

would also help assemble the capital resources to carry it out.

Currently U.S.-Japan relations are marked by rancorous discord over trade and currency disputes. Palau provides an excellent example of a matter of common concern over which they could find fruitful grounds for agreement and cooperation. For little money or risk, they could show each other, and the world, how adept they are at cooperating in a good cause. A positive precedent would be set for more ambitious future multilateral activities.

REMEMBERING KEVIN CARPENTER

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, Kevin Reid Carpenter was a young man of unusual promise. A sophomore at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, he was twice an honor representative for his Academy class and had been voted by his fellow students as the most outstanding cadet. Closer to home, Kevin had been student body president at Liberty High in Brentwood, CA, a school at which he is remembered for his personal warmth, caring spirit, and natural leadership ability.

Kevin died September 25 of a heart attack while playing soccer in New London. Evidently caused by an irregular heartbeat stemming from a childhood illness, Kevin's death has been a shock to his family, his community, and to the Coast Guard Academy. One is left to wonder why this exceptional young American was taken from us. Yet we know that although we sometimes cannot fathom God's ways, He is loving and worthy of our trust, even when events, from our human perspective, seem inexplicable.

On a personal note, I am particularly proud of Kevin's choice of the Coast Guard as the branch of service in which to serve. As a former Guardsman myself, I understand the words of one of Kevin's closest friends, Coast Guard Academy cadet Matthew Baer, who said "Kevin liked the idea of the Coast Guard, because we help people on a daily basis."

The motivation does not surprise me, as it characterized Kevin's life. A committed Christian, Kevin was active in many church, school, and community activities both because he loved life and because he wanted to serve others. This is the legacy of a life well-lived. As Kevin's pastor, Larry Adams of Golden Hill Community Church, put it, "He had a life that counts because, in God's economy, it isn't the length, it's what you do with it."

Kevin did much with his life, and for this we honor him today. To his mother and stepfather, Tom and Carolyn Boden, his father, Bill Carpenter, his brothers Jeff and Neil and sister Alina, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. Yet we do so with the confidence of knowing that Jeff has entered a better land than this, our own beloved country which Kevin served so faithfully. It is in the spirit of this assurance that I urge all my colleagues to join with me in remembering Kevin Carpenter today.

A SALUTE TO COLEJON CORPORATION: WINNER OF SBA GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to salute two residents of my congressional district, Lonzo Coleman and James E. Jones. This year their company, ColeJon Corp., received the Small Business Administration's Graduate of the Year Award. This award recognizes small businesses for their success in moving from set-aside projects to a more competitive business arena. The award was presented at the Minority Enterprise Development Week conference, which was held in Washington, DC, earlier this week. I would like to share with my colleagues the details of the exceptional history of ColeJon Corp., and why this SBA award is particularly significant.

It was in 1976 that Lonzo Coleman, a pipefitter, and James Jones, a sheet metal worker, pooled their savings to form ColeJon Corp., a mechanical contracting firm in Cleveland, OH. However, a Small Business Administration

[SBA] official rejected their request for a loan, perhaps thinking that the venture did not have a chance for success. The new company got its start when it was able to obtain work under a SBA program that set-aside work for minority enterprises. Eventually, through hard work and dedication, the firm grew, expanding its services and competing for both Government and commercial contracts across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report that ColeJon has achieved a high level of prosperity. Currently, approximately 90 percent of ColeJon's business is outside of Ohio. The firm competes for facilities management contracts at large Government and commercial establishments in 12 States. ColeJon Corp. has also completed several major projects in Cleveland, including the recently opened Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Great Lakes Science Museum. These impressive enterprises indicate the level of skill and excellence which ColeJon has attained.

ColeJon Corp. is a wonderful example of how affirmative action can be good for this country. James Jones and Lonzo Coleman utilized affirmative action to break into the machine trade industry. ColeJon Corp. is now giving back to the State of Ohio by employing approximately 400 people. The success of this small business translates directly into economic growth for Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses such as ColeJon Corp. are essential to the economy of this country. Almost 60 percent of the private work force is employed by small business, and 54 percent of all sales in the country are completed by small businesses. This is why we need small business development. Additionally, minority businesses are essential in our efforts to promote development in economically disadvantaged regions. Minority businesses provide jobs for American workers and provide positive role models for minority youth. These enterprises provide minority representation in the global economic community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Lonzo Coleman and James Jones for their well-deserved success. I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our warmest congratulations to ColeJon Corp. for receiving the Small Business Administration's Graduate of the Year Award.