## THE ''UNITED STATES BOXING COMMISSION ACT''

### HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 2004*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to help protect professional boxers throughout our country. I am introducing the ''United States Boxing Commission Act'' to create a Federal entity responsible for coordinating, implementing, and enforcing uniform standards for the sport of boxing. Currently, the states and tribal organizations regulate professional boxing. Although they have taken great effort to require minimum standards for the sport, uniform enforcement has been a problem.

Congress has enacted legislation to address the sport of boxing twice in the past decade. In 1996, we enacted the Professional Boxing Safety Act. In 2000, we again addressed boxing reform and passed the Muhammad Ali Act. The idea of a Federal Boxing Commission was raised in previous Congresses and it was deemed unnecessary at that time. However, after carefully reviewing the effectiveness of the laws we passed, I am convinced it is now time for a Federal Commission for professional boxing. Despite our previous efforts, enforcement of the law remains an issue and the sport continues to face problems that cannot be addressed by the states. In fact, at a hearing I held in my subcommittee, a current state boxing commissioner testified that the states need the Federal government to be directly involved.

I do not think lightly of creating a new Federal commission. I would typically be reluctant to introduce such a bill because I believe strongly in states' rights, and most of them do an excellent job in regulating boxing. However, the history and nature of the sport provide overwhelming evidence that it only takes one state to lower its standards—usually in the name of money—and undermine the integrity of the sport. More importantly, the safety of a boxer is supposed to be paramount and protected by the state authority. When a state lowers its standards or fails to follow the law, it jeopardizes every boxer's safety.

This legislation is intended to implement changes that are within the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction and is therefore narrower than what is required to fully address the issues boxers face. It creates the United States Boxing Commission which will have the power and authority to set minimum standards for the states to follow. It will not replace the state regulation, but will work with the states to develop appropriate minimum standards and to ensure their rules and standards are enforced.

As I indicated, I support additional reforms that are necessary to fully address the problems of the sport and protect boxers. While it is my preference to do more, because those reforms are not within the Committee's jurisdiction, I am committed to work with my House colleagues and the Senate to address those concerns and ensure they become Federal law as well.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 2004*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an excellent educational institution in Michigan, Macomb Community College, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. ''Community'' is central to the vision of Macomb Community College (MCC), and over its fifty years of service I am confident it has touched nearly every home in Macomb County in one way or another.

MCC was founded as part of a K–14 system and was known as ''South Macomb Community.'' Approximately 84 students attended classes, $2.00 per credit hour, in seventeen basic course areas at night in space borrowed at Lincoln High School. Today its reach extends to six campus sites and outreach centers and it enjoys an annual enrollment of 44,000 students with 1100 courses offered in the day, night, and online.

Every decade has seen expansion and distinction at MCC. In the 1960s their service area was expanded to include the entire county, and its two main campuses, South and Central, became realities so it could serve both, urban and rural areas.

Enrollment continued to climb in the 1970s and, at one point in the 1980s, MCC was the third largest college in the state behind the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. They also added a world-class facility, the Macomb Center for Performing Arts, which now holds nearly 700 events annually, enjoyed by some 260,000 individuals. It was also in the 1980s that a third campus site was added to house police and fire academies, workforce development and training, and continuing education programs.

In the 1990s, the College partnered with nine universities and upper division public and private colleges to launch the University Center where approximately 2500 students could pursue bachelors and masters degrees closer to home. Also in this decade, its fourth campus, the Emergency Services Training Center was constructed as a state-of-the-art training facility for police, fire, first responder, emergency medical and municipal services.

In 2002, MCC partnered with the State of Michigan on the site of the former Army Tank Plant, after the property was transferred from military to public use, to build its most recent addition, ''The Michigan Technical Education Center'' (M–TEC) to house the College's comprehensive Workforce Development Institute.

Mr. Speaker, one might say that fifty years ago South Community College planted seeds in borrowed space. Today, those seeds have sprouted throughout the entire County. The residents of Macomb County have indeed been fortunate to have such a progressive institution committed to the educational needs of everyone in the area. The College has been forward-thinking in their approach to the needs of the County and they have been committed to the vision of a ''better future for those growing up in the community as well as the community itself.''

It has been my pleasure to work closely with MCC in so many important areas, like school-to-work and re-training programs, and to spend time with the students there. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all those who have helped build this remarkable institution, and to extend our best wishes for their important endeavors in the future.

## SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS LEGAL PROTECTIONS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for acting to protect the benefits of a vulnerable class of America's brave veterans.

Over 100,000 of America's military veterans or their dependents are not able to manage their own finances because of physical or mental disabilities. In these cases, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) appoints a family member, a guardian, or another person to act as a ''fiduciary'' to protect and manage their monetary payments and VA benefits.

Caring for a dependent veteran involves using the payments the VA sends each month to pay utility bills, buy food, and to meet the other needs on behalf of the veteran. It is a tremendous responsibility.

Last year, during an oversight hearing into the VA's fiduciary program, I learned that some of these veterans are not always cared for by the appointed fiduciary.

In fact, the Inspector General has found cases in which a fiduciary has withheld payments completely for several years—defrauding the veteran out of several thousand dollars.

In my District Office in San Diego, my staff has tried to assist veterans who lost out on their payments only to learn that under current law, the VA does not have the authority to replace the benefits when misuse has occurred.

Because it was our veterans suffering from the lack of oversight, I introduced the Veterans Fiduciary Act of 2004 or H.R. 4023 to provide veterans with protections similar to those recently enacted to protect Social Security beneficiaries. Surely our Nation's veterans also deserve the same protections as Social Security beneficiaries.

H.R. 4032 gives veterans new avenues to recoup their losses if they fall victim to fraud. In addition, the VA will conduct more thorough background checks and will have new authority to take action against fiduciaries who are not fulfilling their obligations.

I am pleased provisions of H.R. 4032 have been included in the servicemembers Legal Protection Act of 2004 or H.R. 4568. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

## MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 30, 2004*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I know some wanted to pick a fight here today, trying to get