

the largest natural gas distributor east of the Rocky Mountains. This incredible growth came under the talented leadership of Mr. Neale, as he has brought an unparalleled level of vision and energy to NiSource. Because of his commitment to the community and his company, he will continue to serve NiSource as Chairman of the Board of Directors after his retirement.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Neale will have nearly 40 years of experience in the energy industry. He has become one of the most well-respected leaders in the industry over the years. Mr. Neale has served as the chairman of the American Gas Association and the North American Electric Reliability Council. He was also appointed by former U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to serve on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board and was selected by former U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to serve on the National Petroleum Council.

His contributions to the economy of Northwest Indiana are only eclipsed by his commitment to community service. The NiSource Charitable Foundation contributes more than \$5 million per year to non-profit organizations in the communities served by NiSource. Under his guidance, NiSource developed its Environmental Challenge Fund to support wildlife enhancement projects. To date, the fund has awarded more than \$850,000 in support of wildlife projects. Mr. Neale himself is personally committed to public service, serving on the boards of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Lake County United Way Campaign, and the Northwest Indiana Americans With Disabilities Act Advisory Board. A leader in economic development and a man of foresight, Mr. Neale has worked to improve the efficiency of local government services through his involvement with the Good Government Initiative in Northwest Indiana. Additionally, he has invested great amounts of personal time and energy in the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center. He is also committed to higher education in Northwest Indiana, serving as a Trustee of Valparaiso University.

Mr. Neale has accomplished much since coming to Northwest Indiana from his home state of Washington, where he received his B.A. and M.B.A. from the University of Washington. I wish him, his wife Sandy, his two children, Julie and David, and his five grandchildren the best of luck in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Gary Neale for his outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended. Over the years, I have sought out Gary for his advice and counsel on energy issues and to seek his assistance on matters affecting Northwest Indiana. I have always found him to be conscientious, deliberate, and innovative in his guidance. As James Joyce said, "not in time, place, or circumstance but in the man lies success;" or, as my father would say, "he's a 100% guy."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NANCY BELL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Nancy Bell received the Spirit of Democracy Award in recognition for her accomplishments as the Director of the Ross County Board of Elections; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell has been acknowledged by Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell should be commended for her outstanding dedication to the Ross County Board of Elections and for her exceptional knowledge of the elections process.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Nancy Bell for receiving the Spirit of Democracy Award.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Huntsville, Alabama on its 200th birthday. Huntsville is a part of my Congressional District and also my birthplace and hometown.

The City of Huntsville, named after Pioneer John Hunt, was founded in 1805. By 1819, it was the largest city in the Alabama Territory and was soon named the State of Alabama's first capitol.

Over the last two centuries, Huntsville has played a significant role in the development of our Nation and has established itself as a leader in science and technology development. Today, technology, space, and defense industries have a major presence in Huntsville with the Army's Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and Cummings Research Park. The City is home to several Fortune 500 companies and also offers a broad base of manufacturing, retail and service industries. In fact, Huntsville was recently named by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the best cities in the nation to live and work.

Huntsville is most well known as America's Space Capitol. In the 1950s, German Rocket Scientist Wernher von Braun and his team came to Redstone Arsenal to develop rockets for the U.S. Army. The von Braun team eventually developed the rockets which put the first American in space and transported the first astronauts to the moon. Huntsville's space legacy continues today at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the City's bicentennial, the City is constructing a large Bicentennial park. Once completed, the park will incorporate a wide variety of symbols that represent the first 200 years of the City.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Huntsville has been honoring its proud history through 2005 and will culminate its celebration during the first week of August with parades and the lighting

of the Unity Candle on the City's birthday cake. I rise today to join the celebration and to congratulate Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, City Council Members, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Mark Russell, Sandra Moon, Bill Kling, Jr., and Glenn Watson, and the Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission, Mary Jane Caylor on a job well done.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN- TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). I would like to be clear that I support increasing fair and free trade with our allies in Central America, and I appreciate the steps these nations have taken to improve business relations with the United States, especially among small businesses in my home State of Rhode Island. Fair trade between our nations could also help to bridge the relationship of our governments, leading to more stability in the region. There are several sociological and economic benefits that could be achieved through fair trade; unfortunately, those who drafted CAFTA did not aim to use this agreement as a vehicle for change, but rather chose to honor special interests before addressing the needs of the families and children living in those nations that will be most affected.

At a time when our Nation is preparing to pass sweeping trade legislation, the Administration has not only cut corners within the agreement, but also within the Federal agencies we rely on to regulate our global policies. I think this fact is best illustrated by the President's funding priorities in this year's budget. He requested, and his party's leader's agreed, to cut the International Labor budget by 86 percent. This funding helps to save children from spending their childhoods working in factories with deplorable conditions. I find it hard to believe that we can stand here and pass such a sweeping trade agreement as we continue to obliterate our ability to protect the children and low-wage employees that will be most affected.

Don't be fooled by those who tell you that there are protections for labor in this bill. The fact remains that this agreement simply permits Central American nations to "enforce their own laws." Should they change their laws, or weaken them in any way, the United States will have no recourse to protest this change. In fact, two CAFTA nations have already weakened or proposed weakening their basic labor laws since the signing of this agreement.

My colleagues from across the aisle talk about providing increased funding for labor protection and enforcement. But that's all it is—talk. There is absolutely nothing written in this agreement that requires the Congress to put money behind their promises, and after passing a budget with an 86 percent cut to the program that stops child labor, I am not confident that this funding will be present in the