

are more likely to have money problems, career problems and credit problems and less likely to make informed decisions as citizens and voters.

To combat economic illiteracy, the National Council on Economic Education developed a vast network of state councils and university-based centers, teaching approximately 120,000 teachers who, in turn, teach basic economics to over seven million students.

Ms. Bryant is being recognized for her program, "The Cost of War." This model applies economics instruction to her world civilization class. Because economics influences world events, this curriculum instills in students an understanding of the economic impact on historic events. Her hope is to engage students and inspire them to become active in community and national affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bryant deserves to be recognized for her innovative approach to educating students on the role of economics in our global environment. It is with great pleasure that I stand today to congratulate her and applaud her achievement.

**SAMMY SOSA: THE HERO OF
WASHINGTON HEIGHTS**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sammy Sosa, the baseball player who—but for Mark McGwire—in any other year would have replaced the legendary Roger Maris as the single-season home run hitting champion. Sosa trailed McGwire in this year's dramatic and unprecedented home run derby. But in Washington Heights, Sosa is bigger than baseball and in the hearts of the people, he is number one.

The Dominican-born Sosa is the toast of Washington Heights, a vibrant, colorful neighborhood on the west side of my Congressional District, dominated by immigrants from the Dominican Republic. Dominicans are proud of their country and their community, and take special pride in those heroes who remember their roots. Sosa has done just that in his generosity toward the poor in his homeland—before and since Hurricane Georges—and in his expressed desire to participate in a neighborhood parade through the streets of Washington Heights.

Sosa grew up in poverty with his widowed mother and six siblings in a seaside town in the Dominican Republic. Today, at 29, after nine years in the big leagues, he is being paid \$42.5 million under a four-year contract. But throughout, he has maintained his humility, his exuberance for life, and his concern for his people. When Hurricane Georges devastated his country, taking as many as 200 lives, Sosa's foundation cranked up its operation to ship down desperately needed relief supplies. In his hometown, San Pedro de Macoris, Sosa's generosity had already earned him the title, Sammy Claus.

His countrymen in Washington Heights will join with all New Yorkers this weekend to let Sosa know just how much they appreciate him, on and off the field. He will be honored by John Cardinal O'Connor, head of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York; and there

will be a parade, if not in Washington Heights, then Broadway will do.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VERNON REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vernon Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Waukesha County landmark and symbol of religious freedom and Wisconsin's pioneering spirit. On October 18, the church will celebrate its founding 150 years ago in 1848, the same year Wisconsin achieved statehood.

Formed in a rural farmhouse on October 18, 1848, members of the church attended to their spiritual needs while the church structure was built. The result was a church society that was to construct the holy Covenanter church ever to exist in Wisconsin.

The Covenanters were part of a movement in Scotland during the late 16th Century that strove to defend the Presbyterian Church, a stance that brought them persecution by the Church of England and the British Crown. Many left Scotland and during the ensuing centuries carried their faith to new countries. Founders of the church in the Town of Vernon were of Scottish and Irish descent.

An active local congregation supported the church for more than 65 years, but the members could not sustain its regular operations. In recent decades, an annual service has been held at the church each fall conducted by a visiting Presbyterian minister.

The church building, completed in 1854, and an adjacent buggy shed and its grounds have been maintained by the church's cemetery association to preserve their appearance. Directors of the association are exploring the possibility of placing the church on the National Register of Historic Places.

This Sunday, October 18th, the church will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a special service. Descendants of church pioneers now live as far away as New England, Florida, Hawaii and Canada.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to recognize and commend the Vernon Reformed Presbyterian Church, a house of worship carved from the wilderness 150 years ago, through the courage and dedication of our Wisconsin pioneers.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of H.R. 3888, the Anti-Slamming bill. This bill prohibits a despicable practice that has seen tremendous growth over the past few years in the telecommunications industry.

Many of us have received phone calls from phone carriers advocating that we switch to their calling plan. For many consumers, it is an annoyance that they could live without. Even worse is the practice of "slamming", which occurs when a solicitous phone company, without full and proper authorization, changes the consumer's phone subscription so that they can indicate as the consumer's phone provider.

Under H.R. 3888, this type of practice is prohibited. The bill requires, before changing a consumer's telecommunications subscription, that a soliciting phone carrier affirm that the subscriber is authorized to change phone subscriptions, and that the subscriber fully acknowledges and intends to switch their telecommunications service from one carrier to another.

Under this bill, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is required to enact verification procedures which are aimed at inhibiting this practice. Those procedures include the preclusion of negative option marketing, and a requirement that a telecommunications provider complete and keep a copy of a verification of change in oral, written, or electronic form in their records. Furthermore, to protect recent immigrants, the FCC is asked to require that any verification of change correspondence be made in the same language as the original solicitous contact was made.

The bill also includes a provision authorizing the FCC to sanction corporations that violate any of their prescribed procedures. To buttress those sanctions, the bill allows the FCC to award monetary damages to the victims of this practice. Typically, those damages are set at the actual damages to the consumer or \$500, whichever is greater, but the FCC can also at certain instances, triple the damages. This provisions removes the incentive to "slam" because it undercuts the reason why phone companies do it, because it is profitable.

I support this bill because it protects consumers, not phone companies. IT makes sure that phone subscribers will also get the opportunity to make a smart, and informed decision when choosing how they want to communicate to the rest of the world, without being subjected to the trickery of under-handed telemarketers.

I encourage you all to vote for this bill, and strike a blow against opportunistic phone companies out to make a quick dollar at the expense of our hard-working consumers.

HONORING ROBERT G. STAUF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise a man who for more than three decades has given himself to the education of our youth and to the betterment of his community.

Robert Stauf started teaching in the Bronx in 1984 after graduating from Fordham College. For the next few years he taught at St. Philip Nerl School while he furthered his studies at Hunter College, where he did graduate work in guidance and school counseling, and at Manhattan College, where he did graduate work in administration.

From 1964 until 1997 he taught in Yonkers Public Schools. But it was in the area of community service where Robert Stauff has been exemplary. He has evinced a willingness to serve on many committees to further the goals of education. He has also served on many government committees and in a boundless number of civic organizations.

He served on the Community Relations Committee for three administrations, was chair of the Human Rights Commission and the Community Action Program, served on the Parking Authority, the South Yonkers Planning Association, the Third Precinct Community Council, was in the leadership of an astonishing number of Irish-American organizations, in 1993 served on the Yonkers City Council, and if that wasn't enough, he can sing.

Bob Stauff has taught our young for almost two generations while being a leader to the many communities he served for as long.

Yonkers is very fortunate in having someone so willing to do so much for his community. I join Yonkers in saluting Bob Stauff for his many contributions to his City.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN H.
GLENN, JR.

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and fellow Ohioan, who will very soon be embarking upon two great adventures. I am speaking, of course, of Senator JOHN GLENN. In a few days, he will be returning to space aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*. Shortly thereafter, Senator GLENN will be ending his long and distinguished service in the other body of this Congress.

Senator GLENN has served our country in an astonishing number of ways. He fought in the Pacific in the Second World War, and served in Korea. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on six occasions, and holds the Air Medal with 18 clusters. In 1959, he was chosen by NASA as a Project Mercury astronaut. Three years later, on February 20, 1962, he became the first American to orbit the Earth.

In 1974, after a few years in the private sector, Senator GLENN was elected to his current position as a United States Senator from Ohio. During his twenty-four years of service in the Senate, he has devoted enormous energy toward ensuring the security of our country and people, and he has worked to build a responsible and responsive federal government. He is an acknowledged expert and leader in nuclear non-proliferation efforts, and has tirelessly worked to better the lot of working-class families and to protect the environment.

Now, as Senator GLENN prepares for retirement, he has agreed to serve our nation yet again, returning to space in order to add to the body of human knowledge. I am very pleased and proud that Senator GLENN, a true legend and a hero, will again be a very visible example to our nation—an example of service to our country and service to all humanity.

A new generation of Americans will watch the launch of *Discovery* later this month, and hear from their parents and grandparents the many stories of how JOHN GLENN served his

country. They will hear of his bravery in wartime, his skill in the development and piloting of experimental aircraft, and his calm handling of the exceeding dangerous, ground breaking orbits aboard *Friendship Seven*. They will also hear that he spent twenty-four years as a Senator from Ohio, working in innumerable ways to better our nation. That he has set this example for all Americans may be his most lasting contribution. Who can judge the effect of such an example of personal sacrifice upon the children of our country, and upon all Americans?

For these years of service and untiring dedication, I would like to thank Senator GLENN. And, on the occasion of his return to space, I congratulate him and wish him a fruitful flight and a safe return. I will miss his leadership here in Congress, as will all Ohioans. However, I will always remember him as an example of what a true American should be.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
SANDIA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
TRACK TEAM

HON. HEATHER WILSON
OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girl's track team of Sandia High School—The Matadors in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They have been selected to be featured on the back of the latest Team Cheerios cereal box for their overall academic achievement. The Matadors are one of four amateur squads featured in a special "Team to Watch" promotion.

The "Teams to Watch" program, jointly sponsored by General Mills and Scholastic Publications, honors 16 teams in four categories: tradition, excellence, academic achievement and moving barriers. The team was among four teams noted for academic achievement. They well deserve this honor, having earned a 3.8 grade-point average last school year as well as a fourth-place finish in the Class AAAA state meet.

I applaud this group of talent young women for not only achieving academic excellence but for their athletic success as well. When there is so much news about the problems young people face, it is a real pleasure to see good news about a great group of young women.

Congratulations again to an outstanding group of students and I wish them continued success in their endeavors.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3528, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1998.

This bill passed the House in April, by a vote of 405 to 2, and it is here again, with Senate amendments. Alternative Dispute Resolution is commonly referred to as "ADR."

ADR includes a range of procedures, such as mediation, arbitration, peer panels and ombudsmen.

Traditional dispute resolution in America almost always involves a Plaintiff and a Defendant, battling each other in a court, before a judge or jury, to prove that one is wrong and one is right.

It is time consuming, and it is expensive, too expensive for most wage earners to afford, and often too time-consuming to be of much practical use.

In addition, as one writer has observed, a process that has to pronounce "winners and losers necessarily destroys almost any pre-existing relationship between the people involved . . . [and] . . . it is virtually impossible to maintain a civil relationship once people have confronted one another across a courtroom."

The bill before us requires all U.S. District Courts to establish a voluntary alternative dispute resolution program within the courts. The purpose of the Bill is to guarantee that all litigants have another way to resolve their differences, short of a full trial.

Mediation is a voluntary process in which a neutral third party—a mediator—assists two or more disputants, to reach a negotiated settlement of their differences.

The process allows the principal parties to vent and diffuse feelings, clear up misunderstandings, find areas of agreement, and incorporate these areas of agreement into solutions that the parties themselves construct.

The process is quick, efficient and economical. It also facilitates lasting relationships between disputants.

A recent survey by the Government Accounting Office showed that mediation is the ADR technique of choice among the five federal agencies and five private corporations that were surveyed.

The Report stated, "Most of the organizations we studied had data to show that their ADR processes, especially mediation, resolved a high proportion of disputes, thereby helping them avoid formal redress processes and litigation."

In a taped message on Law Day, May 1st, Attorney General Janet Reno said, "Our lawyers are using mediation . . . to resolve . . . employment . . . cases. I have directed that all of our attorneys in civil practice receive training in mediation advocacy."

On that same day, President Clinton issued a memorandum, creating a federal interagency committee to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution methods within the federal government, pursuant to the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996.

In addition, the Civil Rights Act of 1991 encourages the use of mediation and other alternative means of resolving disputes that arise under the Act or provisions of federal laws amended by the title.

And, in 1995, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission promulgated its policy on ADR which encourages the use of ADR in appropriate circumstances.

ADR can provide faster, less expensive, less contentious and more productive results in eliminating disputes.

In sum, ADR is effective and is legislatively and administratively encouraged. Mediation is the ADR method of choice. It is the wave of the future, an effective tool.

In the next Congress, I intend to introduce legislation to further encourage the use of ADR.