

United States and the entire world. Through Yad Vashem's collection of testimonies from Holocaust survivors and families to the database of victims' names, they work to restore the dignity of those who perished and suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Through continuous documentation, Yad Vashem honors the lives and accomplishments of Holocaust survivors. Additionally, they develop educational programs to ensure that future generations never forget the lessons of the Holocaust.

This past year, thanks to the help of development efforts by the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem, the museum celebrated the grand opening of the new Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem. This phenomenal museum uses technology and symbolism to convey the story of European Jewry during the Holocaust.

This year's Annual Tribute Dinner will honor two outstanding couples who have impacted the lives of countless individuals across generations, Mindy and Ira Mitzner of Houston, Texas, and Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein of Brookville, New York. Through their tireless efforts, these couples have made remembering the Holocaust a sacred legacy. Their lives reflect the understanding that our society must heal and remember in order to prevent this catastrophe from repeating itself.

I applaud the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem for their vital work in honoring the memory and legacy of Holocaust victims and survivors.

LEGISLATION TO ABOLISH  
AVIATION BARRIERS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to have introduced the "Abolishing Aviation Barriers Act of 2005".

Currently there are two laws governing commercial aviation in the U.S. based on miles of flight restrictions. One governs the use of New York's LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and the other governs usage of Washington, D.C.'s Reagan National Airport (DCA). Restrictions exist at LaGuardia on the departure or arrival of non-stop flights to or from airports that are farther than 1,500 miles from LGA. Reagan National has a similar restriction for non-stop flights to or from airports 1,250 miles from DCA. These restrictions are commonly referred to as "perimeter rules."

The original purpose of these perimeter rules was to restrict LGA and DCA airports to business travelers flying to and from East Coast and Midwest cities and to promote traffic to other, newer airports by diverting long haul flights to Newark and Kennedy airports in the New York area and Dulles airport in the Washington, D.C. area. However, over the years, the federal government has made many changes and granted numerous exceptions to the perimeter rule at DCA because the air traveling public is eager for travel options.

Today, there are nonstop flights between Washington Reagan National and Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Salt Lake City

and Seattle. LGA's rule was enacted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey with an exception already contained therein—for flights between Denver and LGA. It was justified on the basis of ground congestion, i.e. automobiles. The old road network that gave rise to this excuse has long since been replaced with the help of federal money.

In fact, a 1999 study by the Transportation Research Board stated that perimeter rules "no longer serve their original purpose and have produced too many adverse side effects, including barriers to competition . . . The rules arbitrarily prevent some airlines from extending their networks to these airports; they discourage competition among the airports in the region and among the airlines that use these airports; and they are subject to chronic attempts by special interest groups to obtain exemptions."

That same year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) stated that the "practical effect" of the perimeter rule "has been to limit entry" of other carriers. The GAO found that airfares at LaGuardia and Washington National are approximately 50 percent higher on average than fares at similar airports unconstrained by the perimeter rule.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced this legislation to promote more consumer choice and lower airfares for not only my own constituents, but for all of our air travelers.

GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE PUBLIC  
FINANCE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2005*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following correspondence for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, November 17, 2005.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: I am writing concerning H.R. 4337, the "Gulf Opportunity Zone Public Finance Relief Act of 2005," which passed the House last night by unanimous consent.

Section 4 of the bill allows for the Federal guarantee of certain State bonds. I recognize the Committee on Financial Service's jurisdictional interest in Section 4 of the bill, and agree that by allowing the bill to be passed, the Committee on Financial Services does not relinquish any jurisdiction over H.R. 4337 or similar legislation. I would also support your request to be represented on a conference on H.R. 4337, if one should become necessary.

Finally, I will include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record under the portion for floor consideration of this measure.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, November 17, 2005.

Hon. WILLIAM THOMAS,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I have received your letter concerning H.R. 4337, the "Gulf Opportunity Zone Public Finance Relief Act of 2005," which the House passed last night. The bill was also introduced yesterday and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

I appreciate your recognition that the Committee on Financial Services has a jurisdictional interest in section 4 of the bill. This section allows for the Federal guarantee of certain State bonds. However, I understand that the need to move this bill expeditiously did not permit consideration of the bill by this Committee. It is my understanding this procedure will not prejudice the Committee on Financial Services with respect to its prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I appreciate your support for a request for conferees from this Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference.

I hope that this exchange of correspondence will appear in the Congressional Record. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Your truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,  
Chairman.

IN HONOR OF HICKORY FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S DEDICATION TO SERVICE

**HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their new building dedication on November 20, 2005, I commend Hickory First Assembly of God for their committed service to communities locally and globally for almost 50 years. The first small group of faithful believers set the standard for selfless service that church members today still honor and follow.

Pastor Brian Campbell, the devoted pastoral staff, and a team of church members have worked together to plan a new space with additional seating in the sanctuary and more room for fellowship in the foyer, offices and nurseries. The expansions are part of Hickory First Assembly's efforts to continue the mission of Acts 1:8, which says "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Locally, the church reaches out to those in need by organizing teams to serve in the community. Nationally, church teams ministered in the Gulf Coast region after Hurricane Katrina; And internationally members actively participate in foreign missions through financial giving and traveling with groups to different countries in need.

As Christians, we are called to do great things for God. Living in a free nation, we have the privilege to practice our faith and make a difference in the lives of others. Truly a gateway church, Hickory First Assembly demonstrates a positive influence on the community by consistently communicating and living out biblical values.