Mr. Gary L. Bryenton, an outstanding gentleman and good friend from Ohio, upon his retirement from his position as the Executive Partner of the Baker and Hostetler law firm, headquartered in Cleveland, OH.

Gary Bryenton grew up on a farm in Litchfield, OH, in Medina County. He graduated from Buckeye High School in 1957.

Gary started his professional career following his graduation from Heidelberg College in 1961. He then moved on to work for the Arthur G. McKee Company in Cleveland, as an assistant editor. Gary was graduated from Case Western Reserve Law School in 1965, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the law review and was a member of the National Moot Court Team. Upon graduation, Gary joined the law firm of Baker, Hostetler & Patterson as an associate.

Mr. Speaker, in 1972, Gary became a partner in his law firm and was appointed Managing Partner of the Cleveland Office. He became a member of the Policy Committee in 1987, was appointed Chief Operating Officer in 1996, and was elected as the Executive Partner (CEO) of the 550–member firm in 1997.

The responsibilities of this position involved directing and managing all executive functions, serving as principal spokesman for the firm, serving on numerous charitable, civic, private, and public company boards of directors, and occasionally taking on the responsibilities as legal counsel for some of the firm's larger clients.

Mr. Bryenton has held a number of other administrative positions at the firm, in addition to chairing the firm's Policy Committee. These other positions include Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, Chairman of the Practice Development Committee, and Chairman of the firm's Community Relations and Political Action Committees. Mr. Bryenton has served as a trustee of the Cleveland Bar Association, a member of its Professional Ethics Committee, and Editor of the Cleveland Bar Journal.

He also serves on the boards of directors of many corporations and on the boards of trustees of numerous charitable and civic organizations. Mr. Bryenton is a Board member of the Cleveland Orchestra, The National Conference for Community and Justice, The Greater Cleveland Growth Association, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Heidelberg College, from which he and his wife, Barbara, were graduated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Gary L. Bryenton. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Gary, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Gary and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL THAT WOULD GRANT UNCONDITIONAL AND PERMANENT TRADE RELATIONS TO UKRAINE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today my brother, Senator LEVIN, and I have introduced a bill that would grant unconditional and permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) to Ukraine and remove Ukraine, unconditionally and permanently, from the application of the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment. The legislation would provide an historic update in U.S.-Ukraine trade relations. It would strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations and reinforce progress Ukraine has made in many areas. Additionally, the legislation would ensure that Congress continues to play an active role—with the Administration and with Ukraine—in confronting trade disputes and negotiating the terms of Ukraine's WTO accession.

This legislation is the culmination of a month's long effort, involving consultations with the Ukrainian Embassy, Ukrainian groups in the United States, other Members of Congress, including some on the Helsinki Commission, and other groups that have expressed an interest in Ukraine's removal from Jackson-Vanik. I think that it addresses many of the concerns that have been raised in a way that will help Ukraine PNTR on its way through Congress.

The legislation expands on a Ukraine PNTR bill that my brother and I introduced a couple of years in the 107th Congress (H.R. 4723/S. 3089). The bill we are introducing today reflects updates and improvements from our previous bill, which we believe will help this one garner the broad support necessary to push the issue along.

I am aware that there are elections in Ukraine later this year, and we all know how important it is that those elections be conducted transparently and fairly, in accordance with international norms. My reasons for supporting PNTR for Ukraine relate to the importance of Ukraine and what PNTR can mean for its economic and democratic development, not to any individual candidacy.

It is useful to recall that the Jackson-Vanik amendment was itself an amendment to Title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, a trade statute. In particular, Title IV created a framework for conducting trade relations with non-market economies. The Jackson-Vanik amendment, which has been an effective tool for raising freedom of emigration and human rights concerns, is a key element of Title IV; however, the underlying purpose and function of the statute were and remain the conduct of trade relations.

Accordingly, PNTR legislation must address fundamental trade issues. Consistent congressional practice is to grant PNTR to a country that is subject to Jackson-Vanik only at the time of the country's WTO accession, or when negotiations on accession were effectively completed. In this way, Congress's vote on PNTR has served as a way to signal approval for the country's WTO accession agreement. Under this approach, Congress was able to exercise its constitutional prerogative to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and the American people benefited from the Administration negotiating the strongest possible agreement.

This precedent has led to an important series of successful accessions to the WTO, including most notably for China, on terms that reinforced the WTO rules-based system, and brought great benefits to the people of the United States as well as other WTO countries.

In the case of Ukraine, WTO accession terms are still being negotiated. I believe it is appropriate to depart from that precedent and grant Ukraine PNTR now, so long as Congress retains a meaningful, effective tool to ensure that U.S. interests are fully addressed in those negotiations. And, there are many critical issues that still need to be addressed—Ukraine's protection for intellectual property rights, commitments to open its auto market, commitments in the services and other sectors, to name just a few. Moreover, there have been a number of recent trade tensions with Ukraine—including in the poultry sector. While these appear to have been addressed, they renewed concerns in Congress about trade relationships with Ukraine.

This legislation ensures that Congress will continue to play an active role in addressing trade problems as they emerge and in obtaining a strong WTO accession agreement from Ukraine. While giving up the precedent of using the PNTR vote as a proxy for approval of WTO accession, the legislation allows Congress to consider a resolution directly addressing the terms of agreement between the U.S. and Ukraine on Ukraine's WTO accession. While in its form, this resolution would be nonbinding on the Executive, it would provide Congress with an important tool to assure itself continuing oversight over the Executive as it forms the terms of Ukraine's WTO accession.

There are two sides to the PNTR coin—the trade issues and the ''Jackson-Vanik'' issues. The Jackson-Vanik amendment was a historic piece of legislation, aimed at addressing a serious problem in the former Soviet Union. It set forth important criteria related to freedom of emigration necessary for certain countries to obtain normal trade relations with the United States. Even from its inception, however, the Jackson-Vanik amendment was not only concerned with freedom of emigration, but also reflected the American commitment to human rights and freedom of religion. This fact is evident not only in the preamble of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, but also in the operation of U.S. relations with the former Soviet countries for nearly 30 years.

I think it is appropriate, then, that as we consider graduating Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, that we place a strong emphasis on American values of freedom of emigration, religious freedom, and human rights issues. These were the issues at the core of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, and continue to be relevant when considering termination of this amendment. I am glad that we were able to craft a bill that addresses these vital issues in a responsible way, rather than giving them ''check-the-box'' cursory treatment or not addressing them at all.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL LEGISLATION

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to allow the Federal Air Marshal Service to offer their specialized training services to foreign law enforcement personnel.

Last December, in the wake of perceived threats to certain flights from foreign countries, the Department of Homeland Security placed