

other bills left by the death of a loved one. People can not control when they die, but, unfortunately, their bills and expenses remain.

Why punish those who pay their taxes, serve our country, and are law-abiding citizens? We should be going after the people who evade our tax system and the convicted felons who continue to receive Social Security benefits while in prison—not those people who contribute to society. This law is unfair and absurd.

That is why I am introducing the Social Security Benefits Fairness Act of 1996. My bill will return fairness to the Social Security System. The bill would amend the Social Security Act, allowing benefits to be paid for the month of death. A surviving spouse or family estate would receive one-half of a month's benefits if a person dies within the first 15 days of a month and full benefits if a person dies after the 15th. Making this fair and fundamental change will ensure that a surviving spouse or family will have the Social Security check to cover the expenses for the last month of life.

Please join me in this effort and cosponsor the Social Security Benefits Fairness Act of 1996.

CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Citizenship U.S.A. Program established by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Citizenship U.S.A. is the largest effort in the history of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to help eligible immigrants become U.S. citizens. This combined effort will allow the INS to be current with citizenship applications by the end of the summer. In order to achieve this goal, INS is focusing on updating three major components of the citizenship system—hiring of additional people, improving the process, and expanding INS's partnership with local officials and community organizations.

This program's necessity has been established by a dramatic rise of citizenship applications from an average of 300,000 annually before fiscal year 1994 to more than 1 million in fiscal year 1995, with more than 1 million additional applications expected for fiscal year 1996. The Miami district has been especially hard pressed, receiving nearly 107,000 N-400 applications in fiscal year 1995. This is easily a 174-percent increase over fiscal year 1994.

In order to meet the above challenge, INS has already approached several critical milestones as a result of this program. In February, INS opened the new Miami Citizenship Center. This serves as the new home for the entire Miami citizenship staff and is dedicated to the testing and interviewing of naturalization applicants. INS has also substantially increased its officer and clerical staff throughout the country, and has been able to extend its hours of operation significantly as a direct result. Citizenship U.S.A. has also contributed to completions of N-400 citizenship applications. As a result of this program, the Miami district completed 29,898 N-400 applications in the first 6 months of fiscal year 1996, more than the total number completed in all of fiscal year

1995. The Miami district expects to swear in an average of 24,000 new citizens each month during the peak period of this initiative.

I congratulate INS for this meritorious program.

LTC JAMES E. ROGERS ON HIS RECENT COMMAND APPOINTMENT

HON. DICK CHRYSLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. CHRYSLER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend LTC James E. Rogers on his appointment as the incoming commander of the U.S. Army's 82d Forward Support Battalion, 82d Airborne Division, stationed at Fort Bragg. LTC James Rogers has a long and distinguished military service record and has dedicated his life to protecting the freedom and liberty of our Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Rogers was born and raised in Howell, MI, where his parents Joyce and John Rogers still reside and where he still serves as an example to hundreds of local youths in the community of what personal honor and leadership can achieve.

Lieutenant Colonel Rogers was commissioned in the Ordnance Corps on June 6, 1979, upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Lieutenant Colonel Rogers was recommended for an appointment by my own former Congressman Bill Broomfield, and I only hope that I have the foresight he had in identifying the qualities needed for our future leaders.

Lieutenant Colonel Rogers military education includes Ordnance officer basic and advance courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, and the Army Command and General Staff College.

He has obtained further academic credentials in the course of his military service as well, earning a masters degree in industrial and operations engineering from the University of Michigan.

LTC James Rogers has served in several challenging assignments throughout the United States and Korea, ensuring that the military readiness of our troops is unmatched anywhere in the world. He has accelerated through the ranks and demonstrated an enormous capacity of responsibility and integrity as a military leader, earning him the respect of his superiors, his peers, and the men and women who serve under him.

He has earned personal awards and decorations that include the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leave Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leave Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

I have no doubt that in his newest assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Rogers will serve as an exemplary soldier, continuing the standard of excellence he has set for himself and living up to the 82d Forward Support Battalion's motto of Subsidiium—Sine Qua Non, Support—Without Which There Is Nothing.

Congratulations to LTC James E. Rogers. Good luck to you, your wife Reba, and your two young children Jeffrey and Thomas.

JIM MASUCCI RETIRES

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after 41 years with Capital Cities/ABC, and after 26 years at KTRK-TV in Houston—the last 6 years as president and general manager—Jim Masucci has decided its time to retire. I want to take a moment to salute Jim—both for his successful career in the television industry, but also for his outstanding record of community service.

Jim is not just a highly talented television executive. He is a friend with whom I've consulted on a number of telecommunications issues over the years. He is also a respected member of his community who has devoted his time and talents to a variety of civic programs that have touched the lives of tens of thousands of Houston-area residents.

Jim began his television career in 1956 as a member of the production staff of the original Capital Cities Communications station—WTEN-TV in Albany, NY. He later served as the station's director-producer, production manager and then programming director. While working at WTEN, Jim was responsible for producing 10 cerebral palsy telethons and received the George Washington Medal of Freedom for Excellence in Children's Programming.

In 1970, Jim moved to Houston to become operations manager at KTRK-TV, another Capital Cities Communications station. While serving as channel 13's operations manager, he produced the first televised Vince Lombardi Awards program, and was instrumental in the development of the televised Jefferson Awards ceremony. Jim also played a key role in developing "Good Morning Houston," one of the Nation's most-watched local talk shows.

That kind of success caught the attention of corporate management. In 1983, while still serving as operations manager of channel 13, Jim was named divisional vice president for Capital Cities. In 1986, Capital Cities acquired the ABC television network and became Capital Cities-ABC. Following that merger, Jim was named vice president of the broadcast division at Capital Cities-ABC.

But Mr. Speaker, it is Jim's record of community service that has made him one of the most respected broadcast executives in Texas.

In 1983, Jim helped create the Houston Crime Stoppers program, which aids the police in locating, and apprehending, suspects in unsolved crimes. Jim has served on the board of the Houston Crime Stoppers program—as well as on the board of the Houston's Area Urban League and the Houston Symphony.

Jim also has been recognized for a number of innovative community service efforts, including the Jefferson Awards, the Vince Lombardi Awards, the 1986 Texas Sesquicentennial celebration, the 1988 Challenger Center gala, and the 1990 Night of the Thousand Lights: A Houston Crackdown Celebration.

It was his work with the Houston Metropolitan Area Youth Soccer League that best illustrates the energy—and the success—that Jim brings to any project in which he's involved. Initially, organizers hoped that 1,500 inner-city youths would participate in the program. Due