

often taking home far less than the minimum wage.

In the absence of federal guidelines, day laborers are often subjected to long, unpaid wait-periods before being assigned to a job. Commonly, these workers also face dangerous working conditions and are paid lower wages than full-time workers performing the same or similar jobs. Further, day laborers are frequently charged high (often undisclosed) fees for on-the-job meals, transportation to and from job sites and special attire and safety equipment necessary for jobs. Some agencies even ask workers to sign waivers in case they are injured on the job.

Partially due to these unfair labor conditions, many day laborers are caught in a cycle of poverty. A study by the University of Illinois Center for Urban Economic Development found that 65 percent of 510 surveyed day laborers receive \$5.15 per hour. Taking into consideration the number of hours spent waiting to be assigned to work (often between 1.5 and 3 hours), the real value per hour of work is reduced to less than about four dollars per hour. This low figure does not reflect transportation and food and equipment fees, which are often deducted from day laborers' wages.

To address these problems, this Act requires day laborer wages that are equal to those paid to permanent employees who are performing substantially equivalent work, with consideration given to seniority, experience, skills and qualifications. Also, it will help ensure that workers are being properly trained before performing hazardous tasks. My bill would also ban fees and wage deductions for health and safety equipment and for transportation between the place of hire and the work site. Further, it requires itemized statements showing deductions made from day laborers' wages. It will also outlaw the unscrupulous practice of charging workers a fee for cashing paychecks. Some companies reap millions of dollars from this deceitful practice. Finally, it mandates that when a day laborer is hurt on the job, the employer who has requested the services of the day laborer provide for coverage of health care costs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this pro-labor legislation that will help ensure that people who work hard and pay taxes have the same employment protections as people in other jobs.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO SOLDIERS
OF OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues a bill that would extend automatic citizenship to those immigrant soldiers who have served our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I introduce this bill in honor of soldiers like Sgt. Riayan Tejeda of Washington Heights, who laid down their lives so that all of the people of the United States, regardless of immigration status, could continue to enjoy the freedoms that our Constitution lays out. To uphold and protect a Constitution that this august

body continues to perfect through legislation and debate.

The Riayan Tejeda Memorial Act of 2003 goes beyond current congressional efforts by granting citizenship to all servicemembers that request naturalization and have served in a combat zone designated as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It ensures that not only spouses and unmarried children, but also parents of soldiers killed as a result of service in the U.S. military, can apply for citizenship or legalization of status beyond the death of that servicemember. It allows undocumented spouses, dependents and parents of servicemembers to stay in the country while they are legalizing their status. Finally, this bill honors our current and fallen soldiers for their service by prioritizing the naturalization applications of servicemembers and their families.

No one in this country who works hard and abides by the just laws of this country should have to die to receive the citizenship that they crave and deserve. For men and women who decide to don the uniform of the armed forces, their actions on the battlefield should be enough to prove their allegiance and dedication to this land and our families.

HONORING LUCILLE COUGHLIN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in recognition of a truly amazing woman, Lucille Coughlin. Last year, Lucille was named the top usher at Wrigley Field, home of the World Famous Chicago Cubs. While we are all extremely proud of Lucille for becoming the Cubs' "top usher," we are even more impressed that she achieved this at 88 years young.

A true Chicago Northsider, Lucille is a graduate of Lakeview High School—one of Chicago's finest public schools. She was married at St. Andrew Parish and lived 40 years of her life in the Sauganash neighborhood. Lucille raised three children, one of whom is our own Chaplain, Reverend Daniel Coughlin. Today, she lives near Lake Michigan and enjoys spending time with her five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Approximately 15 years ago, Lucille and her friends at St. Andrew began looking for ways to stay involved in their community. After exploring a few options, they decided on working at Wrigley. Among the original group of St. Andrew's parishioners who began ushering at Wrigley Field, only Lucille remains, working nearly every day. Because she is universally loved and recognized for her cheerful and friendly demeanor, I share the joy felt by so many thousands of Cubs fans who are thrilled she has been honored with the Usher of the Year award for the 2002 season.

During her years at Wrigley, Lucille has witnessed the addition of lights to the field, rejoiced when the Cubs won the National League East title in 1989, lamented the retirement of Cub legend Ryan Sandberg, mourned the loss of Harry Carey, and celebrated many of Sammy Sosa's 505 home runs. Knowing Lucille, she'll be around when the Cubs finally return to the World Series.

But if you ask Lucille why she still works, she will tell you that it's partly to stay active,

but mostly because of the great friends she has made. As an usher she has met some of the players, past and present, as well as many important public officials. But, as interesting as the VIPs are, it is the strong bonds she has made with co-workers and fans which keeps her coming back.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Chicago home because of people like Lucille. When she retired, she chose to stay active and involved in the community she has called home for more than 88 years. This August, Lucille will turn 89, and I hope to see her at Wrigley for years to come. Lucille Coughlin is a great Chicagoan. I congratulate her on her successes, and I wish her a happy birthday and the best in whatever life sends her way.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2004

SPEECH OF

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2800) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to bring attention to a very important issue for my state. My intent is to demonstrate to the government of Mexico that they must start working with us to provide great health care services for its citizens.

As you know, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) requires hospital emergency rooms to treat all patients who seek care, regardless of immigration status.

The cost of providing free medical care to illegal immigrants is a devastating burden particularly to hospitals in counties along Arizona's southern border. While this problem affects our national health care system, it has resulted in a health care crisis in states such as Arizona.

Many Arizona hospitals face serious financial difficulties. Some have cut back services and state residents are forced to stand in longer lines to see fewer doctors.

Last year, the U.S.-Mexico Border Counties Coalition released a report that should alarm and concern all of us. It found that health care facilities in 28 border counties lost nearly \$200 million in one year in costs for the emergency medical treatment of illegal aliens, \$31 million of which was lost in Arizona's border counties.

Because the federal government has failed to take financial responsibility for the costs associated with illegal immigration, much of the financial burden of emergency care for undocumented immigrants falls to state and local governments. I support efforts to ease that financial burden and I am proud to be a co-sponsor of my colleague Mr. KOLBE's bill—H.R. 819—that will assist border states, localities, and health care providers. In addition, I will be sending a letter soon to Medicare conferees in support of a Senate provision that