

of the project, using their contacts to acquire all necessary permits to expedite the process. As a result of Dorit and Shawn's efforts, San Fernando Valley residents can now take part in a unique educational experience at the newly developed campus.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dorit and Shawn Evenhaim, amazing individuals who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the San Fernando Valley.

IN HONOR OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
ENGINEER ROBERT KLAIBER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cuyahoga County Engineer Robert Klaiber, as he is recognized by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party for his service to our community.

In 1999, Mr. Klaiber was appointed to the office of County Engineer. In 2000, he was elected to the office. Mr. Klaiber began his career in engineering as a land surveyor and engineer consultant. Prior to his acceptance of the office of County Engineer, he worked as the City Engineer for the City of Strongsville. Mr. Klaiber's work, focused on improving our community's roadways and bridges, has served to enhance all aspects of our county's system of transportation.

Mr. Klaiber has been instrumental in assisting my office with infrastructure improvements, especially with the railway merger, a project that affected the entire southwest region of the 10th Congressional District. He has consistently demonstrated a high level of energy, focus and willingness to assist us in improving transportation safety and access for all residents within our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Robert Klaiber, Cuyahoga County Engineer. His dedicated service and expertise, focused on the well-being of the residents of Cuyahoga County, has served to uplift our entire community.

HONORING LINDA WOOD FOR EX-
EMPLARY SERVICE AS ALAMEDA
COUNTY LIBRARIAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Wood, upon her retirement as Alameda County, California's top librarian. After 14 years at the helm of the county library system, with 10 branches and an annual budget of \$21 million, Ms. Wood is stepping down from an extraordinary career.

She has been working in the library field for almost 40 years and states, "I'm proud of my accomplishments, but I'm ready to move on to the next phase of my life."

Ms. Wood began her library career shelving books. After earning her degree in library science from the University of Washington, she graduated to reference librarian and went up the ladder from there. She has

taken on many duties, from serving as branch manager to administrator in libraries from Oregon State to the cities of Riverside and Los Angeles.

Ms. Wood leaves the Alameda County library system a lot bigger than she found it. Since being hired as county librarian in 1991, she has helped open two new branch libraries—in Albany, California in 1994 and Dublin, California in 2003 and has obtained seed funding and a patch of land for a new branch in Castro Valley, California.

The county library system, with over 200 full-time employees, also includes branches in Fremont, Newark, Union City and unincorporated San Lorenzo, a bookmobile and services for jail and juvenile facility inmates and literacy and senior outreach programs.

Ms. Wood has overseen a full-scale modernization of library services and fought to maintain services through ups and downs in funding. She fought for library services not only in Alameda County but also throughout the State of California.

Today's collections have expanded from books and periodicals to include movies, CDs, DVDs and books on tape. Old card catalogues have given way to databases and now vast Internet services where patrons can research library holdings day and night.

Throughout her illustrious career, Ms. Wood has demonstrated her longtime advocacy for libraries. Her advocacy has made a positive difference in strengthening many library systems for the public's education and enjoyment.

I join Linda Wood's colleagues, friends and admirers in expressing good wishes as she retires and thank her for her contributions to our communities through libraries.

IN HONOR OF CHUCK WEPNER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck Wepner for his outstanding boxing career.

A Bayonne native, Mr. Wepner received no formal training, practicing at the gym part-time while working as a salesman during the day. In his prime, he was ranked in the top ten among some of the greatest names in boxing, including George Foreman, Joe Frazier, and Muhammad Ali.

Mr. Wepner boasts a feat that few have matched: 30 years ago he boxed with Muhammad Ali and was able to knock him to the mat. Though 36 years old and ranked seventh at the time, he went a full 15 rounds with "the Greatest." While Ali eventually won the March 24, 1975 fight, Mr. Wepner is one of only three men to have ever knocked him down. Adding to his achievement is the fact that Sylvester Stallone used Mr. Wepner's personal story of an underdog taking on a prize fighter as the basis for his "Rocky" movies. Mr. Stallone acknowledges he used many aspects of Mr. Wepner's life in the boxing films.

Though retired from the ring, Mr. Wepner remains in contact with legends such as Joe Frazier, Mike Tyson, and even Sylvester Stallone. Thirty years after his formidable fight, he is busy working as a motivational speaker at schools and various organizations across

the country. Additionally, he is developing a movie project and considering writing a book.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chuck Wepner for his career achievements as a boxer. He has proven to be a strong, inspirational force both in and out of the ring, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX
FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2005

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important decisions for the founder of a business is "choice-of-entity," or the decision to operate as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company (LLC), or other form of business.

The law regarding choice-of-entity has changed enormously in the last 15 years, particularly with the widespread adoption of laws authorizing the creation of the LLC. As a result, many small business owners have more "choice of entity" flexibility than ever before.

First authorized in Wyoming in 1977, LLCs are organized under State law, and are now recognized in all 50 states. In essence, LLCs are allowed corporate treatment for local law purposes and partnership treatment for Federal income tax purpose. LLCs also provide for more than one class of ownership, allowing for increased flexibility to allocate income or losses to different investors. The flexibility and protections of the LLC has led to a rapid expansion in the number of small businesses electing to operate in this manner.

In 1995, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) adopted the position that general partnerships could be converted into LLCs with little or no tax effects. Unfortunately, as incorporated entities, this does not hold true for small businesses operated as subchapter S corporations (S Corps).

Created in 1958, the S Corp structure allows for no more than 75 shareholders, can issue only one class of stock, and cannot have partnerships or corporations as shareholders. Yet, until the rise of the LLC, the S Corp structure provided, for all practical purposes, the only way that a small business could enjoy the corporate protections of limited liability without being burdened with corporate taxation. Taxed much the same way as partnerships, many older, family-owned, small businesses operate as S corps.

Clearly, the original intent for creating the S Corp structure was the same reasoning that led to the creation of LLCs—to provide a simple and flexible tax category for small and family-owned businesses. However, despite the similarities to LLCs, S Corps are not granted the same conversion flexibility as other partnership-like entities and are instead grouped with larger companies under a cumbersome corporate structure. My bill would modernize the tax treatment of S Corps, allowing them the same choice-of-entity flexibility offered to other small businesses operating as LLCs. This is a common sense change that is overdue.