

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the faculty, staff, students and alumni of California State University, San Bernardino for 40 years of success in providing top-quality education for one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation.

I was a proud new member of my hometown school board in 1965 when state officials recognized the need for higher education in the Inland Empire and opened California State College at San Bernardino with 293 students and 93 faculty and staff members. The coverage area for the college was 27,000 square miles, taking in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The first graduating class in 1967 was 59 students.

Since that quiet start, our local college has become one of the fastest-growing in the state. More than 16,400 students now attend and 3,500 graduate each year—more than 55,000 over the past 40 years. The college became California State University, San Bernardino in 1984.

California's higher education system is still considered one of the finest in the world, and the state university system produces 51 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded by all public and private institutions in the state. The university system has calculated that the increased education level and earning power brought to our economy by these graduates is \$25 billion a year. CSUSB alone is calculated to provide \$500 million in expenditures annually and supports 10,000 jobs in our region through the ripple effects of salaries, construction, purchases and student spending.

The university now has five academic colleges, offering more than 70 degrees and certificates. The College of Education consistently ranks among the top CSU campuses that produce credentialed teachers, and many programs have gained national recognition. The university's Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship has been recognized among the nation's best by Entrepreneur Magazine.

CSUSB has had three dynamic presidents: John Pfau, Anthony Evans and Albert Karnig, the current president. I have enjoyed working closely with Presidents Evans and Karnig during my time in Washington. The university has utilized a number of small federal investments to create many successful programs, including the Water Resources Institute, the entrepreneurship center and a wide-ranging distance-learning program for the Department of Defense.

The university has been especially successful in partnering with local governments and community groups to improve the quality of life in San Bernardino County, and its student body is considered one of the most diverse in the state system—in fact, there is no majority ethnic group on campus.

In recent years, there have been many signs of a rapidly maturing educational institution: Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum has a regional reputation for cultural contribution; Coussoulis Arena is the largest facility of its

kind in the Inland Empire; and a permanent branch campus has been established in the rapidly-growing Coachella Valley.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that in the past 40 years, California State University, San Bernardino has become one of the most important institutions in the Inland Empire, and a huge contributor to our state's economic future. Please join me in congratulating its faculty, staff and students for their past and future success.

RE: DELPHI BANKRUPTCY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, few communities have suffered more from the decimation of the American manufacturing sector than Western New York.

In the Buffalo of my youth, any person willing to work hard enough could make a decent living for his or her family at one of our great industrial plants. It is no secret that those days are gone. Factories have closed, health care benefits have been dropped, wages have fallen and pensions are in trouble. Competition for remaining jobs is intense and those lucky enough to have a job live in constant fear that it will be outsourced or that their wages, health insurance or pension benefits will be cut.

One of the last bastions of good-paying manufacturing jobs in Western New York is the auto industry. Over 9,000 workers in my congressional district are employed at the Delphi plant in Lockport, the American Axle facilities which supply General Motors in Tonawanda and Cheektowaga, and the Ford Stamping Plant in Woodlawn.

So far, we have been lucky—as bad as things look now, they could be much worse. The Ford Stamping Plant was spared in the first round of plant closings Ford announced in January. And the Lockport plant will be one of the few to survive the recently announced Delphi closings. However, there will not be much relief for the Delphi workers in New York and elsewhere, because of unconscionable actions taken by the company in bankruptcy proceedings.

Delphi has asked the bankruptcy court to slash wages, jobs, healthcare and retirement benefits by voiding the collective bargaining agreements that were negotiated between the company and its workers. Such disregard for the collective bargaining process is incomprehensible in light of the fact that Delphi was recently able to come to an agreement with the United Auto Workers on an attrition program to save costs. Rather than flouting the collective bargaining agreements, Delphi should have re-engaged its workers in a good-faith manner to find a solution together.

If the bankruptcy court cancels the current contracts it will have devastating effects not only on the workers who rightfully relied on those agreements, but also on General Motors itself. This is a risky and unnecessary gamble Delphi is taking, and the economic health of thousands of families hangs in the balance.

I strongly urge Delphi to reconsider its ill-advised request to cancel its contracts and to engage its workers in a constructive, good-faith manner that respects the collective bar-

gaining process and the workers who depend on it.

H.R. 4882, THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER DEADLINE ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4882, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was created to honor the more than 58,000 men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam conflict. Since its creation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been the most visited memorial in our Nation's capitol, with about 4,000,000 visitors each year.

As a Vietnam veteran, I have experienced the horrors of war and witnessed the sacrifice of the men and women who served honorably in Vietnam. The proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center will allow future generations to better understand the Vietnam Conflict through exhibits and facilitated tours, and honoring those that have fallen in the line of duty.

It is time for Congress to enforce a deadline so that there is no further delay in the construction of the Visitor Center. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthwhile bill.

CHILDRESS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Childress Regional Medical Center, in Childress, Texas, on being named one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation by a healthcare information and analysis company.

The ability to provide quality health care in rural regions of our Nation continues to face numerous challenges. Today, citizens who live in rural areas often travel hours to receive medical care, and facilities often experience difficulties in attracting and keeping health care providers.

For over 25 years Childress Regional Medical Center has served as a leading example of a full service rural health care facility. Its mission is to provide personalized, efficient, high quality healthcare services for all patients and their families and to serve as a center where physicians and qualified healthcare providers can practice under high technical standards in a productive, professional environment.

Graded on clinical excellence, responsiveness to the community, operating efficiency and financial health, Childress Regional Medical Center proves quality healthcare can be provided close to home for many in North Texas.

I am glad that the work and dedication by the staff of Childress Regional Medical Center