

16th century and became popular throughout Europe later in the century. Soler's first mentor, Andrés Segovia, is credited with legitimizing and revolutionizing the traditionally-regarded "Instrument of peasants" in the late 1800s. Spanish culture embraced the guitar and, as a result, the majority of music throughout Latin America is flavored with the instrument. Whether listening to Argentinian chacareras, Ecuadorian danzantes, Panamanian murgas, Mexican rancheras, a Cuban mambo, Puerto Rican salsa, or Dominican merengue, one can hear the prolific influence of the guitar. It is indeed a fundamental element of Spanish and Latin culture, which Soler has mastered and re-defined.

Mr. Speaker, Francesc de Paula Soler is routinely referred to as "The Poet of the Guitar" throughout the world, based on the way he conveys raw emotion and tells complex tales with only his fingers and the strings of a guitar. He has mesmerized audiences at the Levine School of Music and the Achison Auditorium in the U.S. State Department, and has entertained a myriad of cultural societies throughout the United States. Thousands have filled the auditoriums of colleges and universities from coast to coast to hear Francesc de Paula Soler's guitar. Beyond these American performances, Soler has engaged audiences around the world.

In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the ways that Hispanic Americans have served our country throughout history, I encourage all of my colleagues to attend the concert and enjoy an hour of exquisite music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Francesc de Paula Soler for his contributions to the world of music and for honoring us with his art.

#### PRO BONO PROJECT

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated volunteers of the Pro Bono Project of Santa Clara County. The Pro Bono Project uses volunteer attorneys, judges and other legal professionals to represent low income and indigent clients in Santa Clara County in family law cases, including divorce, custody, child/spousal support, and domestic violence issues. Often, the Pro Bono Project is the last chance its clients have at securing representation.

The success of the Pro Bono Project is a direct result of 150 volunteers, through whose efforts the Project offered over 200 clients per year over \$958,000 in volunteer services. Thanks to these volunteers, the Pro Bono Project was able to staff several clinics, including a Bankruptcy clinic and a Paternity clinic. Pro Bono Project attorneys staff the Domestic Violence Collaboration in conjunction with Bay Area Legal Aid, Battered Women's Support Network, Next Door and South County Alternatives. The Domestic Violence Collaboration provides divorce, support and custody services to victims of domestic violence. The Project's Family Law Mentor Program provides a volunteer mentor attorney in the office every Wednesday to provide family law advice and help to attorneys.

With very little funding, the Pro Bono Project does an amazing amount of work. I commend the Project's founders and volunteers. On behalf of Santa Clara County, I thank these remarkable volunteers for all of their hard work.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN TRANT

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, sadly today many American families continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones during the senseless tragedies at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. As each day passes, their stories are being heard by a growing number of Americans who are becoming intimately affected by these devastating losses.

I have spoken of several of these Americans here on the floor. I am also drawn to the story of Dan Trant, a former basketball legend at Clark University in Worcester, MA, and the older brother of a friend. Dan was a successful bond trader with the firm Cantor Fitzgerald at the World Trade Center.

Recently, the Boston Herald described Dan as an icon in New England college basketball who was drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1984 and went on to play professional basketball in Ireland, his family's ancestral home. Dan later played for the Springfield Fame during the inaugural season of the U.S. Basketball League, assisting his team in the first-ever league championship.

Off the court, Dan was even more inspiring. He was a father and neighbor who used his great successes in sports and in the business world to inspire hundreds of children in his church congregation, local school district and a nearby university near his home in Northport, LI. Many of the local children he helped attended his memorial service in New York, where they had an opportunity to express their love and say goodbye.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Dan's wife Kathy, his children Jessica, Daniel, and Alex, and all of those who loved him.

#### TO HONOR THE REVEREND CLARENCE D. ROBINSON

### HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the work of the Reverend Clarence D. Robinson as he leaves St. Mark African Episcopal Church in Milwaukee after more than a decade of service. Rev. Robinson is moving to Chicago where he has been appointed presiding elder for 23 congregations in the city and its surrounding communities.

Following his ordination as an Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1959, Rev. Robinson's career took him to churches throughout the Midwest. He came to St. Mark's in August, 1991 from Ebenezer A.M.E. in Detroit, Michigan, and truly left his mark as a leader in our community.

In addition to giving his time as a board member of several Milwaukee organizations, Rev. Robinson has also served our young people as a tireless advocate and role model. St. Mark's offers the Men to Boys mentoring program, and opens its recreation center doors on Friday nights for Word Up—a night of Bible Study, basketball, board games and other activities. Rev. Robinson has helped provide productive and non-violent options for young people, linking them with positive role models and encouraging them to lead a life free of drugs and violence.

Rev. Robinson's legacy will surely be felt at St. Mark A.M.E. Church for years to come. Last September the church opened its second senior citizen housing facility. The congregation named this 25 unit building the C.G. Robinson Terrace in honor of their leader.

During his 10 years in Milwaukee, Rev. Robinson has impacted our community in many ways, and he will be sorely missed. I am proud to join the members of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in thanking him for his service to the people of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and wishing him the best of luck in his new position.

#### VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as part of an effort to reduce the federal work force within the United States Forest Service, Forest Service employees were offered the opportunity to participate in a "voluntary separation incentive payments" program a few years ago. This program was included in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (P.L. 104-180). As part of the agreement, employees were paid \$20,000; in exchange, they agreed to retire and not be employed by any federal agency for at least five years; if they were re-employed by the federal government they would have to forfeit all or part of the money from said agreement.

However, there has been a severe shortage of qualified firefighters to combat the extraordinary number of forest fires throughout the country over the past several years, specifically in the West. Many retired Forest Service employees have been asked to help fight many of these blazes, unfortunately many of them cannot without risk of forfeiting the payments they received through the buyout program.

My bill will amend Public Law 104-180 to allow former Federal employees who received voluntary separation incentive payments under the Department of Agriculture program to accept employment with the Federal Government once again, without loss of their payments, as long as their employment is directly related to fighting forest fires.

At a time when we need qualified, willing, well-trained individuals to fight these fires more than ever before, it's egregious if we do not change this law to allow these brave men and women to fight the fires that threaten our forests, wildlife, and our homes without having

to worry about forfeiting past reparations they've received from the government.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TERRORIST DISASTER RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES ACT

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11, 2001, have caused a massive disruption of businesses all over the country. The most visible of the economic scars can be found in lower Manhattan, which some 15,000 businesses called home, and in the air transport industry, which the government was forced to close. But, the economic hardships caused by the September 11th terrorist attacks reach far beyond the areas immediately impacted by the attacks and involve all types of businesses.

In order to overcome their current difficulties, businesses who have suffered substantial hardship because of the September 11th terrorist attacks will need access to low-cost credit to cover their uninsured losses and to provide needed operating cash while they regain their footing. Congress has provided financial assistance to the airline industry. And, thankfully, many small businesses in the New York City area will qualify for economic injury disaster loans from the Small Business Administration. However, there are many more innocent small businesses who need the Government's help to overcome the economic difficulties caused by the terrorist attacks and the resulting turmoil in the air transportation industry.

Among the small businesses that have been injured are those that sell goods and services to the airports, airlines and airline passengers. The current crisis has also taken a heavy toll on the entire tourist industry, particularly, the many small businesses that are integral to that industry. The closing of commercial air traffic during the week of September 11th had a severe impact on many businesses that depend on the airlines and air cargo industry for the delivery of items crucial to the conduct of their enterprise. While we cannot yet measure the economic impact of the attacks on the small business community, many small businesses all over the country are clearly suffering.

The SBA has received requests for disaster assistance from small businesses all over the United States, including small businesses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and California, and small businesses from as far away from New York City as Hawaii. But, under the current restrictions that apply to the SBA disaster loan program, the SBA cannot provide disaster assistance to businesses outside of a declared disaster area and contiguous communities.

My bill, the Terrorist Disaster Relief for Small Businesses Act, would provide needed disaster assistance to businesses all over this Nation. First, the bill gives the Small Business Administration the authority to provide economic injury disaster loans to a small business located anywhere in the United States that can demonstrate it experienced a substantial economic injury because of the terrorist attacks, including injuries caused by actions taken by the government in response to at-

tack. Additionally, the bill would permit the Administrator of the SBA to relax, as he deems necessary and appropriate, the "small business" size standards for an injured business that, as a technical matter, does not meet the size standards. These exceptions to the normal SBA criteria would only apply to businesses that have been injured by the September 11th attack.

These are extraordinary times that call for extraordinary solutions to overcome the Nation's current crisis. I believe altering the criteria for SBA disaster loans will help the Nation's small businesses to begin to recover from the economic hardships caused by the September 11th attack. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON GALVAN

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Gordon Galvan's many years of dedicated service on the San Leandro City Council.

A lifelong San Leandro resident, Gordon is a third generation San Leandran and grandson of Spanish immigrants. He is a graduate of St. Leander's School and San Leandro High School.

Gordon began his service to the local community in 1992 as co-founder and President of the Bancroft Area Neighborhood Association. He went on to be elected in 1994 to the San Leandro City council, representing District One and was re-elected by a mandate in 1998.

During his two terms on the Council, Galvan was recognized as a champion of small and large businesses and a passionate advocate for revitalization of Downtown San Leandro. He led the way for public/private partner investments in the area resulting in over \$2.5 million of improvements to downtown San Leandro.

Local and regional civic and community leaders recognized Gordon's leadership on the Council. His colleagues on the San Leandro City Council elected Galvan for an unprecedented two terms as Vice Mayor.

He served as vice chair of the City of San Leandro's Disaster Preparedness Council, and worked on San Leandro's FEMA award-winning Disaster Preparedness Campaign.

After seven years of service to the city of San Leandro, Gordon has stepped aside to devote more time to his business. Still devoted to serving his community, he is overseeing the management of the San Leandro Shuttle Program and the San Leandro Industrial Roundtable.

The Mayor, the San Leandro City Council and the Chamber are hosting a tribute to Gordon on September 27. I join in expressing appreciation for his many years of dedicated service on the San Leandro City Council.

PRESERVE U.S. JOBS IN THE PASSENGER VESSEL INDUSTRY

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to a proposal to amend the 1886 Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) by designating Panama as a distant foreign port of call. Such designation would allow foreign-flag vessels to carry passengers from one U.S. port to another U.S. port, provided only that the vessels stop in Panama en route.

Under the existing PVSA, vessels making U.S. point-to-point services must be owned, built, flagged and manned in the U.S. This statute has served our country well for over a century, ensuring a vibrant domestic passenger vessel industry that creates and preserves jobs in the U.S. Designating Panama as a distant foreign port would create no U.S. jobs, generate no economic benefits for the U.S., and result in no new business for U.S.-flag cruise vessels. Only foreign-flag—which pay no U.S. corporate income taxes, operate largely outside of U.S. laws, and employ foreign labor—would benefit from this misguided proposal.

The PVSA authorizes the U.S. Customs Service to provide the flexibility needed to meet the needs of the cruise industry public while at the same time preserving important national interests. By arbitrarily designating Panama as a distant foreign port, Congress would supersede the regulatory authority of Customs and contravene the longstanding purposes of the PVSA to bar foreign vessels from engaging in domestic transportation. Such an act would also create a dangerous precedent that could have even graver implications for U.S. cargo transportation governed by the Jones Act.

Mr. Speaker, the proponents of the Panama proposal hope to include it as an amendment to the Coast Guard Authorization bill. I urge my colleagues to strongly oppose this misguided attempt to undermine one of our nation's most important maritime laws.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL W. IVORY, ADMINISTRATOR OF CHESTERWOOD

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commend Paul W. Ivory, who as of September 30 will retire as the Administrator of Chesterwood, the former country home and studio of sculptor Daniel Chester French in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. French was the creator of two of America's most powerful symbols: The Minute Man (1875) in Concord, Massachusetts and Abraham Lincoln (1922) for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

At Chesterwood, which was designed by noted architect Henry Bacon, French executed many commissions, and he also designed the gardens and woodland walks around the grounds. French is considered to be one of