

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 10, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote Nos. 252, 253, 254, 255, and 256, I would have voted the following way: Rollcall vote No. 252—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 253—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 254—"nay"; rollcall vote No. 255—"aye"; rollcall vote No. 256—"aye."

THE BENEFITS OF FACILITIES-BASED COMPETITION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, there is little doubt that true head-to-head facilities-based competition benefits consumers. This is certainly true in the cable industry, where prices in areas where there are two facilities-based cable systems competing head-to-head are 17 percent lower than in areas where there is only one cable system.

In the world of residential high-speed Internet access, facilities-based competition is coming. Right now, cable dominates the market. Cable serves about two out of every three broadband consumers. One reason cable dominates the market is because cable broadband is essentially unregulated, where as broadband provided by telephone companies, called DSL, is regulated as if it were regular telephone service.

The Federal Communications Commission is in the process of creating regulatory parity between the two competitors. I encourage the FCC to continue down this road towards regulatory parity among broadband providers. We are seeing the benefits of this deregulation already. For example, Verizon just announced a 40 percent price cut in the cost of their DSL product. Consumers will have a real choice between two distinct head-to-head competitors.

In the regular telephone world, however, the FCC decided not to stimulate head-to-head facilities-based competition. Instead, the FCC left in place rules that permit a competitor to use the existing telephone network at a substantial discount, up to 55 percent. The problem with this is that it lacks a sufficient incentive for a competing telephone company to build any facilities because it costs less to use the existing network at these below-cost prices. Regulatory pricing arbitrage does not result in true competition. The FCC needs to stop making the incumbent telephone companies subsidize long distance carriers' entry into the local markets. If the long distance carriers want to use the incumbent's network, they should do so at a reasonable price, not one that shifts money from the local telephone company to the long distance carriers. This system cannot be maintained.

The FCC should adopt rules that give incentives for long distance carriers and others to build their own infrastructure. Then, there will be true head-to-head facilities-based competi-

tion. Consumers will benefit with lower prices, better service and more choices.

In addition, there are national security and safety benefits to multiple networks. If one network is knocked out, communications can be routed over the other network.

I urge the FCC to adopt rules that ensure the existence of true, head-to-head facilities-based competition for all types of communications services, especially voice telephony and broadband.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RARITAN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the members of the Raritan High School Boys Baseball team from Hazlet, New Jersey in the 6th district of New Jersey. On Tuesday June 10, 2003, they completed a season of hard work and personal sacrifice with the first State Baseball Championship in school history. Two weeks prior they won their first Central New Jersey Sectional Championship in over a decade continuing their improbable underdog journey defeating Spotswood High School. The true measure of their achievement came this past Tuesday when this Cinderella story finally was granted the glass slipper. Down for much of the game, the team rallied to defeat statewide ranked Hanover Park to win the school's first ever state championship.

This occasion cannot be fully appreciated unless I recognize the graduating seniors and leaders of this gifted group of student athletes. Two of the team's coaches, T.J. O'Donnell and Tim Hildner, members of previous Raritan championship teams, returned to their alma mater to guide this team to the state championship never realized during their tenure as players. Remaining coaches, long time teachers at the school, Andrew Milewski and Robert Generelli gave this group the extra guidance that made them champions. Though the team's full potential was put into motion by the group's undisputed leaders, such as first basemen Gregory Casha, shortstop Alex Mautone, pitcher Sean Walsh, left fielder Steve Plagianakos, utility fielder Ernie Scelia, first basemen Patrick Wood, and center fielder Jared Pflug all of who which will be graduating this June, moving on to several of our state's great universities and leaving their current teammates with a title to defend. The contributions of underclassmen such as second basemen Sal Straniero, catcher Sean Hanrahan, designated hitter Ricky Russomano, center fielder Steve Bilowus, right fielder Andrew Mandeville, and third basemen Michael Nunes were the extra pieces to the puzzle that together turned a small high school on the Jersey Shore into a state powerhouse in one short season.

Today I speak to you as a proud representative of the 6th district of New Jersey due to the inspiration that these young men have contributed to the residents in Township of Hazlet. So on this day, June 11, 2003 I wish congratulations to the players, coaches, and parents of the 2003 Group II State Champions, the Raritan High School Rockets!

RECOGNIZING MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1972 I flew my 300th mission over North Vietnam. I shot down three MIGs that day to become the first Ace of the Vietnam War. Shortly after my third kill, I was hit by enemy fire and forced to eject along with my backseat, Willie Driscoll. As we parachuted down into enemy territory, I did not know whether I was going to live, die, or possibly be taken as a prisoner of war. It was indeed the scariest moment in my life—until the day my doctor looked me in the eye and told me that I had cancer.

I am one of thousands of men who was diagnosed following a simple prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test. During my annual examination in the summer of 1998, my doctor noted a slight elevation in my PSA test. He followed up with a sonogram and an MRI, neither of which revealed the disease. It was only after a prostate biopsy that it was determined that I had cancer. Following the diagnosis, in consultation with my family, I decided to pursue surgery as my treatment option. I am fortunate—early detection saved my life. My doctor was familiar with PSA results, and I had healthcare coverage for my treatments. Early detection and treatment meant the difference between life and death.

This year, 198,100 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 31,500 will die from this terrible disease. But prostate cancer is only a small component of the men's health crisis: Men have a higher death rate than women do for every single one of the ten leading causes of death in this country. We're twice as likely to die of heart disease—the number one killer—and 40 percent more likely to die of cancer. Life expectancy has been longer for women than for men for several decades. Sadly, the largest part of the problem is that men do not take particularly good care of themselves. Only one-half of all men have received preventative health care services in the past year.

I am proud to work with the Men's Health Network to raise awareness regarding the need for regular health screenings, and it is an honor for me to host the annual men's health screenings on Capitol Hill. I urge my colleagues to visit the screenings, and to help me raise awareness about the fact that screenings like these can save lives.

HONORING CORNELIA GRUMMAN OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Cornelia Grumman of the Chicago Tribune, winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing.

A native of Evanston, a resident of Chicago, a graduate of Duke, Cornelia Grumman has graced the Chicago Tribune for many years

with her thought provoking, influential editorials on the reform of the death penalty. As a veteran reporter whose journalistic prowess earned her much recognition, Cornelia was made a member of the Chicago Tribune editorial board in 2000.

Cornelia's Pulitzer citation reads: For distinguished editorial writing, the test of excellence being clearness of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning, and power to influence public opinion in what the writer conceives to be the right direction. Awarded to Cornelia Grumman of the Chicago Tribune for her powerful, freshly challenging editorials on reform of the death penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Cornelia Grumman on her achievements and wish Cornelia many years of future success.

A TRIBUTE TO JUAN GUILLEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Juan Guillen in recognition of his significant and diverse contributions to his community in the fields of media, business, and arts.

Representing and reaching out to the Dominican community, Juan is currently publisher and Chief Executive Officer of the Dominican Times Magazine, La Revista Oficial de Dominicanos. From his office in the East New York section of Brooklyn, New York, he heads the regional, bi-lingual publication, Dominican Times, which targets Dominican-Americans. This publication is distributed in seven states in the northeast and its voice is very influential in the Dominican-American community.

In the world of enterprise, Juan has owned and operated various businesses from 1982 through 2002 throughout Brooklyn and Queens. He has developed diverse companies, ranging from three successful dry cleaning businesses to a fitness club and a retail store for clothing and sneakers.

Juan has also made a contribution to the arts in his community through his independent feature film, "A Madness in Brooklyn." This comedy, filmed entirely on location in Brooklyn, was written, directed and produced by Juan.

Mr. Speaker, Juan Guillen has made several important contributions to his community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will authorize qualified public housing entities in Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to par-

ticipate in the "Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program." Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands and Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa have joined me as original co-sponsors of this legislation, which is important to the economic development of the insular areas.

Currently, all qualified entitlement public housing entities in the States are authorized to apply for government-backed loans to finance long-term projects under the Community Development Assistance Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), which established the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. Under "Section 108," the States and their local governments may apply for amounts up to five times their annual allotments of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Guam receives CDBG funding on an annual basis from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, many projects for which the funding could be utilized cost more than the annual allotment. My bill would authorize the insular areas that receive CDBG funding to apply for government-backed loans to help finance more expensive long-term projects. Future CDBG grant money could then be used as collateral in the insular areas, similar to how it is currently used in several of the States.

Officials at HUD have informed me that Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are excluded on the basis that their CDBG grant funds are authorized under a separate sub-section from the States. My bill would clarify that States and Territories would have access to the HUD financing program irrespective of this technical distinction.

My bill, the Insular Areas Community Development Act of 2003, would strengthen the law to provide for the same flexibility for the insular areas as is currently granted to the States in using CDBG funds. Support for this bill would recognize the need for long-term financing of community development projects important to the economic progress of the insular areas, and will result in improved planning and more efficient use of limited resources.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 5, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote No. 248, I would have voted the following way: Rollcall vote No. 248 "aye".

CHILD TAX CREDIT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my deep disappointment with the tax bill recently signed into law by the President. While providing approximately \$350 billion in tax cuts, this law neglects many of our hard-working, low-income families. At the same time that

the bill provides tax cuts of \$93,500 to the 200,000 taxpayers making over \$1 million in our country, this bill leaves behind 8 million children by denying their families full access to the child tax credit.

This law fails to apply the child tax credit to some of America's neediest families—those earning between \$10,500 and \$26,625 per year. Of the 8 million children left behind in this tax law, one million live with parents who are on active duty service or are veterans. The children of our working families, especially those of our armed services, deserve our greatest support.

There are approximately 16,500 military families with children at Fort Bliss in my district. Anxiously awaiting news about the status of the members of the 507th Maintenance Company in late March, these families understand, more than most, what it means to sacrifice for our nation. These are the families of the brave men and women who fight to defend our freedoms, and they certainly do not deserve to be left out of this tax cut. I urge my colleagues to pass legislation immediately to extend the child tax credit to families making between \$10,500 and \$26,625 a year. Let us send a message to our hard-working families that they count too and that we recognize their efforts.

It is my sincere hope that we can work together to provide our hard-working families with a fair and equitable child tax credit.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REVEREND DR. HENRY P. DAVIS, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize an exemplary individual, Reverend Dr. Henry P. Davis, Jr. This year marks Reverend Davis's 30th Anniversary as Pastor for the Saint Paul Baptist Church of Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. On July 13, 2003 Reverend Davis will be honored for his commitment and extraordinary service to his community over the past 30 years.

Reverend Davis's educational achievement has aided him tremendously in serving his congregation and surrounding communities. After earning his Bachelor of Science degree from Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas, the Reverend went on to receive a Master of Education degree from Prairie View A&M University. He was later awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary and a honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Rankin's Theological Clinic. Reverend Davis is also the recipient of a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University.

Reverend Davis has stood out amongst his peers for his exceptional leadership skills. Over the past few years Reverend Davis has served as the Moderator of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association, which consists of 32 churches throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. He is the former Treasurer of the General Baptist Convention of New Jersey and served as the Secretary of the Moderator's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention, for over a decade. Presently, Reverend Davis serves on the Executive Board of the