# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## THE INTERNET GAMBLING PROHIBITION ACT OF 1999

### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act of 1999, along with my colleagues, Representative FRANK LOBIONDO, Representative FRANK WOLF, Representative RICK BOUCHER, Representative JIM GIBBONS, and Representative VIRGIL GOODE. I look forward to working with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to see this legislation signed into law. I would also like to thank my friend in the other Chamber, Senator JON KYL for his leadership on this issue. The legislation that Mr. LOBIONDO and I are introducing today is similar to legislation which Representative LOBIONDO, and I introduced in the last Congress. I am also looking forward to working with Senator KYL, who has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

The Internet is a revolutionary tool that dramatically affects the way we communicate, conduct business, and access information. As it knows no boundaries, the Internet is accessed by folks in rural and urban areas alike, in large countries as well as small. The Internet is currently expanding by leaps and bounds; however, it has not yet come close to reaching its true potential as a medium for commerce and communication.

One of the main reasons that the Internet has not reached this potential is that many folks view it as a wild frontier, with no safeguards to protect children and no legal infrastructure to prevent online criminal activity. The ability of the world wide web to penetrate every home and community across the globe has both positive and negative implications—while it can be an invaluable source of information and means of communication, it can also override community values and standards, subjecting them to whatever may or may not be found online. In short, the Internet is a challenge to the sovereignty of civilized communities, States, and nations to decide what is appropriate and decent behavior.

Gambling is an excellent example of this situation. It is illegal unless regulated by the States. With the development of the Internet, however, prohibitions and regulations governing gambling have been turned on their head. No longer do people have to leave the comfort of their homes and make the affirmative decision to travel to a casino—they can access the casino from their living rooms.

The legislation I am introducing today will protect the right of citizens in each State to decide through their State legislatures if they want to allow gambling within their borders and not have that right taken away by offshore, fly-by-night operators. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act gives law enforcement the tools it needs to crack down on illegal Internet gambling operations by accomplishing two main goals: first, providing that anyone convicted of running an Internet gambling business is liable for a substantial fine and up to 4 years in prison; and second, giving law enforcement the ability to request cessation of service to web sites engaging in illegal gambling, with enforcement by court order if necessary. Additionally, the bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the effectiveness of its provisions.

It is also important to note that this legislation does not preempt any State laws, does not cover online new reporting about gambling, and does not apply to wagering over non-Internet closed networks in States that allow such activity. The bill simply brings the current prohibition against interstate gambling up to speed with the development of new technology, as the Internet had not been created when the original law was passed and thus is no covered by it.

Mr. Speaker, online gambling is currently a $200 million per year business, and could easily grow to a $1 billion business in the next few years. It is time to shine a bright light on Internet gambling in this country, and to put a stop to this situation before it gets any worse. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, which will keep children from borrowing the family credit card, logging on to the family computer, and losing thousands of dollars all before their parents get home from work, will do just that. I urge each of my colleagues to support the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act of 1999.

## TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of the Forest Service. During this long and at times difficult process, the Forest Service has given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without the Forest Service's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of the Forest Service who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

## RICHARD A. WEILAND HONORED

### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard A. Weiland, a well known Cincinnati civic leader, as he is honored by the Cincinnati Associates of the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dick has been a member of the Cincinnati Associates since the group's inception, and he has been a key part of its leadership. He currently serves as the Associates' Honorary Chair.

An energetic and committed community volunteer, Dick is involved in numerous civil and philanthropic activities. He serves on the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee; the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission; the Jewish National Fund Advisory Board; the Council of Jewish Federation's National Leadership; Jewish Federation of Cincinnati; Family Service of Cincinnati Advisory Board; and the Ohio Refugee Immigration Aid Committee. In addition to these challenges and many others, Dick has been active in the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, an organization I founded to combat substance abuse in the Greater Cincinnati community.

A Cincinnati native, Dick attended Walnut Hills High School, Williams College, and the University of Cincinnati College of Law. He

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and his wife, Marcia, have three children and five grandchildren.

All of us in Cincinnati congratulate Dick on receiving this prestigious recognition.

## INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY TAX CUT ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. This legislation will achieve two important public policy goals.

First, it will effectively overturn a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service which has declared as taxable income the waiving of fees by local governments who provide service for public safety volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police either in place of, or as a supplement to, their public safety professionals. Often as an incentive to would-be volunteers, the local entities might waive all or a portion of the fees typically charged for city services such as the provision of drinking water, sewerage charges, or debris pick up. Local entities make these decisions for the purpose of encouraging folks to volunteer, and seldom do these benefits come anywhere near the level of a true compensation for the many hours of training and service required of the volunteers. This, of course, not even to mention the fact that these volunteers could very possibly be called into a situation where they may have to put their lives on the line.

Rather than encouraging this type of volunteerism, which is so crucial, particularly to America's rural communities, the IRS has decided that the provision of the benefits described above amount to taxable income. Not only does this adversely affect the financial position of the volunteer by foisting new taxes about him or her, it has in fact led local entities to stop providing these benefits, thus taking away a key tool they have used to recruit volunteers. That is why the IRS ruling in this instance has a substantial deleterious impact on the spirit of American volunteerism. How far could this go? For example, would consistent application mean that a local Salvation Army volunteer be taxed for the value of a complimentary ticket to that organization's annual county dinner? This is obviously bad policy.

This legislation would rectify this situation by specifically exempting these types of benefits from federal taxation.

Next, this legislation would also provide paid professional police and fire officers with a $1,000 per year tax credit. These professional public safety officers put their lives on the line each and every day, and I think we all agree that there is no way to properly compensate them for the fabulous services they provide. In America we have a tradition of local law enforcement and public safety provision. So, while it is not the role of our federal government to increase the salaries of these, it certainly is within our authority to increase their take-home pay by reducing the amount of money that we take from their pockets via federal taxation, and that is something this bill specifically does as well.

Mr. Speaker I am proud to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act, and I request that my fellow Members join in support of this key legislation.

## VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE: A TEEN CONFERENCE

### HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about two young people from Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District who came to Washington this week to participate in the Voices Against Violence congressional teen conference. The Voices Against Violence conference, which was organized by the House Democratic Caucus, was intended to bring together young people from around the country to engage them in a constructive discussion about youth violence.

Most Americans have been shocked and distressed by the series of high-profile school shootings committed by young people over the last year. Our Nation's children are, sadly, the people most affected by youth violence. They are also often the individuals with the greatest insight into the causes of youth violence and ways to prevent violent acts in the future. The Voices Against Violence conference was intended to bring young people from across the country together to discuss youth violence—and to utilize their insights to develop innovative solutions to the problem of youth violence.

Over 300 young people between the ages of 13 and 19 attended the Voices Against Violence conference on October 19th and 20th in Washington, DC. President Clinton addressed the students, and then participants attended workshops with experts on teen violence, discussion groups about possible solutions, and skills training sessions to learn about violence prevention initiatives that have been found to be effective.

Two of my constituents, Zara Carroll and Jeff Smith, attended the Voices Against Violence conference with their parents. On behalf of my constituents and myself, I want to commend Zara and Jeff for their interest and involvement in this important issue. I hope that they found the conference to be engaging and informative, and that they will continue to work to help reduce violence and the threat of violence in their communities in the coming years.

## TRIBUTE TO CARL R. HILLIARD, ''ONE CAPITOL FELLOW''

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor a dedicated man and his career. In his thirty plus years of covering the Colorado Capitol for the Associated Press, Carl Hilliard proved himself to be a man of truth and integrity. During that time, I'm glad to say that I was fortunate to get to know him well.

His colleagues knew him as a man who cared not about being in the limelight, but a man who took the time to get to know the story and the people behind it. Hilliard is a man of the West, a Renaissance man. His columns frequently recieved a lot of exposure throughout the country and rightfully so. They were wity, informative, and revealing. You could always count on Carl to be critical of the politicians at the Capitol, but at the same time compassionate and duteous.

As the dean of the Capitol Press corps, he was effective in reporting Capitol news. That role earned him a very laudable honor, being named as one Denver's 100 most influential journalists and the respect of his fellow journalists.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I honor this man who will truly be missed by his colleagues and those that enjoyed reading his column. For so many years, he has been a role model for young journalists and a pilar form which all journalists drew inspiration. I wish him well in his much deserved retirement. I look forward to continuing my friendship with him in the future.

## CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF DR. JOHN R. BISAGNO

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and help celebrate the ministry of Dr. John R. Bisagno. After 30 years, Dr. Bisagno will be retiring from Houston's First Baptist Church.

John Bisagno was born on April 5, 1943 in Augusta, KS. He is married to Uldine Beck Bisagno. The Bisagnos have three children, Ginger Bisagno Dodd, Anthony Bisagno, and Timothy Bisagno, and five grandchildren.

Dr. Bisagno graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and received a doctor of letters degree from Southwest Missouri Baptist University and a doctor of divinity degree from Houston Baptist University, where the ''Chair of Evangelism'' is named in his honor.

In February 1970, Dr. Bisagno became the pastor of the 22,000-member First Baptist Church of Houston. He has authored 24 books, including the best seller ''The Power of Positive Praying.'' He is the past president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference and has gained national attention as a dynamic and effective crusade evangelist and Bible teacher. He was the first preacher on the Southern Baptist ACTS television network.

During the 30 years of Dr. Bisagno's ministry at First Baptist Church, the church relocated from downtown Houston, purchased property near the intersection of Interstate 10 and Loop 610 in Houston, built a worship center and education buildings now valued in excess of $60 million and continues to be an integral part of the dynamics of Houston, TX.

Dr. Bisagno has announced that he will retire from the pulpit on Sunday, November 21, 1999. However, I am certain that John Bisagno will continue to be a Christian committed to spreading the gospel. When he retires from Houston's First Baptist Church, he retires to continue to be a significant part of the faith community in Houston, in Texas, in the United States, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. John R. Bisagno.