

and place a call, they should not have to worry about someone stealing from them. We must end telecommunications fraud and stop these criminals cold.

Twelve telecommunications companies have come together to fight this crime and to enhance public awareness through the Alliance to Outfox Phone Fraud. Their education efforts have gone beyond their service areas and reach out to make the national and international community aware of this problem and how to deal with it. Besides public service announcements, the alliance has launched a full campaign to include brochures, posters, and even a toll free number to encourage telecommunications customers to educate themselves and join the campaign.

We in Congress must learn from efforts like this to help Americans become aware of this problem so they can avoid becoming victims of crime.

FAIRNESS FOR DISABLED
VETERANS ACT OF 1996

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about a very important issue that affects veterans in my district in Florida and veterans around the country. Right now, a veteran who has bravely served our Nation cannot collect VA disability payments while collecting payments for early separation from the armed services. Although a person may be eligible for both, under current law, a disabled veteran can't receive both. To me, that just doesn't make sense.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to introduce the Fairness for Disabled Veterans Act of 1996 to correct this injustice in current law.

The language of the bill is simple. The bill repeals the requirement that amounts paid to a member of the Armed Forces under special separation programs shall be offset from amounts subsequently paid to that member by the Department of Veterans Affairs as disability compensation. The repeal would be retroactive to the date this rule went into effect on December 5, 1991.

Here's how this works in practice. If an individual received an SSB payment of \$30,000, he would not receive the first \$30,000 of VA disability compensation to which he would otherwise have been entitled. This legislation would allow eligible individuals to receive the full amount of disability payments regardless of prior SSB or VSI payments.

In the early 1990's, Congress established early military separation benefits to help the Defense Department reduce the size of the Armed Forces. The Department of Defense [DOD] currently offers certain military personnel the opportunity to leave military service voluntarily in return for cash payments under two programs, the Special Separation Benefit [SSB] and the Voluntary Separation Incentive [VSI]. The SSB program offers a one-time cash payment, while the VSI program provides an annual payment over many years, depending on length of service. Servicemembers who leave service under these programs have the option of choosing either program.

When this law was passed, Congress also included restrictions on these programs preventing military personnel who receive early separation benefits from receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs until the separation benefits are repaid.

Today, thousands of the veterans who accepted the payment and left the military are suffering from service-connected disabilities such as gulf war syndrome and other health problems. These disabled veterans are unable to work and their families are faced with financial hardship.

SSB and VSI benefits are for services rendered as well as compensation for the veteran's participation in DOD's downsizing. Disability pay is compensation for mental or physical disabilities incurred in that service. These are two separate compensations. That's why I believe it is unfair to offset one payment with another. If the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs offers a benefit to a retiring member of the Armed Forces, that person deserves to receive that benefit.

That's why I've introduced this bill. Let's tell our disabled veterans that we care about them and that we will fight for what's right. I urge my colleagues to support the Fairness for Disabled Veterans Act of 1996.

RED COLEMAN CELEBRATES 50
YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Red Coleman and his family on the 50th anniversary of operating a successful, thriving business in Dallas. Red Coleman, a good friend and consummate businessman, has used his resources of leadership and education to operate 12 Red Coleman's package stores and 19 Red-E Mart convenience stores throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Mr. Red Coleman and his wife, Frances, started their business in 1946 with one store on Forest Avenue. Since that time, his stores have grown and prospered. Throughout all of his business dealings, Red Coleman has operated his stores with adherence to the highest ethical standards and a commitment to customer service.

But Red Coleman's success in business is not only evident in the quality management of his stores, but in the community in which he lends his skills and time. He is someone who believes everyone has a responsibility to give back to our community—and he does it on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, Red Coleman is a truly exceptional businessman and an outstanding person in Dallas. He, Frances, and their son Ronnie, when he joined the family business, are responsible for making so many contributions to our community. I wish Red and his family another 50 years and more of success and happiness with all their endeavors.

LIVERPOOL'S COACH JENSEN RETIRES WITH 89 PERCENT WIN RECORD OVER 33 YEARS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues today to join me in saluting a man who has been a scholastic sports leader in central New York for 33 years. Now, he is retiring as the Liverpool High School cross-country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field head coach.

His name is Oscar B. Jensen, and he is known respectfully and affectionately as "OBJ."

He is a man who has been, as all good educators are, devoted to the academic as well as physical well-being of students. His extraordinary record of excellence and his exemplary guidance of young people is legendary in Liverpool, NY.

The memories students have of Oscar Jensen will remain vivid. Parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and Liverpool fans will recall his strong leadership in the athletic program for many years to come.

To relate his records briefly, in cross-country he won 207 meets, lost 99 and tied 1. He led the team to be section III champions three times and a State championship team in 1991. In indoor track and field he won 4804 and lost 500, tying 19. His teams were section III champions eight times. In outdoor track and field, he won 279 and lost only 43. His teams were OHSL Champions 14 times. He coached six State champions.

Coach Jensen's career winning percentage for all three sports is 89 percent, an outstanding tradition of excellence. Additionally, all his teams consistently finished with the top schools in the State in academic achievement.

This retirement follows his retirement 2 years ago as a physics teacher. It frees him to pursue clinics and other training of coaches and athletes, some of whom will eventually reach world-class levels of competition.

Oscar B. Jensen is an example of discipline, commitment and inspiration. He will be missed by the Liverpool community and respected for his accomplishments throughout school history.

IN HONOR OF CYRUS KATZEN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Dr. Cyrus Katzen who is the recipient of the 1996 President's Award from the American University in Washington, DC. An exceptional member of our local community, Dr. Katzen was recently honored for his dedicated service to the arts, education, and the Washington Metropolitan community.

In his life, Dr. Katzen has pursued many diverse interests in the business and the artistic communities. He received a dental degree from Georgetown University and then served as a dental surgeon at Providence Hospital, a