

through the Russell Berrie Foundation, which Angelica serves as President. Amongst its many accomplishments, the Foundation has created the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Berrie Fellows Program for community leadership, the Berrie Humanistic Care Center at Englewood Hospital, and the Berrie Performing Arts Center at Ramapo College.

Angelica has been a generous benefactor, a compassionate voice, and a dedicated advocate for so many. In her lifetime, she has touched a million lives in overwhelmingly positive ways. Tonight the Adler Aphasia Center is honoring Angelica Berrie for her service to her fellow man, and I join them in commending her for giving so much of herself to make the world around her a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY FIFIS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jimmy Fifis, a family man and successful business owner of Ponzio's Restaurant in Cherry Hill. Mr. Fifis recently passed away and his restaurant, Ponzio's, was widely regarded as a Southern New Jersey dining tradition.

Born on the Greek Island of Andros in 1939, Mr. Fifis immigrated to Southern New Jersey in 1966. He began as a dishwasher in a restaurant owned by his two brothers and rose through the ranks to become the owner and operator of Ponzio's. Mr. Fifis has three sons who currently run the family business, which serves 10 to 12 thousand loyal customers per week. Mr. Fifis was loved and respected by all of his employees for his willingness to do any task, whether it was peeling potatoes or managing the restaurant.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Fifis today for all he has done for The First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country. Mr. Fifis's presence will surely be missed at Ponzio's and throughout the entire Southern New Jersey community. In addition to being a constituent, I am proud to call Mr. Fifis a friend.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of this bill, which will help hundreds of thousands of families realize the American Dream of homeownership. This bill helps protect those vulnerable to unscrupulous

subprime lending, and helps those who are currently struggling to make their payments by refinancing their loans at a more affordable rate.

It is not right for anyone to be struggling to meet his or her mortgage payments due to the unfair lending practices of predatory lenders. Putting lower-income families on the path to homeownership helps them become more financially solvent, and helps them have more of a stake in the health of their community. Homeownership leads to healthy families, healthy communities, and rosier financial situations for all.

I also applaud the passage of an amendment introduced by Chairman FRANK that will help more families, in my district specifically, afford homes. This amendment raises the Federal Housing Administration's single-family loan limits so that lower-income families are not barred from buying homes in the higher-cost markets where they may work. Why should a firefighter who works in my district be forced to commute a long way to her or his home instead of buying an affordable home near the fire station? This amendment will allow potential residents of high-price home markets to afford homes.

This is a good bill that will help America's families in numerous ways. I thank my colleague MAXINE WATERS for introducing it and look forward to benefits it will bring to the hard-working families in my district.

INTRODUCING THE TELEVISION CONSUMER FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Television Consumer Freedom Act, legislation repealing regulations that interfere with a consumer's ability to obtain desired television programming. The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals federal regulations that would increase the cost of a television.

My office has received numerous calls from rural satellite and cable TV customers who are upset because their satellite or cable service providers have informed them that they will lose access to certain network and cable programming. The reason my constituents cannot obtain their desired satellite and cable services is that the satellite and cable "marketplace" is fraught with government interventionism at every level. Local governments have historically granted cable companies franchises of monopoly privilege. Government has previously intervened to invalidate "exclusive dealings" contracts between private parties, namely cable service providers and program creators, and has most recently imposed price controls. The Library of Congress has even been delegated the power to determine prices at which program suppliers must make their programs available to cable and satellite programming service providers.

It is, of course, within the constitutionally enumerated powers of Congress to "promote the progress of Science and Useful Arts by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." However, operating

a clearing-house for the subsequent transfer of such property rights in the name of setting a just price or "instilling competition" via "central planning" seems to be neither economically prudent nor justifiable under this enumerated power. This process is one best reserved to the competitive marketplace.

It is impossible for the government to set the just price for satellite programming. Overregulation of the cable industry has resulted in competition among service providers for government privilege rather than free market competition among providers to offer a better product at a lower price. While federal regulation does leave satellite programming service providers free to bypass the governmental royalty distribution scheme and negotiate directly with owners of programming for program rights, there is a federal prohibition on satellite service providers making local network affiliates' programs available to nearby satellite subscribers. This bill repeals that federal prohibition so satellite service providers may freely negotiate with program owners for programming desired by satellite service subscribers. Technology is now available by which viewers could view network programs via satellite as presented by their nearest network affiliate. This market-generated technology will remove a major stumbling block to negotiations that should currently be taking place between network program owners and satellite service providers.

This bill also repeals Federal laws that force cable companies to carry certain programs. These Federal "must carry" mandates deny cable companies the ability to provide the programming their customers' desire. Decisions about what programming to carry on a cable system should be made by consumers, not Federal bureaucrats.

The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals Federal regulations that mandate that all TVs sold in the United States contain "digital technology." In complete disregard of all free market and constitutional principles, the FCC actually plans to forbid consumers from buying TVs, after 2006, that are not equipped to carry digital broadcasts. According to economist Stephen Moore, this could raise the price of a TV by as much as \$250 dollars. While some television manufacturers and broadcasters may believe they will benefit from this government-imposed price increase, they will actually lose business as consumers refrain from purchasing new TVs because of the government-mandated price increase.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Government should not interfere with a consumer's ability to purchase services such as satellite or cable television in the free market. I therefore urge my colleagues to take a step toward restoring freedom by cosponsoring my Television Consumer Freedom Act.

HONORING ART DONOVAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Art Donovan, a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame and American sports hero.

Art Donovan, Jr., was born in the Bronx, New York, on June 5, 1925. He first played