

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL
GUARD—NORWEGIAN HOME
GUARD TROOP RECIPROCAL EX-
CHANGE PROGRAM

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Minnesota National Guard—Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program. The program is the longest running military exchange between two nations, and it has strengthened the ties between our countries while enriching the lives of the young men and women who have participated in it.

Each February, over 200 soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard leave their homes and join the guards of each other's nation. They spend two to three weeks in the other country, training with the host military, visiting cultural sites, and getting to know their new peers. The exchange guards even spend a weekend with a host family, to enrich their experience in the host nation.

The Minnesota National Guard—Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program is of great value to both our peacekeeping and cultural goals. By training in Norway, members of the Minnesota National Guard gain experience operating in a foreign environment. At the same time, participants from both countries have an opportunity to explore a new culture and to travel at a young age. The Norwegian-Americans of the Minnesota National Guard also have a chance to explore their family roots in Norway. Finally, the coordination between our nations' militaries reinforces our mutual dedication to working for world peace.

I am pleased to recognize the Minnesota National Guard—Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program for its 25 years of accomplishments, and I wish the program its continued success in the future.

WILMA DEAN OF BARTHOLOMEW
COUNTY, IN

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share an inspiring story with my colleagues and the American people about a woman whose whole life has been full of kindness, compassion and hard work. Wilma Dean of Bartholomew County, Indiana has worked for over twenty-five years at the Ramada Inn in Columbus, Indiana as a Senior Guest Representative. Throughout her years of service, she has strived to make people feel good about themselves. And on so many occasions Wilma has performed her duties above and beyond her job requirements. When asked, her co-workers will describe her as a wonderful lady who often stays late to help others. She even performs task outside of those assigned to her. Her co-workers remembered one memorable occasion when she assisted an elderly couple to their room because they were barely able to walk.

In her twenty-five years of service as a Ramada Inn employee, Wilma created a warm atmosphere for the guest that is similar to a home. She would do this through her courtesy and her ability to be a team-player.

Recently, Wilma was rewarded for her exceptional job performance. She was one of five hospitality employees to receive Ramada's nation-wide award: Hospitality Employee of the Year. Wilma's efforts were noticed from Ramada's sixty-thousand employees nationwide.

Wilma Dean's hard work, dedication and kindness is an important example for others to follow. Work hard. Be kind to others. And help your neighbor if you can.

Mr. Speaker, that is my Report from Indiana.

HONORING THE 1997 MASSACHU-
SETTS DIVISION II GIRLS SOC-
CER STATE CHAMPIONS, SHEP-
HERD HILL REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to honor the team members, coaches, and manager of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School 1997 Girls Soccer team. Hailing from Charlton, Massachusetts, this Shepherd Hill team captured the Division II State Title on November 22, 1997, defeating Marblehead High School in a 3–1 victory.

Before capturing the statewide Division II crown, this team achieved many accomplishments. While accumulating an impressive 18–5–1 record, their hard work both on and off the field secured for these fine players, coaches, and manager the Southern Worcester County League West Conference Championship, the District E Division II Championship, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Academic Excellence Gold Award for having a team Grade Point Average of 3.35.

In gaining these accolades, this Shepherd Hill team demonstrated that athletic and academic excellence can be achieved in tandem. For this reason in particular the 1997 Shepherd Hill Regional High School Girls Soccer Team is a model for athletic teams around both the nation and globe as they have shown that the qualities of determination, commitment, and effort are as important in the classroom as they are on the playing field.

I would finally like to congratulate each and every person associated with the 1997 Shepherd Hill Regional High School Girls Soccer Team. Please let me submit the names of those dedicated individuals who helped bring the Massachusetts Division II Girls Soccer State Championship Title to Shepherd Hill Regional High School. They are Team Co-Captains Katie Brothers, Trisha Cushing, Jen Langlois; Players, Katie Bembenek, Julia Faia, Jessica Frink, Gina Gregoire, Colleen Hackenson, Danielle Houle, Samantha Kane, Melissa Kasheta, Emily Koslowski, Tracy Koslowski, Elizabeth Laplante, Kerry Malone, Kristen Malone, Angela Minardi, Amanda Muise, Jenna Murphy, Moirra Murphy, Wendy

Paquin, Kelly Walsh, Megan Welch, Katelyn Weymouth; Head Coach Harry Logan; Assistant Coaches Karen Jensen and Jody McManus; and Manager Jim Rawson. From this great victory may come many more. Congratulations to you all!

VOTER ELIGIBILITY CONFIRMA-
TION SYSTEM IS A THREAT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concern regarding legislative initiatives to restrict voter registration and turnout. The so-called "Voter Eligibility Confirmation System" in effect threatens voting rights of the American constituency.

As introduced, this legislation would establish a federal program for state and local elected officials to "confirm" the citizenship of registered voters and voter registration applicants. The proposal would allow elected officials to submit the names of voter registration applicants and registered voters to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Social Security Administration for citizenship confirmation through a computerized system.

With all due respect to my colleague, this is bad policy! The data on which this system is based is inaccurate. The fact is that an American citizen can have a social security number and stand the possibility of not being confirmed as a citizen by the Social Security Administration. Thousands of U.S. citizens were naturalized before the agency began keeping computer records at all. As a result, our fellow Americans will be targeted to have their voting rights undermined by the use of such a system.

Women and minorities in our Nation have historically been singled out and questioned based on their surnames or appearance. Although this American struggle has made many progressions, this act of discrimination should not and must not be tolerated by our distinguished House.

Under current federal and state laws, both voter registration fraud and voter fraud are crimes. The notion that massive citizenship verification procedures are needed does not align with the facts. The data received from the House Oversight Committee hearing in 1995 revealed that the real problem of voter fraud had to do with the abuses of State absentee ballot laws, not by Latinos or Asian Americans.

Let's get real. This bill attempts to set measures that not only overturns the Privacy Act projections, but recreates a system that affects the minorities in our America.

As the Honorable Jimmy Carter so eloquently stated in his 1981 farewell address, "America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense . . . human rights invented America."

As we move into the new millennium, let us continue to build bridges in our Nation. We need to address the facts of this proposed legislation and not be distracted by the rhetoric.

All Americans should have the inalienable right to vote and that right must not be determined based on whether an elected official decides that one of our fellow Americans is "ethnic-looking" versus "American-looking."

In closing, I will leave with the powerful statement of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

IN HONOR OF JIM CALHOUN

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Jim Calhoun of Mansfield. Mr. Calhoun is the Coach of the University of Connecticut Men's Basketball Team. On December 30th of 1997, Jim recorded his 500th victory as a college coach and more significantly, he is the first coach to win 250 games at two different Division I schools: the University of Connecticut, which is my *alma mater* and Northwestern University.

Mr. Calhoun is the first New England coach to reach the 500 victory mark and he now has more victories than any Division I coach in that six-state region. It is all part of a composite that has earned him a standing as one of Connecticut's most popular personalities.

In the 500 victory category, Calhoun joined such giants of the sport as Dean Smith, John Wooden, Phog Allen, Adolph Rupp and John Thompson. Thompson, the Georgetown mentor, made a significant observation when he was quoted as saying "Jim doesn't get the credit he probably deserves nationally, but he's one of the best coaches in the country."

Calhoun was the 46th coach in Division I history to reach the 500 win milestone, but he is number one among UConn fans for the contributions he has made to the State University since he took over its basketball program in 1986. His first coaching assignment after college was at Old Lyme High School, one of the excellent schools in the Second District that I proudly represent.

Since his time at Old Lyme, as one newspaper headlined, he has been a "consistent winner." That is the most accurate assessment of this legendary coach in the fullest measure of the term.

My congratulations to Jim, Pat, his wife of 31 years, and his children.

Calhoun and UConn, a wonderful and productive partnership for his students, players, University, and for our entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Engineers Week which is being celebrated on February 22–28, 1998.

I am so proud of the engineers in the Sixth District of Massachusetts. Engineers are a vital component of the work force, and these individuals make significant contributions not only to technology, but to society as a whole. I am particularly proud of the more than 500 engineers working for our national defense at Hanscom Air Force Base, home of the Air

Force Electronic Systems Center. These men and women have developed and fielded countless new capabilities for our armed forces, systems that help protect our military members in wartime and deter potential aggressors during peacetime. These systems serve as the eyes and ears of our military commanders, using the latest technologies to cut through the fog of war and see where no one else can see. The engineers at Hanscom Air Force Base have a long and proud legacy of developing electronic systems—from the DEW Line to AWACS to Joint STARS—and they are working today on the new capabilities that will maintain America's technological superiority. They are true pioneers of possibilities, working with the belief that excellence is the basis for success and tomorrow will be better than today.

On February 19, General Electric Aircraft Engines in Lynn, Massachusetts, celebrated Engineering Recognition Day. The day highlighted past achievements of GE personnel in the areas of engineering, technology, and customer service, recognizing those individuals and teams who made truly notable contributions during the course of the year. This year's theme, "Product Preeminence Through Six Sigma Quality," captured the importance that business places on the Six Sigma initiative and its potential for GE Aircraft Engines. The 550 engineers and the additional 500 technical and support staff at GE in Lynn work in harmony to comprise the aerospace industry's top engineering functions—designing, manufacturing and supporting the best jet engines in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments of the engineers all over America, and in particular the engineers of the Sixth District of Massachusetts. I hope my colleagues will join with me in recognizing National Engineers Week and the engineering profession for their tireless work to advance American society.

TRIBUTE TO GREG GUINAN

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, a native Coloradan Greg Guinan who is retiring after a stellar career of nearly forty years with the Tribune Company and for the past 29 years with its Denver station, KWGN the very first television station in Colorado.

Under his guidance, Denver's channel 2 has gone to extraordinary lengths to report on, inform and uplift our community. For the past 27 years, Greg has produced and appeared on "Your Right to Say It," featuring leaders from Colorado and the nation. Greg has been the catalyst for environmental initiatives "Clean It Up Colorado." He has overseen the telecast of various activities from Denver's St. Patrick's Day Parade to our Easter Seal's Telethon, to a moving 50th anniversary documentary of World War II. In 1996, he spearheaded a remarkable "Yes to Youth" fund which raised \$2.2 million for Colorado non-profit organizations.

Let me note in closing that my good friend Greg is also a former Marine. To best describe this wonderful person and the fashion in

which he conducted himself throughout his remarkable career, I think the Marine Corps motto fits best—*Semper Fidelis*, always faithful.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3205

HON. MERRILL COOK

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman MCGOVERN as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3205, legislation that will address some serious problems caused by certain provisions included in the Balanced Budget Act.

There were several provisions included in the Balanced Budget Act intended to target Medicare waste and fraud occurring in the home care industry. However, some of these provisions missed the target, and one, the so-called "Interim Payment System"—or IPS—is causing a great deal of hardship and heartbreak for seniors in Utah and across the nation.

The IPS was intended to transition the home care industry from a retrospective, cost-based reimbursement system to a prospective payment system. The IPS will impose tight spending limits on home care providers. A prospective payment system is currently used by Medicare to calculate reimbursement to hospitals and other providers. Moving home care to a prospective payment system is a sensible reform which I support. However, we also need a sensible transition to a prospective payment system. The IPS as it has been implemented by the Health Care Financing Administration, is not providing a sensible transition. Instead, the IPS is creating chaos and financial distress for home care providers and beneficiaries. Why is it doing that?

First, the IPS has put the cart before the horse. It was put in place beginning in October of last year. However, HCFA will not be able to tell home care agencies what their new IPS spending limits are until April of this year—at the earliest. Home care providers have to guess how much they need to cut back care. If they do not cut enough, they will be penalized. If they cut too much, it will obviously hurt beneficiaries. As one of my constituents who runs a home care agency wrote: "we are operating completely in the dark." Common sense argues for announcing regulations first, then requiring compliance.

Second, the IPS has created a Rube Goldberg system where home care providers are rewarded or punished depending on what kind of fiscal year they use. Let me try to explain this. Under the IPS, reimbursement rates are projected from a base year which is defined as "fiscal year 1994." Because different agencies use different fiscal years, this provision will impact the agencies differently. This grossly distorts payments to home health care providers and the entire market for home care. Agencies who have a "favorable" fiscal year will have a competitive advantage over agencies with an "unfavorable" fiscal year. For example, an agency with a fiscal year that begins on October 1, will have its reimbursement rate based partially on what it was spending in 1993. Other agencies base years will be in calendar year 1994, when their spending may