

resources to sponsor professionals for permanent resident visas. They are building a highly skilled workforce in the US within technical specialties in which few American workers with applicable skills exist. This is something we need to do if we are going to grow out of our current economic difficulties.

I suggested to the Secretary of Homeland Security that she consider making the technical fix as part of regulatory guidance on this new fee. The Department later informed me that such a fix required congressional action.

I raise this issue Mr. Speaker, because it is my hope that we can work with our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that companies that are trying to do the right thing are not unintentionally hurt by this provision. Since this unintended consequence was caused by a provision in an appropriations bill, I hope that we can make the necessary technical fix on an appropriations bill at the appropriate time.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1077) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan, which would strike language from this legislation that would restrict Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to only 10 urban areas across the country.

Last year, as a result of Republican-led cuts, the number of urban areas eligible to receive funding in UASI to assist local law enforcement deal with the threat of terrorist attacks was dropped from 64 to 31. Last week those cuts hit home, when two cities in my district were unjustly removed from the list of areas that received federal funding as part of this grant program. While we in Western New York appreciate the many national security needs across the country, it made me question our security priorities when two cities in an international border were denied funding only to have funding allocated to smaller cities in our nation's interior. I think that if you ask law enforcement officials in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany, they'll tell you that denying this small amount of funding to Upstate does not mean we are less at risk. Rather we've shifted the financial burden of security on them. In turn we may all be less safe.

Should this amendment fail to pass, it will effectively prevent cities like Rochester and Buffalo from competing for UASI grants in the future thanks to the plans of the majority to reduce funding even more in future years. At a time when the threat of terrorist attacks is high, we cannot lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities on local authorities, first responders, law enforcement and agencies and expect to adequately protect our citizens and make our cities safe.

DENNIS RITTENMEYER
RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer and to wish him well upon his upcoming retirement from his position as President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Indiana. Dr. Rittenmeyer's many years of service in the field of education have had a positive impact on numerous students and educators within the community of Northwest Indiana and across the nation. In honor of Dennis, a retirement reception will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer's true passion for education is reflected in his impressive 40 year career in higher education. Dr. Rittenmeyer received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University. He went on to earn his doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. In 1987, Dr. Rittenmeyer became President of Calumet College of Saint Joseph. At the time, the institution was in serious financial crisis. Dennis successfully restored the college's financial stability, utilizing the leadership skills for which he is well-known. Throughout his tenure, his perseverance to see the right thing done sustained his efforts to overcome obstacles in order to establish Calumet College of Saint Joseph as the exceptional resource it is today. Under Dr. Rittenmeyer's direction, the enrollment at Calumet College of Saint Joseph increased from 870 in 1987 to nearly 1,300 in 2010; educational programs were expanded to include not only associate's degree programs but also bachelor's and master's degree programs. Additionally, an athletic program was introduced; currently, more than 270 participate in intercollegiate sports. The physical development of the campus included extensive renovations to the main building and a new Student Activity/Community Center was completed in 2009. My good friend also established an endowment fund for the continuously growing institution. For his truly impressive commitment to Calumet College of Saint Joseph, Dr. Rittenmeyer is to be commended.

Perhaps more remarkable is Dr. Rittenmeyer selflessly giving of his time, intellectual skills, and power of persuasion to move the community of Northwest Indiana ahead. In 2009, he was honored by Governor Mitch Daniels with the Distinguished Hoosier Award for his efforts on behalf of public transportation in Northwest Indiana. Much needs to be done before we have a true regional transit system in our region, but it will occur because of Dennis Rittenmeyer's lone sojourn in the wilderness preaching the human value of developing such a system long before it became a fashionable topic of debate. There would be no debate and no hope of much an improvement for future generations if Dennis had not stepped forth before all others.

Dr. Rittenmeyer's commitment to education and the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing

family. He and his wonderful wife Leslie have five beloved children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication. He has touched the lives of countless students and educators, as well as every one of us in Northwest Indiana. For his service and uncompromising dedication, Dr. Rittenmeyer is worthy of the highest praise, and I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Senior Companion Program as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

For the past 30 years, the Senior Companion Program has paired homebound elderly citizens with dedicated Senior Companions, age 55 and older, who enable these citizens to live longer in their own homes. The program serves 606 Maine citizens in 14 of the state's 16 counties. Having logged an astounding 85,000 hours of volunteer time, the program's 130 companions give both independence and support to Maine seniors.

With an aging population, Maine is increasingly in need of support systems for its older citizens. Many seniors do not have relatives close by, leaving them on their own without help for household tasks, errands or basic companionship. The dedicated volunteers from the Senior Companion Program are there to aid seniors in their day-to-day lives so that these seniors are able to remain in their own homes and improve their quality of life.

The Senior Companion Program provides many Maine seniors with the support and friendship all people need and deserve. The care and dedication of the program's volunteers is nothing short of amazing, and the program helps not only with essential tasks, but also offers the opportunity to foster meaningful relationships between seniors and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Senior Companion Program on this joyous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE OF MS. SHASHI HANUMAN

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding leader of Asian American heritage from my district, Ms. Shashi Hanuman of Glassell Park. As we have just finished celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it is important for us to honor the work of AAPI community leaders.

In her roles as a Directing Attorney for Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm and a board member for key organizations serving working families, Ms. Hanuman has dedicated herself to advocating for the disenfranchised and the underserved throughout Los Angeles. In my district, she has helped countless families keep their homes in the neighborhoods of South Los Angeles, MacArthur Park, Koreatown, Hollywood and Echo Park.

As Directing Attorney of the Community Development Project for Public Counsel, Ms. Hanuman oversees a team dedicated to build-

ing a strong foundation for healthy, vibrant and economically stable communities. Through her work with this project over 200 affordable homes for seniors and families have been constructed and more than 600 tenants of modest income are now living in safe, decent affordable housing.

Ms. Hanuman has also provided legal counsel to numerous families fighting to keep their homes. Because of her compassion and hard work, there are families in my district today once facing a life on the street who are now secure in their home.

Through her non-profit and small business workshops, Ms. Hanuman has trained the next generation of community leaders Los Angeles County on ways to effectively meet the health care and housing needs of low-income families and youth. This work along with her donation of personal time to serve as board vice president of the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD), a community development corporation in South Los Angeles, and as board vice chair of Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH), have touched and improved the lives of so many people in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Ms. Shashi Hanuman and the countless Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who are making a difference in their communities and throughout our country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FREDDIE AND ERNEST TAVARES

HON. COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Hawaiian music legends Frederick "Freddie" and Ernest Tavares and congratulate them for receiving the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts' Lifetime Achievement Award.

The brothers were born and raised on Maui and from early on their passion for music and creativity was evident. Over their distinguished careers these two men helped popularize Hawaiian music throughout the United States and their innovations changed the world of music.

In his career, Freddie performed with some of the biggest stars of the era including Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley and Dean Martin. In the 1950s, Freddie was hired by guitar legend Leo Fender to help design the Fender Stratocaster, a guitar for which Eric Clapton commented, "I would challenge anybody to come up with a better design for a guitar. It's about as close to being perfect as any electric guitar can be." For his contributions to the guitar industry, Freddie was inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame and the Fender Hall of Fame.

Ernest was Freddie's older brother and was a versatile multi-instrumentalist. Ernest played the steel guitar, ukulele, flute and piano, among many others. He was an accomplished songwriter, conductor and choreographer and his creativity and engineering skills led to development of the pedal device that led to the pedal steel guitar. His career included work with the Harry Owens Royal Hawaiian Orchestra and Paul Page's South Sea Serenade.

The Tavares brothers were true musical renaissance men, and as their careers show they made a marvelous impact on modern music. Freddie and Ernest Tavares are treasures to the state of Hawai'i.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF PASADENA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Pasadena, California upon its 125th Anniversary.

In 1875, the area now known as the City of Pasadena, was named for a word that means "valley" in the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Native American language.

After Pasadena's incorporation in 1886, paved streets, sewers, and electric street lights were added, and so began the creation of the "Crown City." On January 1, 1890, the Valley Hunt Club initiated a festival—now known as the Tournament of Rose Parade—with a procession of flower-bedecked horses and carriages, which became a tradition that in 1898 was formally sponsored by the Tournament of Roses Association. In 1891, Throop University was founded, later to become the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and in the early 1900s many grand hotels were built. Some of the most accomplished architects settled in Pasadena, which became known for its fine architecture, particularly the Craftsman style, perfected by Greene and Greene—a significant example of which is the 1908 Gamble House. Continuing to enjoy a reputation as a tourist center and winter resort until the end of the 1920s, many significant institutions were built during this time, including the Rose Bowl Stadium, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Grace Nicholson Gallery—now the Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena City Junior College District—now Pasadena City College, as well as the Civic Center, consisting of the Central Library, City Hall and the Civic Auditorium. The 1920s also saw the beginning of the Pasadena Civic Orchestra, and the Shakespeare League.

World War II set Pasadena on the path to modern industrial growth, and led by Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) which became focal points of development and research for the war efforts, the city evolved into a center for industrial research and light manufacture of scientific and electronic precision instruments. In 1930, the Art Center College of Design was built, and in 1940, the Arroyo Seco Parkway, the first freeway in the west, was completed. The 1970s were a period of economic revitalization, along with an awakened respect for the City's architectural treasures, which led to the renovation of historic homes and buildings throughout the city. 1975 marked the opening of the Norton Simon Museum. In the 1980s and 90s, the city's election system changed from citywide runoff to district only elections and the City Board of Directors was changed to the City Council, and between 1970 and 2005, Caltech's faculty and alumni garnered 14 of the institute's 31 Nobel prizes. Today, Pasadena with its beautiful tree-lined streets, historic neighborhoods and thriving business community, is home to 140,000 residents.