

to improve our K-12 institutions. Because K-12 is crucial in the development of science and math-savvy college students and workers, I believe we must concentrate a good portion of our resources on turning out good engineers, mathematicians, and scientists. We all know how important that is for our economy, the technology industry is the fastest growing segment of our society, and just a few weeks ago, we had to vote on whether or not to expand the number of visas available to highly-skilled workers from outside the United States! We could easily solve that problem by ensuring that all students graduating from high school have more than rudimentary skills in the areas of math and science and are encouraged to follow up on that education in a college or university.

Having highlighted these issues and with the understanding that I would like them included in our future discussions, I would like to endorse the use of this Report as a starting point for bringing science, math, and engineering to the forefront of our national agenda.

**HONORING RANDALL J. COLEMAN,
1998 HENRY EVANS VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Randall Coleman who recently received the Henry Evans Volunteer of the Year Award.

This award is presented annually by the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce in order to honor a person who not only volunteers his time to support the chamber, but also volunteers in other community organizations. Randall Coleman has shown a lifelong commitment to volunteer service.

Mr. Coleman lives in the Shenango Valley with his wife Ann and son Grant. He has had a distinctive and promising career with Penn Power where he currently serves as the Mercer County Area Manager. But is Mr. Coleman's active role in the community that makes him a invaluable asset. He currently serves as a president of the Kiwanis Club of Sharon, as a member of the Pennsylvania Electric Association, the Pennsylvania Economy League, Private Industry Council, and the National Association of Industrial Office Properties, the American Heart Association as well as serving as a member in the fundraising cabinet of the United Way of Mercer County in its construction division.

Mr. Coleman served as the coordinator of volunteers for the Special Olympics of Mercer County. However, Randall Coleman feels that his most rewarding experience was teaching handicapped children to swim as an American Red Cross Lifeguard. It was a rewarding experience because for these children achieving this goal is more difficult because of their special needs.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Coleman's achievements today. He is certainly an asset to our community in western Pennsylvania.

ROBERT GEAKE, A DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant in my home State of Michigan, State Senator Robert Geake.

Born on October 26, 1936, in Detroit, MI, Bob grew up in the neighboring suburb of Ferndale. He attended the University of Michigan, earning a B.S. in special education, an M.A. in guidance and counseling, and a Ph.D in education and psychology.

After completing his education, Bob pursued a career in psychology and became an accomplished psychologist. In 1972, Bob was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives where he served with distinction until being elected to the State Senate in 1977.

Senator Geake established himself as the Michigan Legislature's expert on mental health issues. He also took an interest in anti-crime measures and spearheaded Michigan's anti-stalking laws. Under his leadership, Michigan has the nation's toughest and most enforceable laws against stalking. Senator Geake has also led the fight to enact tough penalties against drunk driving and sponsored legislation to eliminate Michigan's inheritance tax. A leader on child development and family issues, Senator Geake has been instrumental in passing legislation to crack down on dead beat parents who are delinquent in their child support payments.

Senate Geake is known in Lansing as a statesman and one of the most effective lawmakers in the State Legislature. A recent analysis by the Detroit News indicated that Senator Geake ranked first among the 148 Michigan lawmakers in the numbers of bills passed.

Senator Geake is retiring from the State Senate at the conclusion of his term this year. His leadership will be missed. Senator Geake has been a strong advocate for Michigan families. His efforts to cut taxes, strengthen families, and make our communities safe from violent crime have made Michigan a better place to live.

I wish Senator Geake and his wife, Carol, the best of luck in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. On October 10, 1998, I was absent due to an illness in my family. I received an official leave of absence from the majority leader in this regard.

However, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner on the following legislation:

H.R. 4567. To revise Medicare program—On suspending the rules and passing the bill (Rollcall No. 516) "aye."

H. Con. Res. 334. Relating to Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization—On suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution (Rollcall No. 517) "aye."

H. Con. Res. 320. To support the Baltic people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—On suspending the rules and passing the concurrent resolution (Rollcall No. 518) "aye."

H.R. 2616. Charter Schools Senate Amendments—On suspending the rules and passing the bill (Rollcall No. 519) "aye."

S. 852. Auto Salvage—On suspending the rules and passing the bill (Rollcall No. 520) "aye."

**FCC AND TELEPHONE
COMPETITION**

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with several original cosponsors. They are Mr. DINGELL, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. KLINK, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. BURR. Mr. speaker, this legislation essentially begins the process of reviewing the inadequacies of FCC implementation of the local competition provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Specifically, our bill amends provisions contained in section 271 of the Act, dealing with interLATA (long distance) entry by the Bell Companies.

It is frustrating that nearly three years have passed since the Telecom Act of 1996 was enacted into law. Five applications for long distance service have been received by the FCC, and four have been denied. The fifth, an application approved by the Louisiana Public Service Commission by a vote of 4-1, is now pending at the FCC. Frankly, I am not encouraged that it will be granted when the FCC makes its decision on October 13 of this year.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to open up competition in both the local and long-distance markets; but, the FCC appears determined to preserve the long-distance service monopoly that traditional interexchange companies have enjoyed since the conception of the telephone. Today, only business subscribers are realizing more choices from competitors to incumbent LECs.

This legislation will attempt to codify what the intent of the conferees was during their deliberations on the 1996 Act. That is, the states should have explicit authority over determining intrastate interLATA service in their respective states. In addition, the legislation we are introducing today would modify other provisions of the law as noted in the attached talking points.

I look forward to working with all of our colleagues early in the 10th Congress to loudly send a message to the FCC, the Department of Justice, and the administration that the "status quo" is no longer acceptable. Only true, open competition in all markets will be acceptable now, not later.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERLATA COMMUNICATIONS
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1998**

State Jurisdiction Over Intrastate InterLATA Services. The legislation authorizes the state public service commission to grant BOC applications to provide intrastate InterLATA telecommunications services upon satisfaction of Track A/B, the competitive checklist and public interest requirements. If the State fails to act on an intrastate InterLATA application within the 90-

day decision period, the application is deemed granted.

Resale Authority. On February 8, 1999, BOCs would be authorized to resell the InterLATA services of unaffiliated companies.

Amendments to Track A/Track B. The Track A/Track B requirement would be eliminated effective February 8, 1999. In addition, the legislation removes the requirement that a Track A company provide telephone exchange service exclusively or predominantly over its own facilities. It also provides that Track B is satisfied if the BOC's statement of generally available terms and conditions ("SGAT") has been approved by the state public service commission or if the state public service commission has permitted such SGAT to take effect.

FCC Consultation with State PSC. The legislation directs the FCC to affirm the evaluation of the state public service commission concerning BOC compliance with Track A/Track B and the competitive checklist unless the FCC determines by clear and convincing evidence that the state evaluation is clearly erroneous.

Public Interest Determination. Effective February 8, 1999, the public interest requirement of Section 271 is deemed to be satisfied upon a finding that the BOC has satisfied the competitive checklist.

Incidental InterLATA Services. The legislation would expand the definition of "incidental InterLATA services" to include data communications and international telecommunications and information services.

Section 271 Approvals and Denials. Decisions approving or denying Section 271 applications must include a written determination of whether the BOC has complied with the statutory standard for InterLATA relief.

THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, it is rare for any legislation in the House of Representatives to obtain the support of a majority of its Members. In fact, fewer than 1 percent of all bills introduced in the 105th Congress have reached this status. I would like to announce with pride that a bill I sponsored, H.R. 1375, the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act, has achieved this remarkable level of support.

Over 220 of our colleagues support this measure because they recognize that the absence of coverage for nutrition therapy services is a glaring omission in current Medicare policy. Medical science makes clear that properly nourished patients are better able to resist disease and recover from illnesses than those who are malnourished. We also know that elderly Americans are at a higher risk of malnutrition than others in society due to the naturally occurring aging process.

Despite this knowledge, Medicare does not cover nutrition assessment and counseling services by registered dietitians—what is commonly known in the health care field as medical nutrition therapy (MNT). As a result, the elderly either pay for this service out of their own pockets, or go without. This is not a choice that those on fixed incomes should have to make. Medical nutrition therapy is medically necessary care and ought to be a covered benefit.

I am convinced that this bill is an important part of the solution to saving Medicare. It will help us cut costs without sacrificing the quality of patient care. Empirical evidence shows that MNT is effective for patients with diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other costly diseases that are prominent among the elderly. It lowers treatment costs by reducing and shortening the length of hospital stays, preventing health care complications and decreasing the need for medications. Yet still, we do not provide senior coverage for this care.

It should be noted that support for medical nutrition therapy is not confined to Congress. Major patient advocacy groups including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the National Kidney Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and the National Osteoporosis Foundation also support coverage for MNT. These groups understand that appropriate nutrition therapy saves money and lives.

Any measure that achieves such an impressive level of political support is deserving of serious deliberation in this body. While I regret that this bill will not be taken up in the remaining days of this Congress, I urge the leadership of both parties to make this bill a top priority next year. While the Balanced Budget Act helped strengthen the Medicare program in the short term, additional reforms will be necessary to prepare the program for the coming retirement of the Baby Boom generation. Congress will be remiss if it overlooks medical nutrition therapy as part of those long-term reforms.

In closing, I want to thank the American Diabetic Association and the Nevada Diabetic Association for their fine work in helping me educate Members of Congress about this important measure. The dedicated health and nutrition professionals represented by those groups can be proud of how far this bill had advanced in the 105th Congress and confident that we will ultimately succeed in these efforts.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT EDWARD WOOD

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend sincere thanks to the outgoing Superintendent of the War in the Pacific National Park on Guam, Edward W. Wood, Jr., for his dedicated service. A 25-year veteran of the National Park Service, Mr. Wood has served with distinction, especially during his tenure as Superintendent of the War in the Pacific National Park and the American Memorial Park for the past seven years of his career.

As many of my colleagues know, the War in the Pacific National Park commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of those veterans who participated in the campaigns of the Pacific theater during World War II and preserves the natural, scenic, and historic values of our beautiful island. This park commemorates something especially close to all our hearts, the sacrifice of the American soldiers to liberate our islands and the loyalty that the people of Guam demonstrated during this critical time in our island's history. In this sense, Mr.

Wood's commitment to ensuring that the park met its mission is deeply appreciated by all of us.

As my colleagues may remember, one of the initial pieces of legislation I introduced when I first arrived to this institution, in the 103d Congress, was a bill to enhance the War in the Pacific National Park by appropriating funds and authorizing approval for an overlook at Asan Bay and a Memorial Wall of Names, to honor all those who suffered during the time of enemy occupation. This effort would not have turned successful without the support and collaboration of Mr. Wood.

It is fitting, that we on Guam pay tribute to his service and accomplishments during his time as Superintendent of the only national park on our island. He has contributed significantly to the development of both the War in the Pacific National Historic Park and the American Memorial Park on the island of Saipan. Most recently, in 1997, he shared the National Park Foundation's National Partnership Leadership Award with the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for their combined efforts to develop American Memorial Park, which specifically honors the Americans and Marines who gave their lives during the Marianas campaign of World War II, arguably the most significant battle of the Pacific operation.

In addition, Mr. Wood has also been recognized and has received several Special Achievement Awards for his work in diversity recruitment, operational excellence, community involvement, and assistance to other government agencies.

Mr. Wood, Si Yu'os Ma'ase for your dedication to the people of Guam and to the War in the Pacific National Park. Good luck in your future endeavors. Your service brings honor to the National Park Service.

HONORING FATHER MATEO SHEEDY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true humanitarian and an outstanding member of my hometown community of San Jose, California.

Father Mateo Sheedy has selflessly served our community, providing assistance to those most in need of a helping hand. Particularly, Father Sheedy has championed the cause of recent immigrants. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that farm workers—those who feed America—are treated with dignity and respect. In concert with churches and the United Farm Workers he has succeeded in ensuring that farm laborers' working conditions are safe, and that their wages fair. His work with ESL classes and citizenship courses have helped countless immigrants attain United States citizenship.

Father Sheedy has been embraced by the local Mexican-American community and has been instrumental in solving some of the problems plaguing our neighborhoods. His inclusive style has brought together rival gangs—allowing families to live in safe, nurturing neighborhoods. His innovative gun return program has been very successful.