

Americans of German heritage have been, and continue to be, a vital component of the diverse cultural fabric that adorns the entire State of Ohio. Places like the German American Cultural Center are havens of memories and tangible bridges extending to every corner of the world, and are also places of real support and services for newly settled immigrants.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and tribute of every member of the Central Ohio Singers Association, past and present. These talented and dedicated singers have culled a legacy of cultural and historical preservation through melody and song, warmly reflecting their German heritage. This music of the heart adds color and depth to the American landscape, and serves to uplift our entire community.

STOP THE THEFT OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ACT OF 2005

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Stop the Theft of Our Social Security Numbers Act of 2005" (H.R. 2518).

Many of my constituents have alerted me to a serious attack on our personal privacy, and an insidious practice that has become known as identity theft. Amazingly enough, this theft is facilitated by a public agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, which aids and abets this theft not through the Internet or any high-technology means but through the U.S. Postal Service. By including our Social Security numbers on Medicare related mailings, the Department of Health and Human Services places thousands of Medicare beneficiaries at risk of becoming victims of identity theft.

To combat this problem, I have introduced this bill which prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from including our Social Security numbers on Medicare related mailings the department mails us every year.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes of this decade. It creates a nightmare for those who become victims. Identity thieves make off with billions of dollars each year and each day more than 1,000 people are being defrauded. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission recently listed identity theft as the top consumer complaint. With just your name and your Social Security number, a thief can open credit lines worth \$10,000, rent apartments, sign up for utilities, and even earn income. Your credit rating is ruined, you risk being rejected for everything from a college loan to a mortgage, and it is up to you to fix it all. Law enforcement will generally not pursue these identity theft cases.

Having your Social Security card number on a Medicare related mailing puts people at a higher risk for identity theft. Mail that is lost or stolen with personally identifiable information like a person's Social Security number can be used by criminals to steal someone's identity and commit fraud.

The Department of Health and Human Services has said that the health insurance claim number on Medicare related mailings is a variation of the recipient's Social Security number, not the actual number. This agency has noted

that the number may be based on the Social Security number of a spouse or parent; however, more often than not, the number the agency uses is the person's Social Security number preceded or followed by a single letter of the alphabet. The agency has said that it has no immediate plans of stopping this practice. What more can the Department of Health and Human Services do to aid the theft of your identity? Give thieves and unscrupulous people your mother's maiden name?

Not to long ago, we were experiencing the same problem with the mailing labels sent to us from the IRS. I was told that there was no way the IRS would change this practice. I found it incomprehensible that neither the agency nor its contractor would change a computer program for booklets that would be mailed out to millions of Americans all over our Nation. After I introduced a bill to require the IRS to stop putting our Social Security numbers on its mailings, the department finally found a way to stop this bad practice.

Many commercial health insurance companies have already taken steps to remove Social Security numbers from their mailings as well as all other forms of client identification. Some States prohibit companies from displaying Social Security numbers internally and assign consumers unique numbers that would appear on Medicare cards. It is time for the Federal government to do its part to stop identity theft and help protect an individual's personal privacy.

There is no excuse for leaving Medicare beneficiaries vulnerable to identity theft with a thinly disguised Social Security number on Medicare related mailings.

My bill will force the Department of Health and Human Services to make this change to protect one of the most precious keys to our personal information, our Social Security number.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
AMBASSADOR MILTON A. WOLF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Milton Wolf, a friend and a great leader in the Greater Cleveland community and around the world. Ambassador Wolf led a multifaceted life that included time as a soldier, meteorologist, educator, real estate developer, fund-raiser, philanthropist, humanitarian, peacemaker, and family man. He grew up in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood, the son of Cleveland policeman Sam Wolf and his wife Sylvia. His father worked for a time as a vice detective under Eliot Ness, then the Cleveland safety director.

The outbreak of World War II coincided with Milton's graduation from Glenville High School. Young Milton enlisted right away into the Army Air Corps where he served as a meteorologist. Upon his return from the war, he resumed his studies, ultimately earning his doctorate in economics from Case Western Reserve University. His early career focused on real estate development, but he also became interested in politics and raised money for political campaigns, including Jimmy Carter's successful presidential race in 1976. In 1977, President

Carter appointed him as ambassador to Austria, a post he kept until 1980. During his service there, he received Austria's Great Gold Medal of Honor with Sash for "most distinguished and successful contribution toward the enrichment of Austro-American relations." Ambassador Wolf played a key role in arranging details of the meeting in Vienna between President Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, for the signing of the Salt II Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. Ambassador Wolf was decorated in 1997 with the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art First Class in recognition of his scholarly work in economics, his strong ties to the diplomatic community and his philanthropic activities.

Ambassador Wolf was strongly committed to local and international institutions. He recently made major endowments to Cleveland Clinic's heart center and to a faculty chair at Cleveland State University. He served as chairman of the board of trustees of the Ohio State University where he oversaw the university's \$500 million investment program in the early 1990s. He served on the boards of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and the Mount Sinai Medical Center. Ambassador Wolf also served as chairman of the Council of American Ambassadors, governor of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, and member of the board of directors of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. He served as president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, overseeing \$70 million in assistance for needy Jews and others in more than 50 countries. In 1994, the committee honored him with its Raoul Wallenberg International Humanitarian Award.

Ambassador Milton A. Wolf will be greatly missed in Greater Cleveland and around the world. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Roslyn. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and remembering Ambassador Wolf. Please also join me as I offer my deep condolences to his son, Leslie, his daughters Caryn, Nancy, and Sherri, his brother Sanford, his five grandchildren, and his extended family and many friends.

RECOGNIZING TONY SWAFFORD
AND BETTY TUNNICLIFF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Tony Swafford and Betty Tunnicliff to the education community. Mr. Swafford and Ms. Tunnicliff has dedicated 33 and 23 years of service, respectively, educating and mentoring our Nation's youth.

Serving as both administrators and teachers, Mr. Swafford and Ms. Tunnicliff retire at the end of this school year. I would like to take this occasion to thank them for their years of promoting education and the youth of Denton.

In taking time to direct the Denton Independent School District, both Tony and Betty established precedence in administrative standards that will not soon be forgotten. Their

combined 56 years of work improved the quality of education in Denton; their excellence in academia influenced lives and molded bright futures.

The loyalty in which both Tony Swafford and Betty Tunncliff served their students and the Denton Independent School District is a testament to their genuine care for America's youth.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
CONGRESSMAN SHERROD BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Congressman SHERROD BROWN, for his distinctive service to the people of Ohio's Thirteenth Congressional District.

Having served in the House for 13 years, BROWN has continually been an advocate for laborers and manufacturers. He has battled for America's working families by protecting overtime pay, advocating for an increase in the minimum wage, and extending long-term unemployment benefits.

Brown has constantly been a leader in fighting against trade agreements. We have worked together in opposing the Central America Free Trade Agreement. He has shown dedication in opposing this legislation and has made his stance very clear until provisions are added to protect workers, the economy, and the environment. He is persistent on protecting the rights of all workers, not just in northeast Ohio.

Beyond his outstanding service to his constituents, BROWN has formed solid bonds with community leaders and agencies in his district. It is easy to see why BROWN is so popular in Northeast Ohio. He has hosted press conferences covering a range of issues—from prescription drugs and the healthcare bill of rights to unemployment compensation extension. In 2002 my colleague received the Distinguished Public Health Legislator of the Year award from the American Public Health Association, the Nation's largest public health organization.

BROWN's commitment to his constituents is evident in everything he does. He travels to Ohio every weekend to host town hall meetings on social security, attend community events and speak with both college and high school students. He also donated all the proceeds of his latest book, "Myths of Free Trade," to RESULTS and Cleveland Jobs with Justice, two organizations committed to social and economic justice.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of one of Ohio's hardest working and most dedicated Congressmen. His exceptional work on behalf of the people of Northeast Ohio should be an inspiration for all of us. His integrity and expertise has helped him to be a successful Congressman for Ohio's 13th District.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2360) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak about the need to reform our immigration laws to curtail abuse, make Americans safer, and uphold the rule of law. In short, we need an immigration policy that works for America. Although I will vote against the amendment, by drawing attention to this issue, Congressman TOM TANCREDO is performing an important service.

I supported the REAL ID Act which makes it harder for terrorists to take advantage of our immigration laws. And I have cosponsored legislation, H.R. 98, authored by Chairman DAVID DREIER that would make it harder for employers to hire unauthorized workers.

While I agree with the general intent of this amendment, I must reluctantly oppose the amendment because I believe it would have the unintended consequence of making Americans less safe. Our immigration laws need to be enforced. But denying homeland security funds to local governments, which in turn use the money to prevent future terrorist attacks, is something I cannot support.

Mr. Chairman, in the future I hope we will look at other measures that will encourage local authorities to support and enforce federal immigration laws. Such measures must encourage local compensation without endangering the lives of innocent Americans that we are charged to protect.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR NORMAL
MUSIAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mayor Norman Musial, upon his retirement as Mayor of the City of North Olmsted. His years of leadership and public service, first as council member and then mayor, are framed by integrity, vision and concern for every resident within this community.

Born in Toledo into a blue collar family, Mayor Musial cultivated a deep appreciation for family, community and hard work. Reflecting personal values of integrity and public service, Mayor Musial's commitment to the betterment of his community reflects across all levels of government within the City of North Olmsted. As a longtime resident and civic leader in North Olmsted, Mayor Musial has successfully led the effort to improve, uplift, and renew all facets of the community, including vital areas of safety, residential services, recreation, streets and sidewalks, transportation, and senior citizen programs.

Mayor Musial worked his way through the University of Toledo, and graduated with a degree in engineering in 1954. He transferred from NACA to NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, in 1955. While working at NASA, Mayor Musial attended Cleveland-Marshall Law School and graduated with a law degree. Equipped with an innovative mind and energetic spirit, Mayor Musial worked in the NASA Patent Office, and soon became the Chief Patent Counsel. He became an inventor himself, and holds a patent on the Heat Flux Measuring Device.

Beyond his roles as public servant and beyond a profession that extended from the sciences to law, Mayor Musial continues to hold his family and community closest to his heart. In 1953, he married his wife, Patricia. Together they raised four children: Mark, Jon, Lisa and Todd. Besides inventor, lawyer and elected official, Mayor Musial can list Boy Scout Leader, Indian Guide Leader and Webelos Leader as titles of supreme importance, reflecting the caring and dedication he has for his family.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in offering my good friend, Mayor Norman Musial, our appreciation and admiration on his significant accomplishments within the City of North Olmsted. Moreover, his kind nature and compassion for others has allowed the true spirit of community to flourish within the city limits and beyond its borders. I wish Mayor Musial, his wife Patricia and their children and grandchildren, blessing of peace, strength and happiness, today and throughout the coming years.

SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF
SPYWARE LEGISLATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 744 and H.R. 29. Both will help eliminate the monitoring of and tampering with computers across America. I thank Representatives BOB GOODLATTE and MARY BONO for bringing this legislation before us today.

I support the goals of both the "Internet Spyware Prevention Act" and the "Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act." Computer users currently lose personal information to the purveyors of malicious computer software that has come to be known as spyware. These bills establish jail terms and severe monetary penalties for various types of invasive actions. Individuals, under the veil of business activity or otherwise, will no longer be able to remotely take control of computers, nor change their settings without.

We have come to depend upon computers in almost every aspect of our lives. An unimaginable amount of personal information sits on computers that must remain secure.

Again, I applaud the efforts of the House Committees on Judiciary and Energy & Commerce.