

CONGRATULATING THE MENDOTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mendota Elementary School on its 50th anniversary. For 50 years, the Mendota Elementary School has provided academic excellence for the children of Mendota Heights. The school has served as a community resource, providing education opportunities for students, parents and the public, and providing public spaces for civic engagement.

This celebration comes at a great time for Mendota Elementary School. The school was recently included among nine Minnesota schools named as U.S. Department of Education 2006 Blue Ribbon School Award schools. The Blue Ribbon School Award is a special recognition that reflects the outstanding academic performance of the students, teachers and staff of Mendota Elementary School. As a good steward of public education, the Mendota Elementary School provides a safe and nurturing place for our children to grow and learn. Teachers and staff offer an enriched environment for children to develop into healthy, contributing and productive citizens.

In honor of the students, parents, families, teachers and staff of Mendota Elementary School, I am pleased to honor this special anniversary. I look forward to continued celebrations of success and milestones in the education of the people of Mendota Heights community.

NATIONAL SECURITY FOREIGN INVESTMENT REFORM AND STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, as you know, I was a strong supporter of H.R. 5337, the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act of 2006, which passed the Financial Services Committee as well as the House in the 109th Congress. First, I want to again acknowledge the work of our distinguished chairman of the Committee of Financial Services, Mr. FRANK and Mr. GUTIERREZ, chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology for supporting this bill. Let me also thank Ms. MALONEY, a member of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology, for again introducing this important national security legislation, H.R. 556. In addition, the bill now has more than 50 co-sponsors.

Last year, the House approved a comprehensive set of reforms to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) process. It is a testament to the dili-

gence of Ms. MALONEY and other members of the Committee on Financial Services that H.R. 556 is being considered so early in this session.

It has been almost a year since we learned of the Committee of Foreign Investment's (CFIUS) activities related to Dubai World Ports and the implications of the proposed deal for national security. I can genuinely say that the members of the Committee on Financial Services have been most directly involved in this issue since that time.

The bill the House passed last year, H.R. 5337, was designed to reform the CFIUS process based on the information gleaned from earlier hearings on the subject. We have heard about the negative impact of cutting off foreign direct investment in the U.S. However, it would be foolish to assume that we would take any such steps to prohibit foreign direct investment. At the same time, we need to consider safeguards to ensure that the CFIUS process is consistent with the original intent of the Congress concerning national security and investments.

It is time that CFIUS operated within the law, and that it is made clear who is responsible for what in the decisionmaking process. Another critical issue is how decisions are actually made, and what entity is principally responsible for protecting the national security interests of this Nation as they pertain to foreign direct investment.

This bill enables CFIUS to unilaterally initiate a review where an issue of concern is raised; any foreign government backed deal would be subject to review; both the Secretaries of the Treasury and Homeland Security must sign off on reviews, while the Homeland Security Secretary would be vice-chair of the Committee; and all reviews are subject to review by the Director of National Intelligence.

In addition, everyone knows that transparency and accountability were, in part, at the heart of the congressional uproar over the Dubai World Ports deal. Importantly, H.R. 556 like its predecessor bill requires that CFIUS report biannually to Congress on its activities. This is strong legislation that will only make Congress' job less difficult on the issue of national security and foreign direct investment.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 556 without any weakening amendments. Unfortunately, there are those who would have you believe that the bill is not balanced. I would submit that the bill represents a comprehensive well-balanced measure in view of the global situation. Indeed, this bill will not undermine foreign investment in the U.S.

HONORING CAREER OF JOE HARRISON

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joe Harrison, President and CEO of the American Moving and Storage Association (AMSA). AMSA represents approximately 3,500 professional household moving companies worldwide. For the last 25 years, Joe has served as the industry's primary spokesperson and advocate, but is now set to retire on March 31, 2007.

During his tenure, Joe has appeared before this body many times, providing information about the industry and its "best practices."

For the past quarter-century, Joe has lobbied Congress on issues ranging from retaining the federal moving tax deduction, to small business tax and regulatory relief, to affordable health care for his Association's members and their families.

Additionally, he has worked with the states to continue their ability to regulate the intrastate transportation of household goods.

He has been a champion of various industry-led consumer education and protection activities, including but not limited to increased ceiling amounts for arbitration of disputes between carriers and shippers; a Certified Mover Program; adequate federal oversight and enforcement of the interstate household goods consumer protection laws; limited antitrust immunity for ratemaking by the industry's Tariff Bureau; competitive and efficient procurement policies for relocation of federal employees and military personnel; reauthorization of our federal highway program; and a host of other commercial vehicle safety policies, such as proposed ergonomics and hours-of-service regulations.

A tireless advocate, Joe has taken every opportunity, including numerous media interviews, to convey the responsibilities to the consumer his association members carry. In 2003, Joe's dedication to the Association and the industry were recognized when he was awarded the Moving and Storage Institute's "Distinguished Service Award", the moving industry's most coveted award.

I thank Joe for his years of dedicated and professional service to the Nation and the legislative process, and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his personal and professional life. He has been, and will forever remain, the "Consummate Mover and Shaker on Capitol Hill."

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2007 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Two members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2007 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Private First Class Robert L. Perryman; the Bronze Medal: Private First Class Darrell L. Carty.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and