

HONORING ANN BROWN AS THE
LONGEST SERVING CHAIRMAN
OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ann Brown, the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. She has served as Chairman for more than six and a half years, since March 10, 1994. She is by far the longest serving Chairman of the CPSC. The previous record was four years and three months.

Chairman Brown has compiled an outstanding record at the CPSC. When she came to the Agency, she found it virtually moribund, the staff dispirited, and its vital safety mission fallen far from public view. Ann Brown has revitalized the Commission by inspiring its staff and gaining wide public recognition for its safety message through the publicity she has generated for the Agency in the national media.

Chairman Brown has made the safety of children a personal priority. Through effective regulatory action, encouraging voluntary steps by companies, and creating unique public-private partnerships with industry and other governmental agencies, she has enhanced the safety of every child in America.

Shortly after becoming Chairman, she learned that the strings and cords on children's jackets were becoming caught on playground slides and school bus doors and strangling children. She promptly convened a meeting of representatives of the clothing industry and persuaded them to replace the hazardous strings and cords with snaps and Velcro. When a Commission employee developed the idea of a baby safety shower to provide gifts that would make a child's first years of life safer, Chairman Brown created a partnership with the Gerber Corporation to promote these safety showers across the nation. Working with states and local governments, she launched an annual "recall round-up" to get dangerous consumer products out of consumers' homes. She developed a partnership with the US Postal Service to get posters of the "most wanted" dangerous recalled products displayed in post offices across the nation.

In keeping with her commitment to the safety of children, Chairman Brown has given special emphasis to the prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. On her initiative, the Commission issued warnings to parents to remove soft bedding from the cribs of infants under 12 months to avoid the risk of suffocation. This year, the Commission developed a program with seven major retailers of baby bedding products to inform parents on how to keep their babies safe in their beds.

Under Ann Brown's leadership, the CPSC has been recognized for its innovative and effective programs. In 1998, CPSC won the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award for its Fast-track recall program. The award is given by the Ford Foundation, in cooperation with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and the Council for Excellence in Government. Under Fast-track, CPSC gets defective products off store shelves more quickly,

thereby reducing dangers to American consumers.

Chairman Brown has also been personally recognized for her efforts in support of consumer safety. The National Safe Kids Campaign designated her a "Champion of Safe Kids." The National Association of Government Communicators has given her its award as "Government Communicator of the Year" and on September 20 the American Academy of Pediatrics will present her with its prestigious Excellence in Public Service Award for her contributions to children's safety.

Mr. Speaker, the nation is fortunate to have such outstanding public servants as Ann Brown. She has made the CPSC a model of effectiveness for other agencies to emulate. Accordingly, it is appropriate today that we recognize and highly commend Ann Brown as the longest serving Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NEW REPUBLIC
NEWSPAPER OF MEYERSDALE,
PA

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The New Republic newspaper on its 100th anniversary. I am especially proud to pay this tribute, because The New Republic is the newspaper of my hometown, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

In 1900, The Meyersdale Republican was founded by Samuel A. Kendall as a contribution to the local community. The newspaper was headed by several capable editors in its early years who focused coverage on local concerns like safe sidewalks. As The New Republic grew, the business was incorporated as the Meyersdale Printing and Publishing Company. Throughout its long history, has consistently provided its loyal subscribers with the local news and events that unite communities.

Growing up in the close-knit town of Meyersdale helped make me the person I am today. I am truly thankful to have grown up in an area that emphasizes the importance of families and of community spirit. It is always heartwarming to return to Meyersdale to visit with good friends and to meet new ones. I am proud to call Meyersdale my home.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to rise and recognize The New Republic and the citizens of Meyersdale on this truly momentous occasion. Their commitment to family and community spirit represent the finest qualities of Pennsylvania.

RESEARCH FOR CHILDHOOD
CANCER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of research and outreach in our nation's fight against childhood cancer. Childhood cancer is the No. 1 cause

of death by disease among children and adolescents; striking more children than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and AIDS combined. Each year more than 12,000 children and teens are diagnosed with cancer and 3,000 die from the disease.

These statistics are disheartening. What is even more frightening though, is how high these statistics would be without the medical advances made in the last few years. Research plays a vital role in the fight against cancer; without it, childhood cancer would be a virtual death sentence. We can proudly say that because of medical breakthroughs, 70 percent or more of the children diagnosed today will be alive and well 5 years later.

I believe we need to continue to support cancer research so children will no longer suffer needlessly.

LITERACY INVOLVES FAMILIES
TOGETHER ACT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House passed H.R. 3222, the Literacy Involves Families Together Act, otherwise known as the LIFT bill. Passage of this bill not only lifts our spirits, but it will help lift the level of excellence in our teachers, which will benefit our children.

The LIFT program makes improvements to the Even Start Program. Even Start programs work with adults without GED or high school diploma and their children to break cycles of illiteracy. It also provides parents with the skills they need to be their child's teachers and most important advocate. Simply put, the LIFT bill stresses the need for teacher professional development, the use of scientific research, and expands the program so that faith-based programs may partner with the federal government to improve literacy skills throughout our communities.

Earlier this year, Sharon Darling from the National Center for Family Literacy testified before the appropriations subcommittee about the disconnect between what we know from science about how children learn to read and what teachers practice. Many teachers have admitted their frustration about not being equipped with the latest information—they want training and additional professional development. That is why LIFT is so important. It allows states to use federal money to provide training and technical assistance to instructors in Even Start and other programs with a focus on family literacy. In addition to providing instruction, LIFT requires the use of instructional reading programs which are based on scientifically-based research. Thanks to our investments in the National Institutes of Health, we know how we can best teach children to read. This is especially important for children with learning disabilities.

Understanding that children are not the only ones with learning difficulties, the LIFT bill funds research to find the most effective ways to improve literacy among adults with reading difficulties. We know that family literacy is a key component to our children being successful. The Even Start program has helped parents obtain their high school equivalency certificate. By understanding the importance of

furthering their own education, parents are more inclined to become more involved in their child's education. The LIFT bill builds on the success of the Even Start program, improves the quality of the program, and holds states accountable for the progress of local literacy programs.

This Congress is fortunate to have members like Congressman BILL GOODLING to shepherd this bill to the floor. Bill has worked diligently to improve the quality of education programs, whether it is improving elementary school programs, helping disabled children, or working on adult education programs. Since my time in Congress, BILL and I have worked closely together to stress the importance of scientifically based reading research and to get that information in the hands of teachers and parents. He is a fine leader on education and we will miss him when he retires after this year. With the LIFT bill, our families can lift themselves up and achieve their dreams.

ENSURE EQUAL WAGES AND DUE
PROCESS FOR DAY LABORERS

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Day Laborer Fairness and Protection Act," a bill to ensure equal wages and due process for day laborers. Twenty-five representatives have joined me as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Day laborers are individuals who are hired by agencies to work on a day-to-day basis for employers who pay for the services of temporary laborers. Day labor is not of a clerical or professional nature. Most day laborers perform construction, warehouse, restaurant, janitorial, landscaping or light industrial work—usually for the minimum wage.

In the absence of federal guidelines, day laborers are often subjected to long, unpaid wait-periods before being assigned to a job. Commonly, these workers also face dangerous working conditions and are paid lower wages than full-time workers performing the same or similar jobs. Further, day laborers are frequently charged high (often undisclosed) fees for on-the-job meals, transportation to and from job sites and special attire and safety equipment necessary for jobs.

Partially due to these unfair labor conditions, many day laborers are caught in a cycle of poverty. A recent study by the University of Illinois Center for Urban Economic Development found that 65 percent of 510 surveyed day laborers receive \$5.15 per hour. Taking into consideration the number of hours spent waiting to be assigned to work (of-ten between 1.5 and three hours), the real value per hour of work is reduced to less than about four dollars per hour. This low figure does not reflect transportation and food and equipment fees, which are often deducted from day laborers' wages.

To address these problems, this Act includes the following definitions and requirements:

Day laborer is defined as an individual who contracts for employment with a day labor service agency.

Day labor service agency is defined as any person or entity engaged in the business of

employing day laborers to provide services for any third party employer.

Day laborer wages that are equal to those paid to permanent employees who are performing substantially equivalent work, with consideration given to seniority, experience, skills & qualifications.

Wages for job assignment wait-times lasting more than thirty minutes. Such wages shall be at a rate that is not less than federal or state minimum wages.

Itemized statements showing deductions made from day laborers' wages.

When a day laborer is hurt on the job, coverage of health care costs by the employer who has requested the services of the day laborer.

Enforcement of the "Day Laborer Fairness and Protection Act" by the U.S. Department of Labor.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BOY
SCOUT TROOP 224 OF OTTAWA,
OHIO ON THE DEDICATION OF
ITS NEW BOY SCOUT HOUSE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pleasure today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding organization from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This Sunday, September 17, Boy Scout Troop 224 of Ottawa, Ohio will celebrate an historic and remarkable event. They dedicate the new Boy Scout House, which will serve as the new headquarters for Troop 224.

Boy Scouting in Ottawa, Ohio has a long and rich tradition. Sponsored by the Ottawa Kiwanis Club for some sixty-eight years, Boy Scout Troop 224 and Cub Scout Pack 224 have become staples of the community and have served the area with great pride and distinction. Currently, there are 89 Boy Scouts in Troop 224 and 150 Cub Scouts. These fine young men are part of the family of more than 900 boys who have participated in Scouting in Ottawa.

Known not only as the largest Boy Scout Troop in the Black Swamp area, Troop 224 has turned out 109 Eagle Scouts over the years. In fact, three Boy Scouts from Troop 224 have achieved the National Court of Honor Award for Lifesaving. Troop 224 undertakes a myriad community service projects including the Scouting for Food campaign, landscaping projects for the village of Ottawa and local churches and schools, safety programs, and nature activities.

Now, Boy Scout Troop 224 prepares for one of its biggest celebrations—the opening of its new Boy Scout House. The new facility will replace the current home, which was built in the mid 1930's and has served Troop 224, for decades. The old facility, once shared by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, will give way to the new 2,400 square foot facility. The new home for Troop 224 includes several separate rooms, storage space for supplies and equipments, and space for Troop and Pack meetings, Blue and Gold banquets, and Courts of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, Boy Scouting is truly one of America's longest-standing traditions. It instills

in our young people the values of hard work, honesty, discipline, safety, honor, and much more. Clearly, Boy Scout Troop 224 has worked diligently toward the new Boy Scout House and each member should be very proud of the facility and all that they have achieved. I congratulate Troop 224 on the occasion of their new home and challenge the Troop to continue to strive for excellence in Scouting and in the community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand and join me in celebrating the dedication of the new Boy Scout Home for Boy Scout Troop 224 of Ottawa. We wish them the very best now and in the future.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE HERBERT H. BATE-
MAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF
VIRGINIA

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, Evelyn and I wish to offer our condolences to Mrs. Laura Bateman and the entire Bateman family on the passing of our colleague and friend, Congressman Herbert Bateman.

It is appropriate that Congressman Bateman represented the historical First District, because he was not only an exemplary representative on behalf of his constituents, but a leader who has served both his colleagues in the Congress and the American people with great distinction. Herb and I were freshmen congressmen in the class of 1983. It is a testament to Congressman Bateman's longevity, and the bipartisan respect he was able to garner, that he served so effectively in this body for eighteen years.

Herb Bateman was an integral part of the restoration of America's armed forces after years of decline. His commitment to the military began with his service in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and later, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military readiness, his efforts were key to restoring the ability of our men and women in uniform to perform their duty and reestablish their position as the pre-eminent military force in the world today. I was able to see Herb's commitment to the military first hand as we traveled together to meet with our men and women in uniform serving with NATO as they defended freedom and democracy in Europe. His commitment and concern for the young people in the armed forces was unparalleled, and it was clearly visible to anyone who spoke with him.

His distinguished record was not limited to a focus on the military. Congressman Bateman's support of NASA and the United States' commitment to space helped advance and ensure our leadership in science and technology. His commitment to the environment led to the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay, allowing its beauty to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. And these are but a few of his legislative achievements.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of spending time with Herb and his wife Laura