program that is helping address unemployment around our Nation to the one place, perhaps, that needs help the most, the Northern Marianas.

The employment services the Wagner-Peyser programs provide have proven effective in facilitating the connection between the employers’ demand for employees and the labor market's abundant supply of a willing workforce. That is why I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

We have to do more in this Congress for U.S. workers. This is not a new program. This is not a fundamental amendment to the intent of the Act. This bill merely offers equal treatment to the Northern Marianas in giving them the chance to access funding to support our local businesses and workers in need.

TRIBUTE TO PAT WOOTON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the U.S. House of Representatives and a staunch Kentucky Republican, Mr. Dennis Patrick Wooton, upon his retirement from my Hazard district office following six years of service as my trusted Field Representative.

Pat has been my right hand on many issues impacting constituents in the eastern half of Kentucky’s Fifth Congressional District, covering 18 counties. Anytime a natural disaster occurs in our region, such as flash flooding, tornados, and damaging mudslides, Pat immediately reaches out to local officials to offer a helping hand and evaluate the potential need for federal assistance. He has been a loyal, reliable resource in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, always offering a friendly smile, his contagious humorous attitude, and word of encouragement.

Before serving as Congressional staff, Pat bravely served our U.S. Army in the Vietnam War. He was awarded several medals for his valiant efforts, including the honorable Bronze Star. Mr. Wooton’s lifetime member of V.F.W. Post 7378 and D.A.V. Chapter 64. Upon returning home, Pat was a teacher, baseball coach, and basketball coach at Buckhorn High School in Perry County, Kentucky, where he also became one of the most beloved principals in the history of the institution. In 2007, he was elected to the Kentucky High School Baseball Coach Hall of Fame. Through his dedicated efforts in the county, Pat gained the respect of the people of Perry County, who elected him Sheriff 2003–2006.

Pat has also been a dedicated advocate for conservative Republican principals and currently serves as Chairman of the Perry County Republican Party.

Pat has a true heart of service, which is displayed by his volunteer efforts across the Kentucky River region. His long list of service includes training the Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Department, serving on the Governor’s Smart Growth Task Force, the ARH Family Health Service and Community Advisory Boards, Buckhorn City Council, the Hazard Community and Technical College Board of Directors, and many more.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Pat Wooton on his retirement, and in appreciation of his brave military service to this nation. My wife, Cynthia, and I wish Pat and his wife, Veda, the very best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING ARMSTRONG CABLE ON THEIR FIFTIETH ANIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Armstrong is proudly celebrating its fiftieth anniversary of providing loyal cable service to its customers. With 800 employees, Armstrong serves 282,000 subscribers. Armstrong was founded in 1946 by Jud and Ned Sedwick and remains a family-owned and operated business that maintains close ties with the communities it serves.

Cablefax Magazine, a leading telecommunication publication, recently awarded Armstrong the 2012 Best Customer Service Award for service excellence among independent cable operators nationwide.

I congratulate Armstrong on the 18th day of April in the year 2013. I heartily commend Armstrong for its dedication to customer service and offer best wishes for future success.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL ELLENBOGEN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 18, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I share this letter on behalf of a constituent of mine named Michael Ellenbogen. I hope his story helps others in a profound and positive way.

My name is Michael Ellenbogen. I am living with Alzheimer’s, and spend almost every waking hour advocating for increased funding for research that will improve the treatment of this dreadful disease. In 2006, at the age of 39, I was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease after struggling to get a diagnosis since my first symptoms began at age 39. There are more than five million Americans now suffering from this devastating disease.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds research into critical and devastating diseases such as cancer and HIV/AIDS. Yet there is much neglect and discrimination regarding the allocation of funds for research into Alzheimer’s and related dementias. As a person who every day lives the devastating impact of Alzheimer’s disease every day, I hope that research will lead eventually to postponing the onset or slowing the progression of this disease, if not prevention and cure.

Currently, Alzheimer’s disease only receives about $50 million for research from NIH, compared to more than $5 billion for cancer and more than $3 billion for HIV/AIDS. I am astonished at the lack of funding dedicated to addressing the number one health epidemic. Historically, leadership from this federal agency has helped lower the number of deaths from major diseases such as HIV/AIDS, heart disease, stroke, and many types of cancers. This past experience proves that increased efforts directed at Alzheimer’s disease will be met with similar success.

TRIBUTE TO GEE’S BEND QUILT ARTISTS MARY LEE BENDOLPH AND LORETTA PETTWAY BENNETT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 18, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my talented and distinguished constituents—Mary Lee Bendolph and Loretta Pettway Bennett. Both ladies are renowned quilt artists from Gee’s Bend, Alabama. The beautiful work of these honorées and the group of women quilters from Gee’s Bend has gained international recognition and is source of great pride to my district and the state of Alabama.

Gee’s Bend is a beloved rural community—geographically isolated on a peninsula at a deep bend in the Alabama River, just south-east of my hometown of Selma. For nearly 20 years, the women of Gee’s Bend have been creating quilt art. These local women use available materials, in patterns of their own creative design. They have received widespread, critical acclaim and their work has been compared to the most valuable pieces of modern abstract art.

Mary Lee Bendolph, the seventh of 17 children, descends from generations of accomplished quilt makers in Gee’s Bend. She
learned to quilt from her mother, Aolair Mosely, and she worked over the years in a variety of textile-related jobs. Mary Lee gathers design ideas for her quilt art by looking at the world around her. Anything—from people’s clothes at church, to her barn, to quilts hanging on clotheslines in front yards, to how the land looks when seen from above in an airplane—can inspire her.

Mary Lee Bendolph has worked to promote greater understanding of her community and its unique art form. She has appeared on numerous television and radio programs, and figured prominently in the PBS documentary “The Quiltmakers of Gee’s Bend.” In 1999, Mary Lee’s life was profiled in The Los Angeles Times by J.R. Moehringer in “Crossing Over: Mary Lee’s Vision,” which was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Additionally, the main character Sadie Pettway in Elizabeth Wilder’s play “Gee’s Bend,” currently on tour, is based on the life of Mary Lee Bendolph.

Loretta Pettway Bennett is a fifth-generation quilter from Gee’s Bend, Alabama and one of the youngest to continue hand-stitching quilts in the Gee’s Bend style. She is the second of eight children and oldest daughter of Tom O. and Quinnie Elizabeth Pettway Jr. Loretta’s ancestry traces back to Dinah Miller, a great-great-great-grandmother who, according to folklore and family history, was one of the first slaves to have arrived in Gee’s Bend. Loretta has over two dozen additional relatives among the initial group of quilters, establishing her as a bona fide member of what could be considered America’s quilting royalty.

Loretta has stated that she came full circle, back to her Gee’s Bend roots, when she made a quilt in honor of her mother, Quinnie Pettway, who taught her to sew and quilt, and her cousin Arlonzia Pettway. “After that quilt, I went into a zone where I was inspired to use really bold colors and different types of materials together just like the generations of relatives before me, because they used what they had. I added something else that my family especially loves, music and dancing. I was finally there, using different shapes, sizes, colors and textures. Just like my family, imperfect but still a family.”

Most recently, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts featured the Gee’s Bend Jazz Symphony in February 2013. During Black History Month 2013, the history of the community of Gee’s Bend, and the spirit of the women of the Gee’s Bend quilt art, was brought to the nation by jazz pianist Jason Moran, using music to help animiate history and interpret museum collections.

Mr. Speaker, I am beyond honored to represent the community of Gee’s Bend and these two extraordinary artists. I look forward to many more appearances in our nation’s capital by these highly talented artists.