

years in the legislature and another four as a city official and Mayor in Margate, Representative Tobin has carved out a reputation as a strong consumer advocate. His legislation has protected car buyers, cracked down on fraudulent telemarketers, and protected travelers from travel agencies that go out of business. Representative Tobin was also a champion of issues important to older Americans such as Alzheimer's patient care and Medicare protection. Most important to Representative Tobin were his efforts on the Clean Indoor Air Act, the Foster Care Statute and the Major Telecommunications Acts of 1989 and 1996.

Representative Tobin has enjoyed his 20 years in public service and although he will be entering the business world, and will no longer be a public official, I know he will continue serving the people of Broward County and Florida as ably as ever.

TRIBAL TRUST FUND
SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, by request, the Tribal Trust Fund Settlement Act of 1998. This legislation sets up a process through which Indian Tribes could enter into negotiations with the Department of Interior in order to agree on account balances for some 1,500 trust fund accounts held in trust by the United States.

Since the early 1900's the Department of Interior has managed funds derived from land resources for Indian tribes and individual Indians. These funds have been badly mismanaged and the Department can not verify account balances. After a 5-year and \$21 million attempt to reconcile accounts, it became clear that because of the volume of missing documents, reconciliation would be impossible.

This legislation is a good step in the right direction by admitting mistakes and moving forward to clean up the problems of tribal trust fund accounts. Under the legislation, the Department of Interior would make an offer to settle each tribal account. If the offer is rejected, both parties would enter into informal dispute resolution in order to try to come to agreement without the cost and time incurred by litigation. If agreement cannot be reached, tribes would be free to pursue recourse through court action. I am hopeful that we can reach some agreement during the legislative process that provides tribes with a guarantee that if they choose to go to court, they will have swift access to the courts.

Settlement funds agreed to under this legislation would come from the judgment fund made available for judgments against the United States and not from the already strapped tribal programs in the Interior Department. I commend Secretary Babbitt for his diligent work and commitment and hope hearings will be held immediately so that we may hear from the affected Indian tribes on this proposal.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN
STEVE SCHIFF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues today in honoring our colleague, Congressman Steve Schiff of New Mexico.

Steve was a friend to me and many others in this chamber. His down-to-earth manner and conscientious approach to Congressional service were welcome attributes to this body. He fought his illness courageously, never allowing it to interfere with his friendships or his devotion to the issues he cared about.

I had the privilege of traveling to the Middle East with Steve Schiff during the Persian Gulf crisis of 1991. We shared stories and common perceptions about how difficult it will be to achieve a lasting peace in such a complex and varied region. He was a thoughtful, intelligent companion and I am sure his constituents will miss his service as much as I will miss his friendship.

At a time when the public is looking for leadership and understanding from its elected officials, Steve Schiff was a model. He conducted himself with a quiet grace, even when his illness took a fatal turn. I know my colleagues will join me in marking his contributions to this House, his civility and his friendship. We will miss his service very much.

MEDICARE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM ACT OF 1998

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleague JIM MCCRERY in introducing the Medicare Psychiatric Facility Payment Reform Act of 1998. This legislation would improve care provided to Medicare beneficiaries by reforming how Medicare pays for services in free-standing psychiatric hospitals and distinct-part psychiatric units of general hospitals. Our bill proposes to move psychiatric facilities to a prospective payment system (PPS) while phasing in substantial reductions in payments to these providers as required by the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997. Currently psychiatric hospitals and units are exempt from PPS and their costs are reimbursed under provisions in the 1982 Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act, or TEFRA.

Because last year's cuts were so deep and sudden, with no transition period to allow psychiatric facilities to adapt to the changes, I am concerned that patient care will be jeopardized. Clearly something needs to be done. Our proposal provides a workable solution. It joins psychiatric facilities with other providers in the Medicare program that are paid on a prospective basis, a reimbursement system that will be more efficient, allow for better planning,

and lead to improved patient care. Our bill also ensures that, in the interim, inpatient psychiatric care is not compromised or disrupted because of precipitous budget reductions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MCLUCAS,
DIRECTOR OF ENFORCEMENT,
U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to commemorate the career of a remarkable public servant.

Bill McLucas, the Director of Enforcement at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, will soon be leaving his important post after twenty-two years of distinguished service to his country with eight of those years as this country's chief securities enforcer.

The Enforcement Division protects the nation's investors by uncovering and prosecuting fraud in our financial markets. Under Bill's leadership, the SEC's Enforcement Division has secured its place as one of the crown jewels in the country's ongoing efforts to combat white collar crime. Tens of millions of investors have benefited from Bill's fierce commitment to fighting fraud.

In 1995, Bill gave a speech in San Diego warning the municipal market that the SEC was planning to "tack a few hides to the shed door"—a remark for which he was teased and criticized for years afterwards. However, I come to the House Floor to praise him. His remarks were dead on the mark.

Pensioners, retirees, widows with insurance proceeds, parents trying to help their kid pay for college, couples saving for their first home—these are the people Bill McLucas thinks about and works for every day. And, Bill has done the right thing for the right reasons for a very long time.

His remarkable record of accomplishment includes: the unprecedented resolution of the Prudential limited partnership scandal; the vigorous prosecution of insider traders on Wall Street who abused their positions of trust; the complex actions against major firms that helped rig auctions for government securities; and the discovery of abuses on NASDAQ that for many years harmed investors in the over-the-counter market.

Though his Division seems always to have had limited resources, Bill seems always to have found a way to bring small scale frauds to justice as well.

Although he is moving on, Bill has left an indelible mark on the SEC and the Enforcement Division that should last for generations. His integrity, decency, commitment to fair play, and inherent sense of justice have made an extraordinary contribution to the success of our markets—success that can't be measured on a profit and loss statement or a balance sheet. We owe him our profound thanks.