being the first and only nationally syndicated black gospel television show. Jones also later produced a wealth of new musical talent to the world through his television shows. Artists such as Yolanda Adams, Kirk Franklin, and Hezekiah Walker first came to the attention of the public after being showcased on “Bobby Jones Gospel.” Additionally, his video program on BET, the only national black gospel video program to date. He also hosts a weekly syndicated gospel countdown show heard on radio stations across the nation.

Bobby Jones has always aspired to great things. The Henry County, Tennessee, native dreamed of a musical career at an early age, which drove him to graduate from high school at the age of 15 and to earn a bachelor’s degree from Tennessee State University (TSU) at the age of 19. An education major, he went on to earn a master’s degree from TSU, and doctorate from Vanderbilt University. Upon graduation, Jones successfully taught in both the Tennessee and Missouri school systems. He is also credited with forming the now familiar “Black Expo,”—fair-like events, which take place across the Nation and celebrate the many contributions of African Americans to the community in which they take place.

Bobby Jones has been honored numerous times by his peers. In 1980, he received The Gabriel Award and an International Film Festival Award for writing and performing Make A Joyful Noise. In 1982, he was nominated for a Grammy Award, along with his group, New Life. The Gospel Music Association (GMA) honored him in 1984, with a Dove Award for Black Contemporary Album of the Year. That same year he picked up a Grammy Award for “Best Vocal Duet for a Soul/Gospel Performance” for the single he recorded with Barbara Mandrell. “I’m So Glad I’m Standing Here Today.” He also won an NAACP Image Award in 1984. The GMA honored him with the “Commonwealth Award for Outstanding Contribution to Gospel Music” in 1990. In 1994, Jones was nominated for a Cable ACE Award. His autobiography, “My 25 Years in Gospel Music: Make a Joyful Noise” was recently released by Doubleday Books. Another recent venture is his new television program “Bobby Jones Presents . . .” for the Word Network. This show contains classic performances from “Bobby Jones Gospel.”

Jones is to be commended and honored for twenty-five years of outstanding service to the gospel music industry. He is a beloved figure who no doubt will continue to enlighten audiences for many years to come.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION

HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago this month, on August 3, 1976, a law was enacted creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. We know it as the “Helsinki Commission.” One of the smallest and most unique bodies in the U.S. Government, it perhaps ranks among the most effective for its size. I have been proud to be a member of the Commission for the past 16 years.

When President Gerald Ford signed, in Helsinki in 1975, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, he said that “history will judge this Conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow—not only by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep.” That piece of rhetoric has not only been repeated in various forms by every United States President since; it has continually served as a basis for U.S. policy toward Europe.

Credit for this fact, and for the Commission’s establishment, first goes to our late colleague here in the House, Milcent Fenwick, and the late- Senator Clifford Case, both of New Jersey. Observing the foundation of human rights groups in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in 1980, it was hoped that these organizations would encourage their governments to keep the promises made in Helsinki, and other Members of Congress felt it would be good to give them some signs of support. Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that this was in the midst of the detente between the United States and the communist countries of Eastern Europe, meeting dissidents and freedom fighters. The Commission’s history often reflects an overt attempt to insert itself into the USSR was never officially recognized as a place for mere debate on approaches to foreign policy; it had actually to insert itself into the policy-making process. The Commission’s creation, first goes to our late colleague, Dante Fascell of Florida, fought hard to do just that. Eventually, the hard work paid off, and the beginning of my tenure with the Commission coincided with the first signs under Gorbachev that East-West divisions were finally coming to an end. Sharing the chairmanship with my Senate counterpart, the late Alfonse D’Amato of New York and then Dennis DeConcini of Arizona—the Commission argued against easing the pressure at the time it was beginning to produce results. We argued for the human rights counterpart of President Reagan’s “zero option” for arms control, in which not only the thousands of dissenters and political prisoners saw benefits. They were joined by millions of everyday people—workers, farmers, students—suddenly feeling more openness, real freedom, and an opportunity with democratic hopes. Dissidents on whose behalf the Commission fought—while so many others were labeling them insignificant fringe elements in society—were now being released and becoming government leaders, people like Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek and Czech President Vaclav Havel. The independence of the Baltic States, whose forceful incorporation into the USSR was never officially recognized by the United States, was actually reestablished, followed by others wishing to act upon the Helsinki right to self-determination. The
Commission was among the first to suggest not as rhetoric but as a real possibility the holding of free and fair elections, tearing down the Berlin Wall, and beginning a new world order in Europe.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, those of us on the Commission knew that the fall of communism would give rise to new problems, namely the extreme nationalism which communism swept under the rug of repression rather than neutralized with democratic antiseptic. Still, none of us fully anticipated what was to come in the 1990s. It was a decade of democratic achievement, but it nevertheless witnessed the worst violations of Helsinki principles and provisions, including genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and brutal conflicts elsewhere in the Balkans as well as in Chechnya, the Caucasus and Central Asia, with hundreds of thousands innocent civilians killed and millions displaced. Again, it was the Commission which helped keep these tragedies from becoming a struggle for human rights, democracy, holding hearings, visiting war zones and advocating an appropriately active and decisive U.S. response. In the face of such serious matters, too many sought to blame history and even democracy, equated victim with aggressor and foolishly abandoned the principles upon which Helsinki was based. Again the Commission, on a bipartisan basis in dialogue with different Administrations, took strong issue with such an approach. Moreover, with our distinguished colleague, Christopher Smith of New Jersey, taking his turn as Chairman during these tragic times, the Commission took on a new emphasis in seeking justice for victims, providing much needed humanitarian relief and supporting democratic movements in places like Serbia for the sake of long-term stability and the future of the people living there.

In this new decade, Mr. Speaker, the Commission has remained actively engaged on the issues of the time. Corruption and organized crime, trafficking of women and children into sexual slavery, and widespread bribery, discrimination in society, particularly against Romani populations in Europe, present new challenges. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, the latest Commission Chairman, has kept the Commission current and relevant. In addition, there continue to be serious problem areas or widespread or systemic violations of OSCE standards in countries of the Balkans, Central Asia and the Caucasus, or reversals of the democratization process as in Belarus. The Commission was born in the Cold War, but its true mission—fighting for human rights, democracy, and development is so vitally important to this country.

Though his commitment to "The Neighborhood News" in 1961 after serving in the U.S. Navy Air Force in Guam. As publisher, Mr. Psenicka campaigned for cleaner air and strict anti-pollution regulations. He fought for countless causes to make life better for hard-working Czech and Polish-American readers. Under his leadership, "The Neighborhood News" earned the Newspaper as well, and I know that all of my colleagues who have been on the Commission or worked with it are enormously proud of that fact.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I wish to erase any illusion I have given in my praise for the Helsinki Commission on its first quarter of a century that it had single-handedly vanquished the Soviet empire or stopped the genocidal Helsinki Commission on its first quarter of a century. That is not the case. While it was a vehicle through which the United States Government was able to bring the will of the American people for morality and human rights into European diplomacy.

To those who were in the Soviet gulag, or in Ceausescu's Romania as a recent acquaintance there relayed to me with much emotion, the fact that some Americans and others were out there, speaking on their behalf, gave them the will to survive those dark days, and to continue the struggle for freedom. Many of those voices were emanating in the non-governmental community, groups like Amnesty International, Freedom House and Human Rights Watch. Through the Helsinki Commission, the voice of the United States Congress was still heard as well, and I know that all of my colleagues who have been on the Commission or worked with it are enormously proud of that fact.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JAMES V. PSENICKA
HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a very fine man, Mr. James V. Psenicka, for his dedicated years of service and countless contributions to the community.

Mr. Psenicka was born in Maple Heights to Czech immigrants who met and married in the United States. The family then moved to Streetsboro to purchase land. Mr. Psenicka graduated from Kent State High School in 1950 and immediately joined the staff of "The Neighborhood News" where he served as a reporter and advertising salesman. He soon earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from Kent State University in 1955.

Mr. Psenicka assumed the role of owner and publisher of "The Neighborhood News" in 1961 after serving in the U.S. Navy Air Force in Guam. As publisher, Mr. Psenicka campaigned for cleaner air and strict anti-pollution regulation. He fought for countless causes to make life better for hard-working Czech and Polish-American readers. Under his leadership, "The Neighborhood News" earned the newspaper the highest honors as a Weekly Newspaper by the Neighborhood and Community Press Association of Greater Cleveland in 1999.

Although his commitment to "The Neighborhood News" earned the newspaper countless awards and honors, Mr. Psenicka kept family and friends first. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and three sons to Canada, Greece, Europe, and many other places. He relished boating and gardening. You would often see Mr. Psenicka off the coast of Lake Erie fishing. Mr. Psenicka also had an incredible dedication to his local community. He served as a member of Karlin Hall on Fleet Avenue and the Small Business Advisory Council to the U.S. Congress. In addition, Mr. Psenicka served as a dedicated member to the Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland, the world's largest service organization.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. James V. Psenicka, a man that has touched the Cleveland and world community in many ways. His love, dedication, and honor will be greatly missed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF HON. WES WATKINS
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 21, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2217, the Interior Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. Among the components of that act is funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and its program of oil and natural gas research and development. Few among us understand what an important role oil and natural gas research and development plays in our nation's ability to produce critical quantities of those resources for our domestic consumption.

I would like to introduce into the RECORD today one of the recommendations contained in a report of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) entitled A Dependable Nation: How Federal Oil and Natural Gas Policy is Eroding America's Economic Independence. This report contains the IOGCC governors' own set of recommendations for a national oil and natural gas policy. It is my hope that this information will help explain why federally funded oil and natural gas research and development is so vitally important to this country.

RECOMMENDATION 2: PROMOTE THE EXPANSION OF RESEARCH TO RECOVER DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS RESOURCES

This far-reaching recommendation encompasses a number of initiatives designed to ensure the nation's reserves are fully developed. First, to make informed decisions regarding the nation's energy future, the public must have definitive information on the actual domestic petroleum resource.

For example, there are vast known reserves of oil in the United States. The IOGCC estimates that 351 billion barrels will remain in the ground after conventional recovery technologies have been applied.

In addition, there are oil and natural gas reserves located on private and public lands and offshore that have not been analyzed or catalogued. Some of these reserves may exist in environmentally sensitive areas or in difficult-to-access locations that would require extraordinary exploration and production measures or advanced research to develop. Therefore, in addition to identifying the entire oil and gas resource base of the country,