in the first round by the Cowboys, he quickly became the leader of the team and an integral part of the Dallas-Fort Worth community. During his 12 seasons with the Cowboys, Mr. Aikman led them to three Super Bowl Championships and played in six Pro Bowls. He was named Super Bowl XXVII Most Valuable Player for his performance in the Cowboy’s first Super Bowl of the 1990’s. Mr. Aikman is also the Cowboy’s all-time leader in passing yards, touchdown passes, completion percentage, pass attempts and completions. The Cowboys will surely miss his talent and leadership.

Mr. Aikman has devoted himself to helping critically ill children. In 1992, he established The Troy Aikman Foundation to provide financial support for the physical, psychological, social, and educational needs of critically ill children whose needs are not being met by any other viable resource. Through the Foundation, Mr. Aikman created “Aikman’s End Zones” for children’s hospitals. “Aikman’s End Zones” are interactive playrooms and theaters designed to give critically ill children a place of refuge during their stays in the hospital. Depending on the space available, the facility includes an 8-foot-tall replica of Troy’s helmet, a 1,100 gallon saltwater aquarium, a theater, and an interactive computer network. Mr. Aikman established End Zones at The Children’s Hospital of Dallas, Texas and at Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. His ultimate goal is to have Aikman’s End Zones in every NFL city.

Mr. Aikman has also teamed up with the Starbright Foundation, founded by Stephen Spielberg and General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. The Starbright Foundation’s mission is to improve the lives of critically ill children through technology and entertainment. Starbright provides the interactive computer network in “Aikman’s End Zones.”

In addition to his foundation activities, Mr. Aikman has served on the board of Stars for Children and has been honorary chairman for numerous charitable fundraisers throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Mr. Aikman sponsors a scholarship at Henryetta High School for students who want to attend college but can’t afford it, and has also established a permanently endowed scholarship at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1994, Aikman was honored for his community service when he received the Byron “Whizzer” White Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Aikman has also become a children’s book author. In 1995 he published his first book titled Things Change. The message of the book is how to use change to one’s advantage and view difficult times as learning experiences rather than as setbacks. In 1998, he published a second book called Aikman: Mind, Body & Soul which is his autobiography.

Troy Aikman continues to give unselfishly to our community, and we are grateful for the work he has done. He is the perfect example of what a terrific role model professional athletes can be if they use the fame and wealth they have been blessed with in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again congratulate Troy Aikman on a wonderful football career and thank him for his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of children.