

activities and urge the Department of Agriculture to assure that Wildlife Services acts responsibly and efficiently.

I cannot, however, vote for the Bass-DeFazio amendment. Just last week in my congressional district, a cow was identified as having contracted Bovine TB, a dangerous livestock disease. The cow contracted the disease from an infected white-tail deer. There are several deer herds in northern Michigan which are identified as Bovine TB-positive herds. Wildlife Services has assisted the State in fighting to eradicate Bovine TB and is responsible for depopulating some of the infected deer herds.

I appreciate the efforts of Mr. BASS and Mr. DEFAZIO to change the way Wildlife Services does business. This amendment, unfortunately, does not clearly state which practices at Wildlife Services should be changed or how they should be changed. The language does not protect the many exceptional activities performed by Wildlife Services, like protection of human health and safety. We may all be able to agree that the intention of this amendment is to stop the controversial practices in the west, but there is no guarantee that intention will be implemented when Wildlife Services receives their FY99 appropriations on October 1. While I appreciate the efforts of Mr. BASS and Mr. DEFAZIO, I cannot vote to put each of Wildlife Services activities at risk.

A SALUTE TO THE DIKEMBE
MUTOMBO FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a very worthy cause. On Friday, June 26, the Board of Directors of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation will hold a special celebration dinner. I am proud to speak to you today about this organization.

Atlanta Hawks player Dikembe Mutombo created the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in 1997. He wanted an organization that would fulfill his longstanding desire to aid the plight of health care in Africa, particularly in his native homeland of Kinshasa, located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In the Congo, children die every day from curable diseases, the sole reason being lack of adequate health care resources. The Foundation was created to address that problem as well as to ensure that immunization programs are available, and to improve the health, education, and quality of life for the people of the Congo. Another of the foundation's major projects is to build a General Hospital in Kinshasa, the capitol city.

The humanitarian efforts of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation are merely an extension of Dikembe Mutombo's personal efforts. Off season, Dikembe has made four goodwill ambassador trips in five years to Africa. In 1996, he provided uniforms and expenses for the women's basketball team from the Congo during the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. He has served as the international spokesman for CARE—an international relief effort organization. He travels throughout Africa on behalf of the NBA performing at basketball clinics for as many as 2,000 children per day.

Dikembe is also involved with the Strong STARTS (Schools Taking Action to Reach Troubled Students) program. Strong STARTS is designed to reach the growing number of adolescents suffering from untreated emotional disorders that impair academic performance and social achievement. He serves as a spokesperson for the Atlanta Hawks Team Up program. Team Up's foundation is making a difference in the community. It encourages middle school students to take an active role in their communities from conducting canned food drives and toy drives to recycling cans and working at a local senior citizen's homes and soup kitchens.

Dikembe visits local schools with the message of overcoming adversity, and promoting reading. Along with his promotion of good study habits and staying in school, Dikembe tapes Public Service Announcements on violence prevention, volunteerism, and not smoking.

Mr. Speaker, Dikembe Mutombo is a role model to many with his humanitarian efforts and selfless giving. He provides opportunities to many underprivileged children and remains a man who stays in contact with his native homeland. As a child, Dikembe had hopes of becoming a medical doctor, in an attempt to aid those in need in his hometown. His career as a pro athlete with the NBA has taken him down a different path. Dikembe has still managed to fulfill his childhood dream, by aiding not only his hometown, but those in the Atlanta and international community as well.

I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing me this time to give a special thanks to the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation, Inc., and to Dikembe Mutombo.

IN HONOR OF EMILY CIKRA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute an extraordinary and determined young lady, Emily Cikra. Although diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, Emily has boldly accepted the challenge and lives her life passionately, serving as a role model to all she meets. She powerfully tells her own story in the June 17, 1998 issue of the Plain Dealer:

SERVING A SPECIAL PURPOSE
BAY TEEN WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY OPENS
OTHERS' EYES TO DISABILITIES

(By Emily Cikra)

When I was in second grade, a little girl came up to me on the playground and wanted to play. When I asked how she knew my name, she replied, "Everybody knows you, Emily. You're the famous girl in the wheelchair."

Some people think I'm special, but I'm not. I'm me.

I have had a disability my whole life. Neither my parents nor the doctors realized anything was wrong until I was 1, when I wasn't reaching the physical milestones a typical baby would.

I was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. This disease weakens the skeletal muscles and restricts me from walking. There are many types of muscular dystrophy; mine, called congenital, is one of the rarer types.

Early on, my parents tried to include me in everything typical kids were involved in.

They always assured me I was the same as everyone else; I just use wheels to get around instead of feet.

I have always believed this, and have done a lot of things people wouldn't expect me to be able to do. For example, I have skied at Boston Mills Ski Resort, gone to Girl Scout camp, ice skated in my chair, sledged, ridden roller coasters at Walt Disney World and swam in the ocean.

Kids in my grade and my whole community have always accepted me. They have been able to look past my disability and get to know me. I think it is a good experience for them to grow up with someone with a disability. Hopefully they will be able to see all people as equals and give everyone a fair chance.

Though it usually doesn't bother me, being in a wheelchair can get me down. There always will be things I can't do. It also makes some things more difficult, such as going into friends' homes, certain stores and restaurants.

Sometimes my friends make plans for activities that require physical agility, such as dances or sports. Transportation is an issue because someone has to be there who can drive my van with a lift. But as much as possible I participate and my friends are always considerate in thinking of how to include me.

This summer I would like to find a job, but due to mobility problems and general weakness, waitressing and typical teen jobs are out of the question. I guess I'll have to be a little more creative.

In the past few years I have realized that God put me here for a special purpose. I believe I am here to teach others that people with a disability are the same as other people, with feelings, opinions and ideas of their own.

I have begun trying to spread this word by talking at Bay Middle School for a diversity class that is a requirement for all fifth-grade students. People with disabilities and from different cultures talk to the class.

I tell the kids to ask anything on their minds, and if it's too awkward for me I will just pass. The questions they ask range from simple to very thoughtful. For example, "How many brothers and sisters do you have?"

Or "Do you have any pets?" to "Do you sleep in your wheelchair?" (No!) and "How do you get dressed in the morning?"

The kids are almost always more mature about meeting me than some adults are. For some reason, many grown-ups seem to think if you can't walk, you can't hear, see or think. They tend to talk down to me as if I were half my age.

Last year I had a setback just before Christmas. I developed pneumonia and was in Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital for six weeks. I had a tracheotomy (a small hole surgically cut in my windpipe) and now I use a portable ventilator to help me breathe.

Actually I feel a lot better, and I'm working on getting off the vent. Our lives are a little different. I have a nurse or an adult nearby at all times in case of an emergency. I am lucky to have four wonderful home-care nurses who have been very comforting to me.

It's not always easy, but I have a loving family, supportive friends and a community that rallies for me in a time of need. I'm not special, but I'm surrounded by a lot of people who are.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Emily Cikra. She is a special person and deserves our Nation's recognition.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. JOHN
JASON MARANO

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I bring to the attention of the House of Representatives the passing of a young man in my Connecticut congressional district, Mr. John Jason Marano, who was involved in a tragic automobile accident on Tuesday, June 9, 1998.

A life long resident of Waterbury, John had accomplished much in his all too brief twenty years of life. An outstanding student at Fairfield University, where he would have been a senior, John was a marketing major and had made the dean's list. He was also a very active member of the East Mountain Athletic Association where he was a softball coach, a baseball and softball umpire and where he also officiated at basketball games.

John was a parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Church in Waterbury and attended St. Francis Xavier Grammar School, graduating in 1991. He also attended Holy Cross High School, graduating in 1995. While attending Holy Cross, John excelled in track and field, earning All-City honors as a pole vaulter.

John Marano was a special young man who was admired and respected by all who knew him. Classmates, employers, neighbors, and others all respected him for his kindness, his giving nature and the joy he brought to so many people. During his short life, he touched many others and contributed to their well being.

Besides his parents, John and Denise (Grant) Marano, John leaves a brother, Kevin; a sister, Jill; a paternal grandfather, Albert Marano; and a maternal grandmother, Irene Grant, all of Waterbury.

Mr. Speaker, we grieve over the tragic loss of John Jason Marano; at the same time we celebrate the special grace his life brought to so many people, and we are thankful that we had, however briefly, an outstanding person like John Jason Marano in our lives.

I want to express my personal condolences to John's family and extend to them the condolences of the entire U.S. House of Representatives.

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express skepticism regarding H.R. 4105, The Internet Tax Freedom Act. The stated goal of H.R. 4105 certainly is noble: "A bill to establish a national policy against State and local interference with interstate commerce on the Internet, to exercise congressional jurisdiction over interstate commerce by establishing a moratorium on the imposition of exactions that would interfere with the free flow of commerce via the Internet, to establish a national policy against federal and state regulation of Internet access and online services, and for other pur-

poses." The bill's name, "Tax Freedom," also expresses a laudable notion. One must always be wary of misnomers in Washington—the Justice Department comes to mind as one quick example. The late economic historian, Murray N. Rothbard, Ph.D., so warned when he stated "when someone in government mentions the word 'fairness', grab your wallet and run for the hills."

I am, nevertheless, always suspicious when a recently-crafted bill comes to the House floor not only having bypassed the Committee process but without any advance warning. Such was the case with this bill. Moreover, this bill comes to the floor under suspension of the rules which does not allow for amendments and which limits the debate time to twenty minutes on each side. I, in fact, was denied an opportunity to speak by those managing the limited time allowable under this process.

However laudable the stated goal of tax freedom this bill still encroaches on state's right to raise revenue and reserves instead (establishes) an exclusive right for national and international governments to instead impose the "proper" form of taxation and distribute it to local governments as these larger governmental bodies ultimately see fit. At the same time, this particular bill rewards those states which were quick to tax their citizens by "grandfathering" their taxes while excluding other States' rights to do so certainly making this a bill that lacks uniformity.

If the intended purpose of the legislation was simply to keep the internet tax free, a three paragraph bill would have been adequate to accomplish this. Instead, H.R. 4105 is significantly more complex. It, in fact, creates a new 30-member federal commission tasked with, among other things:

Examining model State legislation relating to taxation of transactions using the Internet and Internet access, including uniform terminology, definitions of the transactions, services, and other activities that may be subject to State and local taxation, procedural structures and mechanisms applicable to such taxation, and a mechanism for the resolution of disputes between States regarding matters involving multiple taxation;

Examining a simplified system for administration and collection of sales and use tax for remote commerce, that incorporates all manner of making consumer payments, that would provide for a single statewide sales or use tax rate (which rate may be zero), and would establish a method of distributing to political subdivisions within each State their proportionate share of such taxes, including an examination of collection of sales or use tax by small volume remote sellers only in the State of origin;

Examining ways to simplify the interstate administration of sales and use tax on remote commerce, including a review of the need for a single or uniform tax registration, single or uniform tax returns, simplified remittance requirements, and simplified administrative procedures; and

Examining the need for an independent third party collection system that would utilize the Internet to further simplify sales and use tax administration and collection;

These H.R. 4105-established "duties" suggest that the Commission's real purpose is to design a well-engineered system of taxation (efficient tyranny) rather than keep citizens in a state of "Tax Freedom" as the bill's name suggests. I encourage my colleagues in this House as well as citizens of this country to be wary of federal and international encroach-

ment upon the privacy and efficiency currently available to individuals around the globe via the internet.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERMAN MIXON

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to one of Alabama's most able and illustrious educators, Dr. Herman Mixon of Alabama A&M University. Dr. Mixon has made significant contributions to the State of Alabama as an educator for almost 29 years, as a practicing attorney, and as a community volunteer. Dr. Mixon has given of himself so that many of our nation's most treasured assets, our young people, may learn, grow and prosper in today's complex world.

I first came to know Dr. Mixon at the citadel of learning and knowledge, Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. After our continued education in graduate school, and law school, we began working together under a general practice of law. It was at that time that I learned first-hand of his advocacy for children's issues, as evidenced by his volunteer work with the Boy Scouts, student organizations and individual students.

He has always been the best in whatever endeavor he chose to participate. In addition, his excellence in his chosen fields of endeavors, be it the law, education, or community volunteerism have always benefited many others. He is a volunteer of the first order, a scholar, a humanitarian, and a true gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I request that Dr. Mixon be commended by the United States Congress for his laudable career of service to others, and that a copy of this statement be presented to him for his aforementioned illustrious career.

VIRGINIA BIRTH-RELATED INJURY
COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation which will ensure that payments Virginians receive under the Virginia Birth-Related Injury Compensation Program continue to be received on a tax-free basis.

The Birth-Related Injury Compensation Program was enacted in Virginia in 1987. It provides rights and remedies to infants that sustain birth-related neurological injuries. The program was designed to avert the insurance crisis that threatened the availability of obstetrical care by reducing the uncertainty inherent in the Tort system. The program removes cases involving certain serious birth-related injuries from the Tort system by providing a fund to compensate infants with such neurological injuries. If a qualifying injury has occurred and either the physician or hospital providing the obstetrical services participates in the program, compensation is available through the program without establishing fault. Qualifying injuries are generally brain or spinal cord injuries caused by the deprivation of oxygen or