

million jobs since 1993 and produced an industry unemployment rate of 1.4 percent. In California alone, this technology explosion has made the Golden State number one in high-tech employment by creating 784,151 jobs and making up 61 percent of California's exports. As a result, our nation's economy has surged and the American people are enjoying the highest standard of living in history.

While our economy is strong, we must recognize that if cutting edge technology companies do not have access to growing numbers of highly skilled personnel, it will threaten our nation's ability to maintain robust economic growth and expanding opportunities. For the second year in a row, robust growth in technology in technology industries have placed significant strains on the H-1B visa program. Last year, these visas were increased to ensure that the scarcity of skilled workers not undermine the ability of the economy to grow. Unfortunately, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reached the visa cap in June leaving 42,000 visas outstanding. Additionally, there are currently over 340,000 unfilled positions in the high-tech industry, and the Department of Labor projects that this deficit will increase by 1 million workers in the next decade.

I believe that highly-skilled, temporary foreign workers are critical to filling a limited number of positions for which no qualified Americans are available. That is why I introduced the New Workers for Economic Growth Act of 1999 as the House companion for S. 1440 introduced by Senator PHIL GRAMM. This legislation increases the level of H-1B visas available for highly-skilled scientists and engineers to 200,000 for the years 2000-2002.

It is clear that education reform and worker training are essential to ensure that American citizens are able to take advantage of these positions. The fact is, half of the student graduating from American universities with doctorates in science, math and computer programming are foreign-born students. The lack of investment in educating Americans in these subject areas is a serious long-term problem that must be addressed. In the short-term, however, I believe a temporary increase in H1B admissions is warranted. I commend Chairman SMITH for exploring the current situation so that a workforce shortage does not threaten our vibrant economy.

WORKPLACE PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 987) to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a study or guideline on ergonomics:

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Workplace Preservation Act and in support of American small business. All we're asking is for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to delay implementation of a new workplace ergonomics rule until the National Academy of Science finishes

a study of the effects of workplace ergonomics.

The rule that OSHA wants to implement is conservatively estimated to cost Americans \$3.5 billion a year. As a small business owner, I am very concerned about how federal regulations affect people and their jobs. Too often the people who suffer are not only the small business owners, but also their employees. And the regulation being discussed by OSHA is indeed large. It could have harmful effects on the economies of the small towns that dot my district where there are not many choices of where to work. Often in Central, Southern, and Eastern Oregon, if you lose your job at the local tire store or construction company, there are no other employment choices.

The federal government has already played a role in driving the unemployment rate in Grant County to almost 17% in April of this year by halting access to the federal lands that dominate the landscape of Oregon. Now it wants to micro-manage small business? I believe that before the federal government implements a drastic increase in its interference in America's small businesses, it needs all the information it can get on ergonomics. It is not too much to ask OSHA to wait to implement its rule until we have a chance to examine the ergonomics study being performed by NAS at the request of Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I join the small business owners of America in thanking my friend from Missouri, Mr. Blunt, for his leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support this reasonable and pro small-business bill.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ROSLYN MCGRUDER CLARK

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Roslyn McGruder Clark, a native of Miami who passed away Saturday of a brain aneurysm at the age of 48.

Roslyn Clark was a precious asset to our community. Her enthusiasm for her work, her compassion for other people, and her dedication to public service speak to the very best tradition of police service.

Roslyn was simply an outstanding law enforcement officer. She worked hard, and she worked smart. Education was extremely important to her. She was a graduate of Miami's Jackson Senior High School. She held a Master of Science degree from Biscayne College, and had completed graduate course work at Florida Atlantic University and at the University of Miami.

Roslyn Clark's tremendous abilities were recognized by her superiors. She attained the rank of major and was the highest-ranked African-American female police officer in the Miami-Dade Police Department. Her task was to head the Northside Police Station in the Liberty City area of Miami, considered by many to be the most violent area in Dade County.

Roslyn Clark did not shrink from this challenge; she welcomed it. For she had grown up in this area. She knew the people, and she

knew the problems. Even more important, she was a talented leader who knew how to make the police force work for the community. She used every tool available to her—personnel, training, community groups, educators. She forged relationships with residents and young people. Because of her work and under her direction, the neighborhood began to improve. This is an important part of her legacy.

Major Roslyn McGruder Clark is survived by her husband, Edgar Clark, her son Keenan, her stepson Edgar Clark, Jr., and by her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Helen Ward. I extend to them, on behalf of our entire community, my heartfelt sympathy at their loss, which is our loss.

From this day forward, whenever men and women of determination and good will talk about those in our community who made a positive contribution, they will remember Roslyn Clark.

TWENTY-FIRST AMENDMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2031) to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor:

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns about the impact of H.R. 2031 on small family-owned vintners and wine producers in my district.

This issue before us is much more complex than it seems on the surface. Of course, teens should not be able to order a case of beer from their home computers. Nor should they be able to mail order shipments of alcohol to their front door. Because of this, I will support this bill.

But we are voting on much more than this.

This bill basically states that federal courts might get involved when an adult visits a small family owned winery in person and purchases wine for their own consumption, then has that wine shipped home.

I see no reason why this transaction—which could still be prosecuted in a state court if it violated a state law—should be pushed into the federal courts.

We do not have the resources to use the federal courts to chase such violations of state law.

I hope to introduce stand alone legislation that would address my concerns and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Such an effort would be pro-small business, pro-tourism, and pro-family farmer.

JUDITH TAYLOR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Judith Taylor.