
House of Representatives

January 21, 2010

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - DAILY DIGEST

Comments from MagTek in support of the Campaign to Wipe Out Counterfeit Card Fraud



Congressional Record

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Weed Pro, Ltd. at the OLCA annual meeting Dec. 8 during the Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show.

Guerra was selected from five finalists including: Matt Dixon, Buckeye Ecocare; Fred Hoyt, Custom Lawns; Matt Netzey, Fitzwater Tree & Lawn Care; and Dan Paolini, Weed Man Lake County.

Guerra was nominated by Highpoint President John Prusa, who commended Guerra for his productivity and personal, caring service to a loyal customer base while completing his education and earning a degree from the University of Akron. Several complimentary letters from customers accompanied his nomination.

The Ohio Lawn Care Applicator of the Year Award, sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, is a new award to be presented annually by OLCA. To apply, one had to be a member company of the association and could only be nominated by a company owner, manager or supervisor. Nominees were required to have a state of Ohio applicators license with a minimum of two years experience.

OLCA represents nearly 500 professional lawn care companies throughout Ohio, and is committed to promoting and protecting the lawn care industry in Ohio. For more information about OLCA or the Applicator of the Year Award, call 800-510-5296; email info@OhioLawnCare.org; or visit www.OhioLawnCare.org.

CONGRATULATING NANCY
GOODMAN BRINKER

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Ambassador Nancy Brinker for her continued leadership and advocacy in breast cancer research and congratulate her on receiving America's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Ambassador Brinker's commitment to defeating breast cancer began 28 years ago after she lost her sister to the disease. Since that time, Ambassador Brinker has dedicated her life to increasing public awareness and developing a grassroots network of individuals affected by breast cancer.

As the founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Ambassador Brinker has campaigned tirelessly to help those affected by breast cancer and has raised over \$1.3 billion for research and education purposes since it was founded.

Now serving as the Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control for the United Nations' World Health Organization, Ambassador Brinker's dedication and leadership are felt throughout the world as she promotes awareness and continues the global fight against breast cancer.

Breast cancer is a devastating disease that has touched many lives. As a former volunteer and board member of the American Cancer Society of Dallas, I have seen how cancer impacts a family. As a husband and father, I share a deep commitment to the fight against cancer.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I applaud Ambassador Brinker for her

longstanding dedication, leadership and selfless spirit and congratulate her on receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

INITIATIVE TO WIPE OUT CREDIT
CARD FRAUD

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak briefly about an initiative by MagTek, a company from California's 46th District, which I represent. This initiative is aimed at eliminating credit card fraud which funds gangs, crime syndicates and global terrorist organizations, including Al Qaeda. I would include in the record a short excerpt from a speech describing the initiative, and I ask all of my colleagues and the American people to join us in wiping out credit card fraud.

EXCERPT FROM A SPEECH TO THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC) PAYMENT SECURITY CONFERENCE

(By MagTek Chief Security Officer Tom Patterson)

Billions of dollars are being stolen every year from thousands of banks, hundreds of thousands of merchants, and millions of consumers—and it's being used to fund gang activity, organized crime, and terrorist plots. And it's got to stop.

Our identities and credit card information are being stolen across America, by waiters and waitresses in our restaurants, by clerks at our stores, and even our ATM machines and gas pumps. In fact, every time we hand over our credit or debit card, Americans are taking a risk that our critical information could be stolen. Last year, over \$4 billion dollars was stolen from us with these methods and others like them, and many of these thefts are being perpetrated by people and machines that have been co-opted by criminal gangs.

Gangs in America, like the "Bloods" and the "Crips", have now moved aggressively into the counterfeit card business, providing the devices (called skimmers), and paying out \$20 for every card number stolen. In fact, counterfeit card fraud is now the third largest revenue source for many of our largest gangs, moving ahead of extortion. They make their money by selling blocks of these freshly stolen identities up-stream, to foreign organized crime.

A 2009 United Nations report has identified Russian organized crime as the world's largest source of counterfeit card fraud, just ahead of the Chinese triad gangs. The largest of these, known as the Russian Business Network, is well known for purchasing these aggregated lists of identities and card numbers, combining them with near-perfect looking fake cards and then selling them on underworld-sponsored auction sites to the highest bidder.

One of the largest bidders for these counterfeit cards this past decade has been Al Qaeda, who repeatedly purchases them for use in funding their terror plots around the world. The horrific bombing in the nightclub in Bali, which killed 202 people, was funded in large part by recently skimmed cards. A captured Al Qaeda handbook describes in great detail how to fund their plots, including the transliteration "obtain credit card numbers and use them to fund the struggle."

The security of our citizens should be paramount, especially in light of its negative ef-

fects on merchants and banks, and its role in funding of US gang violence, transnational organized crime, and global terrorism. It's time for our financial services industry to put a stop to this, by working together to allow merchants to tell the difference between our real cards, and these fakes that are plaguing our way of life.

It's now possible for banks and merchants to easily and economically completely eliminate counterfeit cards from our world, and they can do it today. By adding a simple "card authentication" check to the credit and debit process, which works with the same 3 billion cards we already have in our wallets and the same "swipe" that we've come to trust over 10 trillion times per year, we will allow our retailers to simply decline counterfeit card charges and thus wipe out counterfeit card fraud around the world.

All it takes to make this a reality is for the banks, processors, and merchants to agree to share the "magnetic fingerprint" inherent in the magnetic stripe of every card we use, and rather than arguing over costs we can be sharing the savings that come to all of us by saving billions of dollars of fraud every year. Already, we have the initial commitments to register the first 100 million cards, and make this check available to the first 250,000 merchants. But we need the rest of the players to take this step.

I am here today to urge you to join the coalition to wipe out counterfeit card fraud (www.NoCardFraud.com), and to do your part in protecting the identities of millions of Americans, improving the financial health of millions of retail stores and banks, shutting down a key criminal activity of gangs and organized crime, and disrupting the funding of global terrorists.

A TRIBUTE TO GRAYSON COUNTY,
KENTUCKY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great place in the Commonwealth of Kentucky—Grayson County. On Monday, January 25, 2010, Grayson County will celebrate its 200th birthday.

The county was established in 1810 as the 54th county in Kentucky. It was named after Colonel William Grayson, a Virginian statesman and Revolutionary War aide to General George Washington.

Col. Grayson once owned over 5,000 acres, which included the western end of Grayson County. As the story goes, Washington purchased the land from Henry Lee, the father of Robert E. Lee, by trading his favorite horse.

Grayson County includes many great attractions, offering individuals a great place to visit and live. Grayson County's Twin Lakes and the Rough River State Resort Park offers countless recreational opportunities, including swimming, nature trails, boating, tennis, and go-cart racing as well as campsites and lodging.

I am proud to represent the citizens of Grayson County and they should be celebrated for their contributions to making Kentucky such a wonderful place. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grayson County and congratulating them on 200 amazing years.