

young athletes who play in year-round leagues and train in a variety of clinics, several Olympic figure skaters practice at the Ice House routinely, including 2002 Gold Medalists Sarah Hughes, Elena Bereznia and Anton Sikharulidze. The Ice House's athletic programs continue to train and accommodate Northern New Jersey's youth, teaching the importance of physical fitness and upholding the values of good sportsmanship—values that the national champion Northern New Jersey Avalanche proudly uphold.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous achievements of the outstanding group of young athletes who comprise the National Champion Northern New Jersey Avalanche, and acknowledge the success they have achieved, and the pride that they bring to the people of the great state of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR.
NSIDIBE N. IKPE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride—but wit deep sorrow—that I rise to pay tribute to the late Dr. Nsidibe N. Ikpe, one of my community's quiet unsung heroes. On Saturday, May 7, 2005, he will be memorialized during a service to be held at Miami's Glendale Missionary Baptist Church.

Born on February 18, 1949 in the village of Ndiya, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, West Africa, he was the first son of Chief Nelson Ikpe and Arit Akpan Uko. His genuine character as an industrious youth paved the way to his becoming one of the most accomplished professionals of Nigeria.

Married to Helen Roberts of Nigeria in 1969, Dr. Ikpe immigrated to the United States to pursue higher education. He supported himself with odd jobs and was soon employed by the Boy Scouts of America, where he won several accolades. It was while he served as a custodian in a psychiatric hospital in Iowa that he was inspired by the work of the doctors there and decided to pursue a career in medicine.

Entering Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, he earned his Doctorate of Medicine and completed his internship and residency at Westchester General Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Afterwards, he established the Legion Park Medical Center in Miami, and expanded his practice to three more community clinics in South Florida at which he treated over 50,000 patients. It is this commitment that endeared him to our community, and it is with this remembrance that he will be sorely missed as one of our preeminent minority physicians. Though a highly private individual, he virtually consecrated his professional life to public service. In so doing, he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the spirit of idealism and optimism in serving his fellow man, particularly the downtrodden and less fortunate.

The numerous accolades he received during his lifetime buttress the unequivocal testimony of the gratitude and respect he enjoyed from the community. I am deeply privileged to have enjoyed his friendship, and I now join our

community in remembering his giving spirit and the magnificent works that emanated from his boundless heart.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE BIKEL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Theodore Bikel, a Renaissance man who has made his mark as an accomplished musician, actor, author, lecturer, and activist. Throughout his life, Theodore has been committed to arts awareness, human rights, and Jewish activism, and his service to the Los Angeles community and the world has been truly remarkable.

Theodore was born in 1924, in Vienna, Austria. At the age of 13, Theodore and his parents fled Austria to avoid Nazi persecution. They eventually settled in Palestine, where Theodore began to develop a deep respect for Jewish tradition and the performing arts. He soon began acting in the famous Habimah Theater. After a few years of training, Theodore left for London, where he performed in small theatre productions. He eventually caught the attention of Sir Laurence Olivier and was cast as Mitch in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

After his initial success, Theodore went on to star in Broadway productions of "The Sound of Music", "The Lark" and "The King and I," but he is most famous for his portrayal of the character Tevye in "The Fiddler on the Roof," a role he has played more than 2,000 times. Theodore later branched into film, and in 1959 he was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for his role as the Southern Sheriff in "The Defiant Ones."

In 1965, Theodore made his concert debut at the Carnegie Recital Hall, and in 1988 he won an Emmy Award for his portrayal of Harris Newmark, an early immigrant pioneer of the West Coast. In recognition of his inspirational work on stage, Theodore will be honored this spring with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Off stage, Theodore has used his talents to advance causes near to his heart. During the Civil Rights Movement, he helped produce the album "Sing" for Freedom: Civil Rights Movement Songs. He has also dedicated himself to human rights movements around the world, visiting and entertaining soldiers during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and serving as a board member of Amnesty International. Back home, Theodore has been president of the Actors' Equity Association and a member of President Carter's National Council on the Arts.

Throughout his life, Theodore has also made serving the Jewish community a priority. Most notably, he has been involved in the Soviet Jewry movement and has served as senior vice president in the American Jewish Congress. In the Los Angeles Jewish community, Theodore has collaborated with Rabbi David Baron and cofounded Temple Shalom for the Arts in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Theodore Bikel, an influential leader, a visionary artist, and a talented individual whose spirit and activism have inspired our generation

and will undoubtedly touch generations to come.

INTRODUCING THE RAILROAD
COMPETITION IMPROVEMENT
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2005

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by House Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member JAMES OBERSTAR to introduce the Railroad Competition Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, a bill designed to restore a measure of competition to our Nation's freight rail marketplace. We are also joined by our colleagues Representatives RODNEY ALEXANDER, CHARLES BOUSTANY, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, CHARLIE MELANCON, DENNY REHBERG, COLLIN PETERSON, DARLENE HOOLEY, MARION BERRY, and ED PASTOR. This bill, I believe, captures the true intentions of railroad deregulation.

Like all Americans, Mr. Speaker, I want our national railroad industry to remain the most efficient in the world. Indeed, our railroad system is a model for other national systems. My home state of Louisiana in particular relies heavily on efficient railroads to deliver product to market and provide the feedstock for our manufacturing base. Without reliable rail service, Louisiana—and all of America—would be economically hamstrung.

Congress deregulated the railroad industry in 1980 when it passed the Staggers Act. This law revitalized the industry, built efficiencies in the system, and bolstered the railroads as a critical component to America's transportation infrastructure. As Chairman of the Louisiana House Committee on Transportation and Highways, I observed closely the implementation and success of the Act.

However, one lingering element of the Staggers Act provides for "differential pricing," which in effect allows railroads to "price gouge" customers served by a single railroad in order to help make up for revenue that is lost to customers served by more than one railroad. In other words railroads can overcharge a customer where the railroad is a monopoly to help recover the revenue it loses in a competitive, multiple-railroad environment.

Prior to the Staggers Act, the federal government administered the finances of railroads by imposing price controls. But by allowing railroads to institutionalize price gouging, are we not continuing the practice of price controls? Indeed, is differential pricing the thriving legacy of regulatory control? I believe it is. I assert that differential pricing is no more "deregulation" than the artificially imposed government price controls that existed before 1980.

I do not believe Congress intended to institutionalize price gouging when it passed the Staggers Act in 1980. Rather, the Staggers Act was an attempt to revive an important industry in America's economy. It was not enacted to allow the industry to thrive at its customers' expense. When the 109th Congress reflects back on the success of the Staggers Act, we can indeed take pride in "getting it right." Congress achieved its goal of resuscitating the ailing railroad industry, but Congress