

Jackson has also written extensively on issues of concern to educators, with particular concentration on minority students and the community, academic preparation and student performance.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to note that Dr. Jackson is married to Florence E. Jackson, and is the proud father of two children: Eulayne and Terrance.

Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to an end it is only fitting that we honor a man who has done so much—and continues to do so much—to shape so many young lives. Dr. Edison O. Jackson is that man and he is nationally recognized as a leader in education. As such he is more than worthy of receiving our praise and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

INTERNET FREEDOM AND BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1542) to deregulate the Internet and high speed data services, and for other purposes:

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1542, the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001. This important and timely legislation will expedite the roll-out of high-speed Internet access across our nation, foster competition, and bridge the digital divide that separates neighbors, communities, and regions from the benefits of the information age.

Opponents of this bill argue that it will unfairly favor certain technologies within the broadband industry. On the contrary, H.R. 1542 is designed to eliminate the unfair conditions which currently exist within the industry by offering consumers an expanded and guaranteed alternative to cable and satellite-based broadband technology. This legislation simply creates a level playing field for the different enterprises which comprise the broadband industry to freely and competitively offer their technologies to the American people.

Moreover, opponents wrongly assert that by eliminating the prohibitive regulations that currently stifle roll-out of DSL broadband technology, this legislation will destroy local service providers who enjoy reduced rates and access to existing technology as set forth in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. On the contrary, H.R. 1542 does not prevent local exchange carriers from accessing any existing or future customer using the telephone network. However, to ensure local competitors are fairly and adequately protected from the change in the 1996 law, I fully support the Buyer-Towns Amendment. This amendment further protects the local competitor by guaranteeing their continued right to access high-speed data services over fiber lines as they presently do.

It is evident that H.R. 1542 is good for America. Our future competitiveness in the global market depends on our access to and utilization of data and information systems, which begins at the individual level which this legislation addresses.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote yes for expanded access by voting yes to this bill.

500 DAYS IN CAPTIVITY—AND STILL COUNTING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 500th day of captivity of Elchanan Tannenbaum—one of nine Israelis now held captive by terrorist groups and regimes that sponsor terrorism. A husband and the father of two, Elchanan is the only Israeli civilian to be counted among Israel's missing. He is being held in Lebanon and is presumed to be alive.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, terror has many faces and takes many forms. Sometimes terror targets large numbers of people in spectacular acts of destruction as we saw on September 11th. At other times it seeks to achieve its goals by targeting a single individual. Mr. Tannenbaum was such a target, as was the American journalist Daniel Pearl, whose brutal murder has sickened and saddened us all. Mr. Tannenbaum's Hisballah captors have proudly announced their crime, with their usual flair for the contemptuous. Although Mr. Tannenbaum has a medical condition that requires daily attention, Hisballah has denied the Red Cross permission to visit him.

The Tannenbaum kidnaping is further proof—as if it were needed—that Hizballah is a terrorist organization with global reach. If we ignore this case of abduction, we are granting the terrorists a cheap and formidable weapon. As long as groups like Hizballah believe that they can commit such actions with impunity, they will be encouraged to continue to target the citizens of the world's democracies. To ignore the plight of Elchanan Tannenbaum and Israel's other missing men, would not only constitute an abandonment of our closest ally in the Middle East, but would weaken our own efforts to secure a safe future for Americans and others who have been seized by terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I must point out that not only is it in America's interest to help in this matter, but in fact it is our obligation to do so. In 1991 Israel played a critical role in securing the release of Terry Anderson and other American hostages being held in Lebanon by releasing hundreds of terrorists from Israeli jails. At that time Israel was promised that international efforts would continue on behalf of Israeli captives left behind in Lebanon. It is now more than ten years since that promise was made, and the number of captive Israelis has only grown. It is time for us to repay our debt.

What can we do, Mr. Speaker? I believe the U.S. is well-positioned to make demands of the Syrian government, which is effectively the ruling power in Lebanon and is ultimately responsible for the fate of all Israelis captured or held there. Syria is a sovereign state and currently serves as a member of the UN Security Council. Syria, like Lebanon, can and must be made accountable for the behavior of the terrorist groups it harbors and supports. Greater U.S. resolve in dealing with the Syrians can be critical in bringing Elchanan Tannenbaum home alive.

Mr. Speaker, for too many years, Americans presumed that the terrorist actions from which our Israeli allies suffered would not be exported to our shores. September 11th has permanently shattered that notion. We should now pay closer attention to the Israeli experience with terrorism. The murder of Daniel Pearl is a warning that the ugly specter of kidnapping that has plagued Israel for so many years is now targeting Americans as well. Let us fight back. Calling attention to Elchanan Tannenbaum's plight, and working to secure his release, would be an important first step toward stopping this scourge.

HONORING SHIRLEY LASSETER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there are qualities in true leaders that set them apart; courage, wisdom, flexibility—just to name a few. Perhaps just as important is the quality of timing—knowing when to step to the plate. Yet another admirable quality in the test of a true leader may lie in humility; when someone has fought the hard battle, done the leg work, helped ensure the cause is just and the goal accomplished, only to hand it over when no more can be done, and accept the fact they won't be praised for their efforts.

My fellow members of Congress, today I bring before you one such individual and ask you to join me in singing the praises of Ms. Shirley Lasseter. Shirley is a resident of Duluth, Georgia and the Mayor of this beautiful city in Gwinnett County. She is involved in numerous philanthropic and business related organizations; extending from her participation on the Preservation District Board, to her leadership in the Georgia Municipal Association, and her active presence in the local PTSAs.

Shirley graduated from Brenau University with a B.S. in Elementary Education, and continued on to Georgia State University, where she received her Masters in Education. She is married to Joe Lasseter and is the proud mother of four children. Along with her official duties and extracurricular activities, Shirley is a member of Duluth United Methodist Church, where she has worshipped for 17 years. But perhaps her most proud title will be awarded soon, when her daughter Jenny gives birth to Shirley's soon-to-be-grandchild, and "Miss Shirley" becomes "Grandma Shirley."

Yet with all she has going on, Shirley made a particularly special effort for a project she coordinated for former House Speaker Newt Gingrich several years ago, for which she never received proper credit. In the summer of 1998, Speaker Gingrich spearheaded a bill that enacted a new form of protection for Georgia's Chattahoochee River. It called for a 48-mile stretch of the river's recreational area to be extended by 2,000 feet, known as a "greenway." The new boundaries eased pollution stemming from construction and storm runoff, helped control flooding and erosion, and improved water quality for Georgia residents. Land was acquired from willing sellers and paid for by a public-private campaign that included a \$25 million federal contribution. This move to help the environment came at a time when the natural resources and beauty of