

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 525, which would authorize small businesses around the country to establish Association Health Plans. An estimated 45 million people are uninsured in the United States, and the number has grown since 1989. Eighty-five percent of these people are in working families where the price of premiums have increased so much that they cannot afford the coverage that will give them peace of mind.

The majority of Americans receive health insurance coverage through their employers, but with rising health care costs, many small businesses can no longer afford to provide coverage for their employees. H.R. 525 would remedy this by allowing small businesses to band together to garner greater buying power when bargaining with health care providers. Let's give Americans access to more affordable health care and support Association Health Plans.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT
CLEMENS ROTARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Mount Clemens Rotary as they plan a unique local celebration of the 100th anniversary of Rotary International.

The Mount Clemens Rotary Club, organized in 1920, is the oldest and largest service club in Macomb County. The Mount Clemens Rotary and many individual rotarians have been at the forefront of activity in their community. A few of the many projects over the years include: assistance through the Cripple Children Society and the Boy Scouts; providing aid to the Clinton River Flood victims; working in the Relief Store during the Great Depression; leading the Urban Renewal Program in the 1950s and 60s; and helping to establish both Rotary Park in Downtown Mount Clemens and the Playscape on the old Wilson School property.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, the Mt. Clemens Rotary is preserving a bit of history in downtown Mt. Clemens. Two cannons, donated by the United States Government in 1901, were originally in front of the old Macomb County Court Building. The cannons were placed on pedestals and remained there until 1942 when at the request of the U.S. Government they were donated as part of the World War II scrap metal effort.

For sometime the Macomb County Historical Commission has wanted to replace the missing cannons, but the cost was always a major hurdle. Members of the Mount Clemens Rotary Club decided this worthy project could both commemorate local history and the history of Rotary.

The two cannons are accurate representations of a cannon used by General Alexander Macomb in 1812 and a cannon used by Colonel Stockton in the Civil War. General Alexander Macomb was the hero of the battle of Plattsburg and Lake Champlain during the War of 1812. General Macomb with only 3,000 troops was able to rout 13,000 British troops. The other cannon was dedicated to the memory of the Michigan Eight Calvary Regiment and their commander, Colonel John Stockton. The Regiment along with the Battery M of the 1st Michigan Artillery was organized and trained at Camp Stockton in Mount Clemens from the Fall of 1862 to May 1863.

Mr. Speaker, on August 27, 2005, the Mount Clemens Rotary, working with the Macomb County Historical Society, will replace and rededicate the two cannons at a grand ceremony during the Bath City Festival. I look forward to joining with them, and ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in saluting a major community asset, the Mount Clemens Rotary, on this important and historic occasion.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING EVA
J. DENNEY ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Eva J. Denney was born on June 19, 1905; and Whereas, Eva J. Denney is celebrating her 100th birthday today; and

Whereas, Eva J. Denney, is a long-time active participant in the social and civic life of her community; and

Whereas, Eva J. Denney has exemplified a love for her family and friends and must be commended for her life-long dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Eva J. Denney a very happy 100th birthday.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I voted against the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement. As negotiated by the Bush Administration, it fails the fundamental tests that our trade agreements should meet.

First, our trade agreements must be structured to raise labor standards, not put downward pressures on the rights and protections of American workers. All workers—in the U.S., the Dominican Republic and Central America—deserve fair wages, safe workplaces, and reasonable working conditions.

Second, all citizens—in the U.S., the Dominican Republic and Central America—deserve

clean air and clean water. Polluting factories that poison our environment should not be located in San Salvador or San Jose, any more than they should be in Baraboo or Beloit, or Waunakee or Wisconsin Dells.

The United States should be a leader in the world in raising standards for everyone. DR-CAFTA was an opportunity to enshrine these fundamental protections in a model trade agreement that could have served as a template for raising working standards, wages, safety and environmental protections around the world. Instead, it is an opportunity squandered.

Unfortunately, even more than an opportunity squandered, it threatens to undermine those very protections that American workers and their families have every right to expect. We need a truly fair trade deal. DR-CAFTA isn't fair, and it isn't a deal.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL "MIKE"
WALKER OF LOWER LAKE, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California Highway patrolman, Michael "Mike" Walker of Lower Lake, California as he retires from 33 years of public service.

Born in Vallejo, California, and raised nearby in Benicia, Mike learned at an early age the importance of public service and the necessity of helping others. Compelled to serve our country, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1972. He served as an instructor teaching jungle survival techniques overseas. His hard work and commitment were duly noted as he earned four promotions during his three years in the United States Marine Corps.

In 1975, Mike joined the Benicia Police Department as a reserve officer. One year later, he transferred to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department where he served as Deputy Sheriff. Three years later, in 1978, he joined the California Highway Patrol and went through the academy in Sacramento. Upon graduation Officer Walker was assigned to the Glendale law enforcement team. In 1980 he transferred to Newhall and in 1984 to Clear Lake where he has spent the past 21 years serving the citizens of Lake County.

Officer Walker served as an instructor, training and arming his fellow officers with the proper knowledge and skills needed for fieldwork, including physical methods of arrest and advanced accident investigation.

Officer Walker is a kindhearted man, who has selflessly devoted his life to helping others. He is revered throughout Lake County as someone always willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed.

In retirement, Mike and his beloved wife of 29 years, Dorrie, plan on spending more time with their children, Christopher and Patricia, and their 2 grandchildren, Denim and Katie.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we honor and thank California Highway Patrolman Michael "Mike" Walker for his hard work and dedication to public service and extend our best wishes to him in retirement.