

as the EITC provision in Senator GRAMM's amendment.

This legislation complements legislation introduced by Reps. McDERMOTT and KLECZKA. Their bill increases the standard deduction for those filing joint returns. The bill I am introducing today and the McDermott/KlecZka bill provide a realistic solution to the marriage penalty that addresses the issues at all income levels.

I urge you to join me in reducing the marriage penalty associated with the EITC. This legislation will help working families who are trying to stay off welfare.

H.R. 3990, THE "ANTI-CRAMMING PROTECTION ACT OF 1998"

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3990, the "Anti-Cramming Protection Act of 1998" to protect the American public from those that perpetrate the unfair and anti-competitive outrage known as "cramming." Crammers are companies that impose phantom charges on customers' telephone bills without their knowledge or consent.

In this information age, consumers are increasingly turning to their telephones not only to communicate with their friends, family, and business associates, but as a device for engaging in electronic commerce. With this legislation, we can ensure that consumers have protections from those who would swindle them simply because they use their telephone.

This legislation entitles consumers to have crammed charges dropped from their telephone bills if they dispute the charges within 90 days of receiving their telephone bill. The bill authorizes State Attorneys General to sue crammers under Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Act to protect consumers in their States from crammers. The bill requires the FTC to write rules to outlaw unfair and deceptive acts and practices in connection with billing for products or services on telephone bills. These rules would ensure that such charges are authorized by the consumer and are easily identifiable on the consumer's telephone bill. Also, subscribers would be permitted to block telephone billing of miscellaneous products and services at their own election. Finally, telephone companies would be authorized to discontinue billing on behalf of known crammers.

Cramming is a spreading problem. Cramming is one of the most frequent sources of consumer complaints at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Moreover, since cramming is a relatively new breed of consumer fraud, existing law is inadequate to provide consumers needed protection. Since the FCC began recording cramming complaints in December, it has processed nearly two thousand complaints. Local telephone companies also have received thousands of complaints, and that number is rising rapidly. Worse, since crammed charges are usually undetected by the consumers who are victimized, many cases go unreported. Without tough legislation, the number of victims is certain to rise, and legitimate competition will be stifled.

How do crammers get away with this trickery? Their creativity is boundless. For exam-

ple, when a consumer dials a number to learn about a product, get sports scores, or hear their horoscope, their home telephone number is often captured through a number identification system. Crammers then use the telephone number to submit bogus charges to the consumer's local telephone company. Worse, crammers are not limited to finding victims through incoming calls. The white pages directory lists their potential prey in alphabetical order. Again, the crammer simply selects telephone numbers at random and submits bogus charges for billing.

Some crammers use names on telephone bills that intend to mislead or confuse the consumer. They will call themselves "F.C.C.," for example, in an attempt to be mistaken for a government agency. Or they will use a name like "Enhanced Services" that may be mistaken for other legitimate charges the consumer has ordered. In addition, there is often a middleman involved that submits billing to the local telephone service provider on behalf of multiple vendors, further complicating matters for consumers who want to dispute a charge. These charges are typically in the \$3 to \$5 range in an attempt to fall below the consumer's radar screen. Of course, these charges add up.

Many more choices are available to consumers today to make purchases of goods and services they want and need. Unfortunately these benefits also create many more opportunities for consumer confusion and fraud. Mr. Speaker, we need tough legislation to stop bad actors who are cramming bogus charges onto our constituents' phone bills. The "Anti-Cramming Protection Act of 1998" provides the tools needed to solve this problem.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JUAN VENÉ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Juan Vené, one of the most knowledgeable and experienced sports reporters and writers about baseball in the history of this sport.

Mr. Vené was honored for his achievements and dedication to writing about baseball by the organization Latino Sports. The banquet dinner in his honor was held at the Grand Hyatt, in New York City, on October 30.

Mr. José Rafaél Machado Yanes, better known by his pen name of Juan Vené, was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1929.

His career as a reporter started in 1947, and since then he has dedicated every single day of his life to his profession as a director, editor, investigative reporter, columnist, sports writer, radio and TV commentator. The Spanish newspaper *El Diario/La Prensa* in New York City has honored him for each of the past 11 years as the most distinguished reporter who writes about the Yankees and the Mets.

Mr. Vené holds the record as the only sports reporter in the United States and Latin America who has covered every World Series for the past 37 years.

He was born with the passion for writing and reporting about the sport of baseball. Mr. Vené went to Cuba in 1948 to study journal-

ism at the School of Marques Sterling, University of Havana, because during those years Venezuela did not have an institution of higher education that taught this field. He graduated from the university in Cuba in 1952. His interest in learning more about journalism motivated him to attend specialized seminars in the field. He also obtained a designation as a historian of baseball and has taught 73 courses on this field.

Mr. Vené writes a daily syndicated column on baseball for numerous newspaper in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Venezuela. He was a sports commentator for the Voice of America. He is also credited with being the first to launch a Spanish-language radio network to provide detailed coverage of the history of baseball, the training of baseball players, and all the games of the Major Leagues. The program aired in 11 countries.

He has produced many TV shows on baseball including, "Play Ball", "El Mundo en su Marcha", "Los Cuadros del Pueblo", "La Historia del Beisbol", "Magazine", "Juan Vené en Acción". He also belongs to the team of producers and writers of Major League Baseball Productions. Mr. Vené is a member of the Baseball Writer's Association of America and the Society for American Baseball Research. He is married and has four children and one grandchild.

At age 68, Mr. Vené talks about covering baseball with the same excitement and passion that he has demonstrated throughout his life. According to an interview conducted by Bob Shannon, which was published in "New World" in London, when he was asked what he would do next in his life, Mr. Vené responded that he will probably write an encyclopedia on the history of baseball in Latin America and Spain. When he was asked what sports he likes other than baseball, he responded: "As Babe Ruth once said, 'Is there any other sport?'".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. José Rafaél Machado Yanes, writing as Juan Vené, for his great contributions to reporting and recording the history of our beloved national sport—baseball.

GLENN "JEEP" DAVIS

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 7, 1998, one of Barberton, Ohio's favorite sons will be honored. A statue of Glenn "Jeep" Davis will be unveiled as part of a community-wide celebration of an extraordinary athlete, teacher, and example for us all.

If there is an award in amateur athletics, Glenn "Jeep" Davis has probably won it. If there's a hall of fame, he's probably in it.

Jeep won three Olympic Gold Medals. He took the Olympic Gold in 1956 in the 440y Intermediate Hurdles. His Gold Medal win was no surprise. Earlier in the year during the Olympic trials, Jeep became the first man to break the 50-second barrier in that event. In 1960, he doubled his Gold Medal accomplishment. That year, he defended his Olympic title with a second Gold Medal in the 440y Intermediate Hurdles and went on to win another Gold Medal in the 4x400 Relay.

Jeep set eight World Records and won a NCAA title in addition to the Olympic gold. He also played two years in the National Football League for the Detroit Lions even though he had never played college football.

Perhaps his most fitting tribute was in 1958 when Jeep won the prestigious James E. Sullivan Award. That award has been presented annually since 1930 by the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union recognizing our nation's most outstanding amateur athlete. But the award is about more than athletic performance. The Sullivan Award is given to the athlete who, "By his * * * performance, example and influence as an amateur, has done the most during the year to advance the cause of sportsmanship."

No finer tribute could be given, and no one has been more deserving of it, than Glenn "Jeep" Davis.

Glenn "Jeep" Davis' remarkable career began in Barberton, Ohio where he single-handedly won Barberton High School the 1954 Ohio state high school title in track and field. Best of all, Jeep returned to Barberton where he continued his distinguished career as a coach, a teacher, and a mentor. Today, with hurdles far behind, he remains an inspiration to the people of Barberton and to everyone who remembers his outstanding athletic achievements.

TRIBUTE TO CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY WARRIORS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Eastern Connecticut State University Warriors, a college baseball team in my district that took home the national Division III title on May 28. The accomplishments of Division III teams are frequently overlooked, and I believe we should all take the time to recognize the extraordinary efforts made by both the players and coaches.

As we in Congress all know, NCAA Division III programs are not allowed to offer scholarships or other financial incentives to their players. These college athletes truly play for a love of the game. These students put in as much time and effort into the sport as any other college athletes, even though there is little media coverage and less fanfare.

This Division III team's return to Connecticut last Thursday, however, met with a great deal of fanfare. On their route back to the campus in Wilamantic, the team members and coaches were met with a police escort. The students sat on a flatbed truck, which paraded them onto campus, where some 250 fans were waiting to greet them at a celebration.

This recognition is well-deserved. The Warriors blew out their opponent 16-1 in the Division III finals last Wednesday in Salem, Virginia. Among this fine group of athletes and coaches, I would like to especially recognize a few.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Coach Bill Holowaty. This marks his third national title in his 30-season coaching career at Eastern Connecticut. Coach Holowaty has a winning percentage of .725, making him the second-winningest active coach in Division III.

My congratulations to him; his wife, Jan, and his three children.

Secondly, I would like to also extend my congratulations to the tournament MVP, Chris D'Amato. D'Amato, who is also the team co-captain, batted .786 in the tournament and finished the season with a 20-game hitting streak. He will be starting a student teaching position in the fall, and this will complete his studies in physical education. D'Amato hopes to coach baseball as a future career. My best wishes for his future with the game.

Each of the other players, assistant coaches and everyone associated with the team should be commended for their efforts. This has been an amazing year for an excellent program, and I wish all of them the best for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, June 4, 1998, I missed roll call votes 193, 194, and 195 because I was attending former Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater's funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DESALINATION PROGRAM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of important legislation that will benefit the people in Alameda County, California.

I have introduced a bill that would authorize the construction of the Alameda County Brackish Water Desalination plant. This plant would treat the water from San Francisco Bay that has been creeping into the groundwater used by residents of my district in Alameda County. The water would either be directed for residential use or be put back into the ground.

This project will decrease our dependability on water imported from the San Francisco Bay Delta and help us reclaim our groundwater basin. Additionally, this plant will improve the water quality and availability for almost 300,000 people in Fremont, California and the surrounding areas.

This bill would authorize construction of the plant under the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Studies Act and will cost \$30 million. The bill makes specific provisions to exclude the U.S. Government from incurring any costs associated with the operation of the plant and limits the total federal expenditures to 25% of the total construction cost. This one-time appropriation for construction will go a long way to ensure water quality and accessibility for the people of Alameda County.

I urge my colleagues to support this important project and to take action soon to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to proceed with the feasibility study.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR
EDWARD REICHBACH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I pay a respectful tribute and congratulate a man I am proud to call my former college professor, Dr. Edward Reichbach, on his well earned retirement.

Dr. Reichbach was a member of the founding faculty at my alma mater, Florida International University. He will retire this June after forty-four years of being an educator. Throughout his career he prepared both elementary grade students and trained college students to become teachers, guiding them toward graduate degrees. Concentrating in the field of Social Studies, Dr. Reichbach taught mostly minority students to become elementary school teachers in south Florida.

As a college professor, he urged his students to make teaching Social Studies fun and enjoyable by emphasizing why historical events occurred and what effect they had on the people, particularly children, of the time. Dr. Reichbach's classes at Florida International University soon became a favorite as he was able to capture the attention and adoration of his students through his wit and innovative teaching techniques.

During his tenure, Dr. Reichbach conducted workshops throughout the country and participated in travels to India, China and Africa to speak on Social Studies topics. During his travels, he was fortunate to meet with important leaders, such as Indira Gandhi, with whom he discussed the problems confronting the Indian education system.

This month, Dr. Reichbach and his wife Judith will be traveling in a motor home to revisit the historical and geographical sites, in both the U.S. and Canada, that he lectured on for forty-four years.

In honor of Dr. Edward Reichbach's vast accomplishments and outstanding achievements, I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

A CELEBRATION OF FORTY YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD: THE REVEREND WILLIAM J. SHIELDS

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Reverend William J. Shields in honor of his forty years of priesthood.

Father Shields has brought a wealth of knowledge, sensitivity, inspiration, and service to all that have encountered his wisdom. He was born in the "Swampoodle" section of North Philadelphia, near St. Columba's Church at 24th and Lehigh. Father Shields likes to remind us that he was born in the shadow of the old Connie Mack Stadium.

The young William Shields was extremely involved in the Parish Scouting Troop #22. After graduating from St. Columba's Grade