

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL ADY ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Michael Robert Ady, the president of M80 Office Systems, for being named as the 2007 U.S. Small Business Administration Veteran Small Business Champion for Guam.

Born in Joplin, MO, and educated at Midwestern College in Denison, IA, Mr. Ady studied business administration while serving in the U.S. Army. After his discharge in 1971, he went to work for Phillips and Ober in California and came to Guam in 1970 as the firm's general manager. Between 1984 and 1995, Mr. Ady served as general manager for several Guam companies, including Connell Brothers Guam, Oceana Trading, and Office Concepts. In 1995, he struck out on his own, establishing M80 Office Systems as a one-man operation in a home office with a single client. M80 Office Systems, today is a strong small business with 10 employees that specializes in office design and furniture supply. M80 ably serves both the public and private sectors.

Mr. Ady is a role model for other veteran entrepreneurs, and he takes that role seriously. He is an energetic supporter of veteran events and an always-willing volunteer participant in seminars, conferences and community events aimed at providing veterans with access to support, information, and educational programs to assist them with their lives and careers.

Mr. Ady is an active member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and readily shares his knowledge and experience as a member of the Chamber's Small Business Development Committee. He was named co-chairman of the Small Business Development Committee in 2005. Mr. Ady was instrumental in aligning the committee's activities toward training and outreach programs to encourage more small business participation in chamber activities. As a result of the opportunities for participant feedback, participation in training programs increased 100 percent and membership in the Small Business Development Committee increased by 14 percent.

His other small business advocacy activities include serving as a business plan mentor at the 2003 Shell Guam Livewire Business Planning Competition for Youth, contributing as an exhibitor at the 2005 Small Business Matchmaking Fair, and presenting a veteran-owned business case study at the 2006 Guam SBDC Veterans Small Business Conference.

Mr. Ady is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations for his efforts to promote and support small business. He was named Panel Concepts' Dealer of the Year in 1997

and enrolled into Maxon Furniture, Inc.'s President's Club I 2006. In 2004, he was named the U.S. Air Force Reserves' Employer of the Year.

An avid surfer in his earlier years, Mr. Ady spends most of his leisure time with his family, working a farm in Yona. He, his wife Jovita, and their children Toby, Robert, and Robin raise mangoes, papayas, bananas, pineapples, betel nuts and local vegetables. We wish them a good harvest always, and we offer our best wishes as Mr. Ady now joins other Veteran Small Business Champions to be considered for the Small Business Administration's National Small Business Champion award.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARCELLA STEFANAC ANDERSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I congratulate Mrs. Marcella Stefanac Anderson on a momentous milestone, her 85th birthday, which took place on March 4, 2007. Marcella will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Saturday, March 10, 2007. Throughout the years, Marcella's presence in northwest Indiana has allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of countless people.

Marcella Stefanac was born on March 4, 1912, in Powhatan Point, Ohio. She was an only child, born to Ivan and Albina Stefanac. An accomplished student, Marcella completed her bachelor of science degree at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, and her master of science and doctorate degrees in education from Temple University in Pennsylvania. From there, she decided to go into the teaching profession. As a professor at Valparaiso University in Indiana for 22 years, Marcella was able to enhance the lives of many young people throughout the community. For her dedication to the students of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest admiration.

Equally as impressive, Marcella has always been seen as the foundation of her family. She and her husband, Jim Anderson, live in Hobart with their cat, Mickey. Jim and Marcella have one son, Bryn, who currently resides in Orange County, California. Marcella's family, as well as those whose lives she has touched, respect her for devoting unselfish love, time, commitment, guidance, and spirit to her family, her students, and her friends.

In addition to being greatly loved and admired by her family, her students, and her community, Marcella is also well known for her affiliations to several organizations, including the Alfred Adler Institute, where she provides private counseling services for those in need. From the ages of 66 to 83, Marcella also taught aerobics to senior citizens at the Pruzin

Senior Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Marcella has always been known as a generous woman who is willing to help the people in her community. For her selflessness, she is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, Marcella Stefanac Anderson has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the community of northwest Indiana throughout her illustrious life. She has taught every member of her family and extended family the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Marcella a very happy 85th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATT POWLESS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matt Powless for winning the 171-pound individual Indiana high school State wrestling championship. This title capped an incredible 51-0 season for the Evansville Memorial High School senior.

After finishing sixth in the State tournament last year, Powless returned to capture the first State wrestling title in Memorial history. Along the way he set school records for pins in a season and career. His long list of wrestling accolades includes sectional, regional, semistate, and conference titles.

In addition to his success on the mat, Powless also excels in the classroom. He ranks 13th in his high school class, with an exemplary 5.9 grade point average on a 6.0 scale. He has been named to six Academic All City Teams for wrestling and football. His continued academic success while devoting significant time to athletics is a testament to his intellect and dedication to excellence.

I congratulate Matt Powless for his remarkable wrestling season. He is the definition of a student-athlete and an excellent example for young people in my district. Great job, Matt.

CONGRATULATING LUCY MONTINOLA ALCORN ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, congratulate and honor Ms. Lucy Montinola Alcorn on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2007 Small Business Person of the Year for Guam. Lucy's dedication and commitment have made

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

her company, Global Food Services, LLC, a growing and continuing success. Lucy is a fitting recipient of this honor.

Lucy, the fifth child born to Luis J. and Helen C. Montinola, is of Filipino and Chamorro descent. After finishing her education in the Philippines in 1979, she returned to Guam and worked in various sectors of the service industry, including customer support, sales, real estate and insurance. She never hesitated to help her husband, David Alcorn, in the management and operations of local food service providers.

In July 2003, Lucy fulfilled a dream by starting her own business, Global Food Services, LLC. With the support of the Guam office of the Small Business Administration, Global Food Services Group earned its certification as a Minority/Woman owned 8(a) and HUBZone Certified Small Disadvantaged Business. With the increase in military activities on Guam provided Lucy an opportunity to expand the operations of Global Food Services by competing successfully for contracts let by the Department of Defense.

Since its inception, the Global Food Services Group has maintained the distinction of being the first Guam-based, locally owned company to provide both direct and indirect support (quality of life) services to the U.S. Navy Bases on Guam. Presently, Global Food Services' focus has been on the management and operations of the Navy Family and Bachelor Housing Program; Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs; and providing food services, including the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) School Lunch Program.

Today, as part of her ongoing vision to expand her company, Lucy is leading Global Food Services in the pursuit of additional military and commercial projects on Guam with an ultimate goal of expanding its operations to the mainland U.S. and abroad. With a continued focus on long term sustainability of the company, she is dedicated to employee training and certification and exploration of new opportunities for her organization and individual employees.

Lucy has received the praise and admiration of Guam's entire business community. She is recognized not only for her tireless business drive, but also for her civic activities, which include her membership in the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association, the American Red Cross and the Parents Advisory Board for Father Duenas Memorial High School. Recognized by her colleagues in the Guam Chamber of Commerce for her business acumen and enthusiasm, Lucy was nominated for the Chamber's prestigious "Executive of the Year for 2004" and was elected to the Chamber's Board of Directors for 2007 to 2009. Though she dedicates much energy and time to the Global Food Services Group and to numerous civic activities, Lucy is ever mindful that she came from a closely knit family. Imbued with these family values, Lucy is devoted to her husband David and always a dedicated mother to her children, Dereck, Cassy and Nick.

Her dedication to the Guam community, her leadership in the business world, her contributions to the quality of life for members of the armed services, and her ability to balance her career with the responsibilities of raising her three children, make her recognition as the Small Business Person of the Year very fitting.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR
ANITA BOWSER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and the utmost respect that I take this time to remember a dear friend and one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens, State Senator Anita Bowser of Michigan City. On Sunday, March 4, 2007, Anita, a member of the Indiana General Assembly for the past 27 years, passed away at the age of 86 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Known for her commitment to preserving the rights of all citizens, Anita will surely be missed by her family, friends, and the people she so loyally served.

Though well-known for her career as a public servant, Anita's life of service to her fellow citizens goes far beyond her impressive career as an elected official. A revered scholar, Anita received her bachelor's degree from Kent State University and a law degree from the McKinley School of Law, as well as a master's degree from Purdue University and a master's degree and doctorate degree from the University of Notre Dame. It should come as no surprise, then, that Anita chose to use her vast knowledge to give back to her community by becoming an educator. Anita, who taught political science classes at Purdue University North Central for many years, touched and enriched the lives of her students, many of whom went on to very successful careers in an array of fields. As an instructor, she taught her students with the same passion, commitment, and energy that she demonstrated as a member of the Indiana General Assembly. Her passion for teaching and for challenging her students will forever be remembered, and her unwavering commitment to the betterment of society will forever live in the hearts and minds of those she mentored.

First elected to the Indiana General Assembly as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives in 1980, it was apparent upon her arrival that a true champion of civil rights had come to Indianapolis. Following a remarkable career as a State Representative, Anita was elected to the State Senate in 1992. As a member of both the House and Senate, Anita served on many committees, and prior to her passing, she was the ranking member on the Senate's Pension and Labor Committee, where she fought tirelessly for workers' rights. Additionally, though she received many awards and accolades for her efforts in promoting and preserving civil rights, Anita has the distinct honor of being the first woman to act as House Speaker in the history of the State of Indiana.

Throughout her illustrious career, aside from being known as an eloquent speaker, Anita was often referred to as the "Conscience of the General Assembly." Undoubtedly, this moniker stemmed from her desire to better society through supporting legislation aimed at what is just and what is right. This desire for equality and inclusion was demonstrated time and time again, even in her final speech from the podium, when she reminded her colleagues that the State constitution was intended to preserve rights, not to take them away.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring State Senator Anita Bowser for her outstanding devotion to her community and the State of Indiana. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to her family, friends, students, and those she so faithfully served in her elected positions is worthy of the highest commendation. Anita's selflessness and her commitment to preserving the rights of all people are an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to have called her my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF TERRI
POCZERWINSKI

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Terri Poczerwinski from Evansville, Indiana. Tomorrow, Mrs. Poczerwinski will be one of four graduates to receive the Career College Association's Graduate Recognition for Excellence, Achievement and Talent (GREAT) Award. To be selected among the 1.8 million students in career colleges across the country is truly a remarkable feat.

Mrs. Poczerwinski's story is one of triumph over tragedy. She enrolled in the medical assisting program at Indiana Business College (IBC) in April 2005. She excelled in her classes even while recovering from surgery the beginning of fall term. Then in November 2005, tragedy struck when Terri lost her daughter Melinda in the tornadoes that ravaged southwest Indiana. Despite struggling with her personal grief, Mrs. Poczerwinski continued her hard work and success in the classroom.

Then two days before Thanksgiving and again before Christmas, her son-in-law was injured by an improvised exploding device while serving in Iraq. But Mrs. Poczerwinski pressed forward, graduating from IBC last December with a 3.57 grade point average. She now works at Hebron Pediatrics.

I congratulate Mrs. Poczerwinski for her tremendous accomplishments in the face of adversity. She is an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING LOURDES LEON
GUERRERO ON BEING NAMED
THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS AD-
MINISTRATION WOMEN IN BUSI-
NESS CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Ms. Lourdes Leon Guerrero on being selected as Guam's Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion for 2007. The daughter of Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero, founders of the Bank of Guam, Lou succeeds her father and brother Tony as the Bank of Guam's president and chairwoman of its Board of Directors. Lou's success began many years ago in the halls of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, where she attended

high school, and onto the campuses of the California State University in Los Angeles, where she earned her bachelor of science in nursing degree, and UCLA, where she earned a masters degree in public health.

After college, Lou returned to Guam to serve as a nurse. After serving for many years as a nursing administrator in one of Guam's largest family clinics, Lou began her public service in Guam's legislature, where she served as a senator for five terms. As a member of Guam's legislative body, Lou pursued policies which have improved healthcare services on Guam. She worked with the Commission on Nurse Leaders and the Civil Service Commission to secure fair and equitable pay for Guam's nurses. A strong advocate for a tobacco-free environment, Lou introduced and supported landmark legislation, including the Natasha Act, which prohibits smoking in public places on Guam. She has initiated the development of programs in order to ensure that women, children, the elderly and the disabled are provided accessible and affordable healthcare.

As a healthcare professional, Lou has fought for the viability of health insurance programs for the medically indigent and disabled. She has supported legislation which encourages the disabled to become self-sufficient entrepreneurs, and she has fostered policies which ensure that dignity and respect are always afforded to the community's senior citizens.

Lou continues to champion for the rights of the indigenous population on Guam, and to support Federal legislation which will recognize the loyalty and patriotism of the people of Guam during World War II and provide reparation for the horrific injustices endured by the Chamorro people during the occupation of Guam by Imperial Japanese forces.

Today, as chairperson of the board and chief executive officer of the Bank of Guam, Lou is active and involved with the Bank of Guam's daily operations, meeting regularly with the bank's policymakers and coordinating with the top management staff. Through her work, Lou continues the legacy of fairness, honesty, and trust that her father and brother began before her. By continuing this legacy, Lou has proven her dedication to serving the people of Guam and ensuring that the Bank of Guam continues to be an institution that can meet the unique needs of the local community.

TRIBUTE TO THE PORTAGE YOUTH
COMMISSION'S FIRST ANNUAL
YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you to recognize the Portage Youth Commission's first annual Youth Leadership Summit. This remarkable event, which will bring together students from over 40 area high schools, will take place on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at Woodland Park in Portage, IN.

The Portage Youth Commission was established in 2002 after local officials recognized the need for greater participation from the

youth in the community. They knew the youth had a very influential voice, and that voice needed to be heard. Advised by Mayor Doug Olson and Councilwoman Olga Velasquez, the commission, made up of high school students from the city of Portage, has become a very significant component of the Portage community. Through their efforts, the commission has successfully founded a Youth Service Day and an annual charity art auction, and they have also sponsored various other events focused on the community's youth.

With this year's Youth Leadership Summit, the Portage Youth Commission hopes to set the tone for years to come. During this event, students from all parts of Northwest Indiana will come together to share experiences and learn valuable leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their lifetimes. The goal of the commission is that by learning from each other, as well as teaching each other, these students will realize that they are the leaders of tomorrow, and it is up to them to take responsibility for the progress of their communities and their Nation.

A special guest at this year's event will be Brett Eastburn, a motivational speaker who will address the students on the need for leaders to emerge in their generation. The summit will also consist of various exercises and activities aimed at promoting leadership qualities and a roundtable discussion on the importance of leaders in society.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the efforts of the Portage Youth Commission and the organizers of their first annual Youth Leadership Summit as they strive to educate the youth of Northwest Indiana on the importance of true leaders in our society. Their inspiring efforts are to be commended.

TRIBUTE TO HONEY KESSLER
AMADO AND JUDITH PODOLSKY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize two remarkable and accomplished women who are being honored as Women of Valor by the West Coast region of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Honey Kessler Amado and Judith Podolsky are both being named Women of Valor at a concert by the world-renowned Klezmer musician Giora Feidman on the evening of March 14, 2007, in Beverly Hills, California. I cannot imagine more deserving recipients of this honor.

Honey Kessler Amado has been keenly active in the Jewish community since college, when she served as a religious schoolteacher under her mentor and rabbi, Rabbi Mordechai Soloff. Honey became active in the Los Angeles Jewish community soon after her marriage to Ralph Amado, 30 years ago. She is now a central figure in the Los Angeles Jewish community and is regarded as an expert on issues affecting the community. She first worked in the Soviet Jewry movement, during which time she and Ralph traveled to the Soviet Union to visit Refusenik Jews. Her involvement and passion for the issue led her to become chair

of the Commission on Soviet Jewry of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council.

Honey's work in Soviet Jewry led to her involvement in the Jewish National Fund, where she served as a regional and national officer. She also served as co-chair of the Jewish Feminist Center of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). She currently sits on the regional and national boards of the American Jewish Committee and serves as co-chair of AJC's regional International Relations Committee.

Honey also serves on the speakers' bureau and the Synagogue Advisory Council of Jewish World Watch, and on the board of the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony. At her synagogue, Temple Isaiah in West Los Angeles, she sits on the board of trustees and serves as chair of the Jewish World Watch Committee, having chaired and sat on several other committees of the synagogue.

In 2002, Honey was a member of a 9-person delegation from the AJC to go to Germany as a guest of Germany's Konrad Adenauer Foundation to address post-Holocaust relations between Germans and Jews and between Germany and Israel. In September 2005, she was invited to return to Germany as a representative of the AJC on an Adenauer Foundation delegation observing the campaign of the CDU/CSU party in Germany.

This past December, Honey volunteered through Sar-El (Volunteers in Israel) to work for two weeks on an Army base in Israel.

Honey and Ralph have three children: Jessica, Micah and Gabrielle. They have an extended circle of family and friends, which includes Esther, an Ethiopian law student they have been sponsoring through the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, and Brenna, a young Navajo child in New Mexico Honey mentors through Futures for Children.

Judith Podolsky has both volunteered and offered her professional services to the Jewish community for many years. She has been a tremendous fundraiser for numerous causes and is regarded as the consummate fundraiser for Israel.

Judy has received awards from the Masorti Foundation, the Schechter Institute, the University of Judaism and the Los Angeles Human Rights Commission for her remarkable contributions.

Judy has played an historic role in the Los Angeles Jewish community. She served as the first female President of a Los Angeles area synagogue—Beth Kodesh (now Shomrei Torah). In addition, she has served as the vice president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Judy is a member of the Executives Support for the Associates/IMC Support Groups of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Human Rights Advisory Commission and a lifetime member of Hadassah.

After 18 distinguished years as one of Jewish National Fund's most successful and beloved staff members, Judy enjoyed a brief retirement. She has recently joined the staff of the American Committee for the Shaare Zedek and is responsible for attracting one of the largest gifts ever received by the Medical Center.

Judy is a beloved, admired and respected mother, sister, aunt. She is a confidant to countless others. Her husband Stanley and her extended family will be with her to receive this prestigious award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Honey Kessler Amado and Judith Podolsky for their tireless dedication to the Los Angeles Jewish community and in congratulating them on being named Women of Valor by the West Coast Region of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL W. NAHLOWAA ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. Michael W. Naholowaa, vice president of the Bank of Guam and manager of the Bank's Upper Tumon Loan Center on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration 2007 Financial Services Champion for Guam. Mr. Naholowaa is responsible for all loan activities, including the underwriting and marketing of new and prospective businesses in Tumon/Tamuning, the heart of Guam's commercial district. He is also responsible for loan administration for the bank branches in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI, and the Micronesian region.

Mr. Naholowaa is known for his concern for his customers and for making an extra effort to advise and assist those would-be entrepreneurs who wish to start a business. Mr. Naholowaa is a true mentor for Guam's youth, and his dedication is evident in his community service. As a former Junior Achievement advisor, he remains actively involved in the Guam Junior Achievement program, helping young people hone their entrepreneurial skills and providing them the tools necessary to succeed in the future.

Mr. Naholowaa earned an associate's degree in Computer Science and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam in 1975 and 1978, respectively. He continued his education in banking as he rose through the ranks in the Bank of Guam, graduating from the Pacific Coast Banking School of the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1988, and completing numerous Institute of Banking courses and workshops as well as Small Business Administration, RDA, and other government-sponsored courses and workshops.

Mr. Naholowaa is a past chairman of the CNMI Banking Association, a past vice chairman of the Guam Institute of Banking; past president and vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Saipan Junior Achievement Program. He also served in various leadership positions for the Commonwealth Development Loan Fund, the Saipan Rotary Club, the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, Bank of Guam Employee Club, Guam Lion's Club, and University of Guam Student Organization. Mr. Naholowaa currently is a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Services Committee and the Guam Junior Achievement program, and is vice president of the Alupang Cove Homeowners Association and

the San Vitores Court Homeowners Association. He is also the current chairman of UOG's School of Business and Public Administration Advisory Council.

Mr. Naholowaa now joins other Financial Services Champions for consideration as the Small Business Administration's National Champion award. I wish Mike and his wife, Leah Beth, the best and thank them both for their service to the people of Guam.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practice during organizing efforts, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act of 2007.

This bill should be recognized for what it is: a major advance for human rights, the right of a worker to associate freely and to bargain collectively. The freedom to form a union is a human right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the internationally recognized standard of the most basic and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. Article 23 of this document states: "Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

This Act restores and gives substance to the right to join a union. This right is a fundamental element of a healthy and vibrant economy. Further, reinforcing this right makes this prosperity accessible to working families and their communities.

Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than nonunion workers. They are 62 percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and four times more likely to have pensions. A December 2006 research study conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that 60 million U.S. workers say they would join a union if they could. Workers know that a union job means respect on the job, and a better life for their families.

Fair wages. Good benefits. Secure retirement. These are core elements necessary to build the American Dream, and this legislation is a vital step toward renewing that promise to the workers of this Nation—the men and women on the ground, in whose labor and industry we rely to make this dream a reality.

The Employee Free Choice Act preserves the option for workers to choose to vote by secret ballot, and adds the option of choosing majority sign-up as their method of gaining recognition. This bill removes the de facto veto power employers currently exercise over the option of majority sign-up. The rights and prerogatives of workers will increase.

The right to form a union in America was born in struggle, and has been under attack ever since. This bill ensures participatory de-

mocracy in the workplace and returns workers their rights. The power to organize is the most powerful tool available to workers. It empowers workers to have their voice heard.

The working families of this Nation deserve recognition for the fruits of their labor. Through this legislation, today we empower American workers to raise their voice, to reclaim their rights, and introduce a vital measure of democracy to the American workplace.

RECOGNIZING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps. For more than 4 decades, services donated by Peace Corps volunteers have played an integral role in developing countries, while fostering friendships and improving U.S. relations with their host countries. The Peace Corps' goals ultimately include promoting democratic values, peace and prosperity. More than 187,000 Americans have served worldwide in 139 countries, promoting an ethic of international stewardship and peace.

The Peace Corps was created by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961, as an international volunteer organization dedicated to serving the United States and promoting peace around the world. During that time in history, the United States was deep into the Cold War, and President Kennedy saw the need for an organization to serve as a non-military response to the perceived threat of communism. President Kennedy invoked the spirit of American service in his 1960 inaugural address where he famously encouraged Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." The program has since provided volunteers who train workers in the areas of education, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, small business development, agriculture, health care and public works.

While the world has changed dramatically since the 1960s, the challenges to peace and cooperation remain. I wholeheartedly support the current mission of the Peace Corps and its role in promoting cross-cultural relationships with our global neighbors. It is a tremendous educational tool and an opportunity for professional and personal development. Americans take as much away from their experiences as do the people in other nations whose lives they touch. It is my hope that the Peace Corps remains steadfast in its mission to foster peace and knowledge around the world and preserve the vision of President Kennedy.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to acknowledge the importance of the Peace Corps organization and the commitment made by these volunteers. The Peace Corps volunteers' selfless dedication to this nation and the international community is an example to us all.

CONGRATULATING MARIQUITA C. LEON GUERRERO ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HOME-BASED BUSINESS CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Maraquita C. Leon Guerrero on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration 2007 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year for Guam. Mrs. Leon Guerrero, affectionately known as "Tita," is the proprietress of Tita's Bakery, a home-based bakery that has produced Chamorro pastries since 1965.

This honor is richly deserved. Tita has made a much-loved local confection very nearly an icon of my home district. Some people call them Chamorro jaw breakers, others call them a cookie, and still others a candy. Guguria is all of those. They are small, hard sugar-coated cookies made with coconut milk.

For more than 40 years now, Tita's Guguria has fulfilled the sweet-tooth cravings of my constituents who didn't want to undertake the laborious process of making guguria themselves. Newcomers to Guam quickly discover Tita's Guguria and have sent them to their families and friends far and wide. Tita's Guguria also has become a staple in "care packages" from families at home to relatives here in the mainland. In 1998, during his visit to Guam, President Bill Clinton was served some of Tita's Guguria. Upon his return to Washington, DC, the White House placed an order for more.

Mrs. Leon Guerrero's business model—the secret to her success—is a classic one: She found a need and filled it admirably. But Tita did not intend to build a successful small business. Like most home-based entrepreneurs, she simply wanted to augment her family income. Her little bake shop, which started as a 12-by-14-foot room, now covers more than 5,000 square feet. One of Tita's daughters now follows in her mother's footsteps, operating her own home-based bakery business called "Tita, Jr.," which specializes in baked goods from handed-down family recipes.

Mrs. Leon Guerrero is a role model not only for her daughters but for all other would-be home-based entrepreneurs. She has proven that a good idea is a valuable thing, and hard work really does pay off. "You have to be happy, and you must enjoy your work in order to succeed," she is quoted as saying in a magazine feature.

Although she still gets up at 2 in the morning to start work, Tita devotes the weekends to her family. Her husband Ben is her most loyal and loving "employee"; he helps with deliveries. We send Tita, Ben, Genny, Renee, their grandchildren, and the employees of Tita's bakery our best wishes as they join other Home-based Business Champions from around the country for consideration to be the Small Business Administration's National Champion for that category.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall No. 103 on February 27, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN HERBAL PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (AHPA)

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), an organization that is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Since AHPA's founding in 1982, the organization has been at the forefront of promoting the responsible commerce of herbs and herbal products and has continually been a leader in the herbal products community. AHPA began by organizing growers, processors, manufacturers and marketers of herbal products and has since grown into a diverse trade association, representing over 250 companies in the herbal products industry and their affiliated businesses.

AHPA has distinguished itself in the dietary supplement world for the quality of its work and advocacy before lawmakers and regulators. AHPA is highly regarded in as a knowledgeable and trusted voice on issues that impact trade in herbal products. Over the years, AHPA has gained a reputation for tackling complex issues in this diverse sector.

One of the many contributions that AHPA is proud of is its publication of the reference, Herbs of Commerce, which established standardized common names for herbal ingredients and is used by the Food and Drug Administration as a reference in the labeling regulations for dietary supplements. AHPA also made significant contributions toward the passage of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994. More recently, AHPA played a seminal role in the effort to establish a Federal serious adverse event reporting mechanism for the dietary supplement industry. AHPA's lead voice on this issue was extremely instrumental in the passage in December 2006 of the Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act of 2006.

AHPA and its members should be commended for their ongoing commitment to supporting the responsible commerce of herbs and herbal products in the United States. I once again rise to recognize this momentous occasion and to wish AHPA a happy 25th Anniversary.

THE PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS RESEARCH, CURE, AND CARE ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support all those in the United States battling psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and that is why on February 9, 2007 I introduced H.R. 1188, The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

Today as many as seven and a half million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. What's worse is that along with living with this disease is that many of these patients are still living with the painful stigma that has accompanied psoriasis for some many years.

The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act seeks to create a fundamental understanding of where we are as a nation in fighting psoriasis and how we can align our resources and focus our efforts in combating the disease. The Act calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a summit of researchers, public health professionals, representatives of patient advocacy organizations and policymakers to review current efforts in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research, treatment, quality-of-life being conducted by federal agencies whose work involves psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis related comorbidities.

The Act also commissions the Institute of Medicine to investigate and recommend changes to the current ways psoriasis is treated by the insurance industry and what treatments are available to patients and how effective available care is for patients.

Finally, the Act directs the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to begin to develop a patient registry to collect much-needed, and highly informative longitudinal data on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis so researchers can begin to understand the long-term impact of these conditions and evaluate the effects of various therapies.

I would I also like to recognize the work of the National Psoriasis Foundation, and their leadership to work with patients and their families, doctors and researchers to work toward a better understanding of the disease and their commitment to improve the quality of life for people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

This bill is an important move forward to realizing the promise of the current research in the field, as well as the creation of possibilities for the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

CONGRATULATING PEREZ BROS, INC. ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION JEFFREY BUTLAND FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Perez Bros, Inc. of Upper Tumon, Guam on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration 2007 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year for Guam.

Perez Bros, Inc. was founded by the late Frank D. Perez on September 1951. Perez Bros began as a hardware store outside his mother-in-law's home on Guam. It was a conglomerate comprised of a construction company, manufacturer of concrete block products, a hardware store and related services. In 1960, Frank D. Perez incorporated his company and opened a 12,000 square foot store in Hagatna, Guam. Perez Bros, Inc. now manufactures, supplies and transports ready-mix concrete masonry blocks, pre-cast concrete, limestone aggregates, and related concrete accessories. One of only two concrete manufacturers on Guam, Perez Bros, Inc. is the only locally owned concrete producer based on the founder and owner's indigenous background.

In the early 70's Perez Bros, Inc. started expanding, opening an asphalt and crusher plant. The company spent \$1 million buying a fleet of dump trucks, mixers and paving equipment. Perez Bros, Inc. won bids for major projects on four island roadways. In 1973 Perez Bros, Inc. was hit hard by the oil crisis and eventually in 1982 Perez Bros, Inc. had to shut down their asphalt plant and hardware store. Guam's economy started an upswing when a tourism boom began in the latter part of the decade. Soon construction cranes putting up high-rise hotels were the dominant feature of the Tumon, Guam skyline. Perez Bros, Inc. was quick to take advantage of the boom. "We own the land that we quarry, we own the crusher that processes the rocks, the dump trucks that bring it here and the mixers that deliver it to our customers. So we really don't have, with the exception of the asphalt plant, we don't have an ongoing battle with bureaucracy," said Tom, son of the late Frank D. Perez, in an interview for a business magazine. Perez Bros, Inc. revenues peaked in 1998 during the tourism boom and continues to peak with the impending military buildup starting in 2008. The military estimates \$10 billion will be pumped into Guam in the form of military and related construction projects over the next eight years.

Greg, Tom and John are three of the six sons born to the late Frank D. Perez. The brothers currently own and operate Perez Bros Inc. on Guam. Greg (the third eldest brother) serves as Vice President of Administration, Tom (the fifth eldest brother) is currently the President of Perez Bros, Inc and John (the youngest brother) have spent the last 20 years diversifying their business interests on Guam, creating hundreds of local jobs for Guam's workforce and strengthening Guam economy. Collectively, all three brothers

were groomed by their father to pursue various disciplines relevant to continuity and growth of the family business. They continue to follow their father's vision and they hope to instill in their children the work ethic that their father instilled in them. This is important for the survival of the family business. The brothers realize that it is up to them to map out the company's next 50 years.

IN HONOR OF RUDY FARBER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rudy Farber, who recently celebrated his 50th year of service at the Community Bank and Trust in Neosho, Missouri.

At the age of 16, as soon as he could drive, Rudy began working in the bookkeeping department of the Bank of Neosho. Over the course of his career he has watched the bank go from figuring interest by hand to the automated process that it is today. Rudy became president of the bank in 1979, taking over for his father who had served as president since 1942. Rudy's father was dedicated to the community and Rudy has followed in his footsteps by believing that community bankers should be involved in community improvement. In 1987, Rudy introduced an employee stock ownership program for the bank. The employees currently own half of the bank and Rudy plans that in the future the employees will purchase his interest and keep the bank employee owned. Before becoming president, Rudy worked as an assistant cashier, assistant vice-president and served in the United States Navy from 1963-1967. The bank changed its name to the Community Bank and Trust in 1993 and now operates branches throughout Southwest Missouri. Rudy continues to serve as president and chairman of the Community Bank and Trust. Rudy and his wife Dorothy have two children, Aaron and Nori Vial.

I am proud to congratulate Rudy Farber on his 50 years of service as a community leader in Neosho.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CASIMIR PULASKI

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, today we salute and honor the life of Casimir Pulaski. Casimir Pulaski was born in Poland and gained extensive military experience there before moving to the United States in 1777. At that time, the U.S. was in the midst of the Revolutionary War, and George Washington's army was in need of experienced commanders. Casimir Pulaski bravely volunteered to serve with the American troops, famously stating, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." Casimir Pulaski soon distinguished himself in battles at Brandywine and Charleston before being fatally wounded during the Battle of Sa-

vannah. However, his military legacy lives on, as he is still known as the "Father of the American Cavalry".

As Illinois celebrates Casimir Pulaski Day today, it is my honor to join in recognizing the life and achievements of that great patriot. In Congress, I am working with many of my colleagues to pass legislation that would make Casimir Pulaski a citizen posthumously. I believe this is a fitting tribute for a man who did so much to win the independence, rights and liberties that Americans enjoy today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF 2ND LIEUTENANT MARK J.
DAILY

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 2nd Lieutenant Mark J. Daily—an honorable citizen and hero in our nation's War on Terrorism.

Lieutenant Daily grew up in Irvine, California, and graduated from Woodbridge High School in 2001. He was known among family and friends as having an amazing breadth of knowledge, a strong desire to serve, and a wonderful sense of humor.

In 2005, Lieutenant Daily graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles as a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet with a bachelor's degree in political science. His ability and work ethic was further exemplified that year when he was named as both the ROTC outstanding cadet and a Distinguished Military Graduate, the highest honor one can receive in the ROTC.

As a member of the United States Army's 4th Brigade Combat Team, he was stationed in Iraq's northern city of Mosul. Tragically, on January 15, 2007, Lieutenant Daily made the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed conducting operations in the city.

Lieutenant Daily is survived by his wife, Snejana; his parents, John and Linda; his sisters, Christine and Nicole; and his brother, Eric. He valued their love, and they miss him terribly now. On his webpage, Lieutenant Daily listed his interests as "family, peace, and progress." And it is in the value that he placed on these three things that we see the quality of his character.

The night before he left for Iraq, Lieutenant Daily wrote an online weblog to friends and family entitled "Why I Joined." In the post, he articulately stated the importance of fostering a stable democratic government in Iraq, and the harsh consequences of failure. He called upon all Americans to challenge themselves, to not just enjoy the blessings of liberty, but to act upon them.

In the wake of his death, Lieutenant Daily's web log was widely distributed in newspapers and on the internet. These words have served as an inspiration and encouragement to many. It is clear he felt passionately about what he was doing and why he was doing it. What better way to remember his heart for service and commitment to progress than by reflecting on his own words. Mr. Speaker, the following web log entry was posted on his website on October 29, 2006:

WHY I JOINED

This question has been asked of me so many times in so many different contexts

that I thought it would be best if I wrote my reasons for joining the Army on my page for all to see. First, the more accurate question is why I volunteered to go to Iraq. After all, I joined the Army a week after we declared war on Saddam's government with the intention of going to Iraq. Now, after years of training and preparation, I am finally here.

Much has changed in the last three years. The criminal Ba'ath regime has been replaced by an insurgency fueled by Iraq's neighbors who hope to partition Iraq for their own ends. This is coupled with the ever present transnational militant Islamist movement which has seized upon Iraq as the greatest way to kill Americans, along with anyone else they happen to be standing near. What was once a paralyzed state of fear is now the staging ground for one of the largest transformations of power and ideology the Middle East has experienced since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Thanks to Iran, Syria, and other enlightened local actors, this transformation will be plagued by interregional hatred and genocide. And I am now in the center of this.

Is this why I joined?

Yes. Much has been said about America's intentions in overthrowing Saddam Hussein and seeking to establish a new state based upon political representation and individual rights. Many have framed the paradigm through which they view the conflict around one-word explanations such as "oil" or "terrorism," favoring the one which best serves their political persuasion. I did the same thing, and anyone who knew me before I joined knows that I am quite aware and at times sympathetic to the arguments against the war in Iraq. If you think the only way a person could bring themselves to volunteer for this war is through sheer desperation or blind obedience then consider me the exception (though there are countless like me).

I joined the fight because it occurred to me that many modern day "humanists" who claim to possess a genuine concern for human beings throughout the world are in fact quite content to allow their fellow "global citizens" to suffer under the most hideous state apparatuses and conditions. Their excuses used to be my excuses. When asked why we shouldn't confront the Ba'ath party, the Taliban or the various other tyrannies throughout this world, my answers would allude to vague notions of cultural tolerance (forcing women to wear a veil and stay indoors is such a quaint cultural tradition), the sanctity of national sovereignty (how eager we internationalists are to throw up borders to defend dictatorships!) or even a creeping suspicion of America's intentions. When all else failed, I would retreat to my fragile moral ecosystem that years of living in peace and liberty had provided me. I would write off war because civilian casualties were guaranteed, or temporary alliances with illiberal forces would be made, or tank fuel was toxic for the environment. My fellow "humanists" and I would relish contently in our self righteous declaration of opposition against all military campaigns against dictatorships, congratulating one another for refusing to taint that aforementioned fragile moral ecosystem that many still cradle with all the revolutionary tenacity of the members of Rage against the Machine and Green Day. Others would point to America's historical support of Saddam Hussein, citing it as hypocritical that we would now vilify him as a thug and a tyrant. Upon explaining that we did so to ward off the fiercely Islamist Iran, which was correctly identified as the greater threat at the time, eyes are rolled and hypocrisy is declared. Forgetting that America sided with Stalin to defeat Hitler, who was promptly confronted once the Nazis were destroyed, America's

initial engagement with Saddam and other regional actors is identified as the ultimate argument against America's moral crusade.

And maybe it is. Maybe the reality of politics makes all political action inherently crude and immoral. Or maybe it is these adventures in philosophical masturbation that prevent people from ever taking any kind of effective action against men like Saddam Hussein. One thing is for certain, as disagreeable or as confusing as my decision to enter the fray may be, consider what peace vigils against genocide have accomplished lately. Consider that there are 19 year old soldiers from the Midwest who have never touched a college campus or a protest who have done more to uphold the universal legitimacy of representative government and individual rights by placing themselves between Iraqi voting lines and homicidal religious fanatics. Often times it is less about how clean your actions are and more about how pure your intentions are.

So that is why I joined. In the time it took for you to read this explanation, innocent people your age have suffered under the crushing misery of tyranny. Every tool of philosophical advancement and communication that we use to develop our opinions about this war are denied to countless human beings on this planet, many of whom live under the regimes that have, in my opinion, been legitimately targeted for destruction. Some have allowed their resentment of the President to stir silent applause for set-backs in Iraq. Others have ironically decried the war because it has tied up our forces and prevented them from confronting criminal regimes in Sudan, Uganda, and elsewhere.

I simply decided that the time for candid discussions of the oppressed was over, and I joined.

In digesting this posting, please remember that America's commitment to overthrow Saddam Hussein and his sons existed before the current administration and would exist into our future children's lives had we not acted. Please remember that the problems that plague Iraq today were set in motion centuries ago and were up until now held back by the most cruel of cages. Don't forget that human beings have a responsibility to one another and that Americans will always have a responsibility to the oppressed. Don't overlook the obvious reasons to disagree with the war but don't cheapen the moral aspects either. Assisting a formerly oppressed population in converting their torn society into a plural, democratic one is dangerous and difficult business, especially when being attacked and sabotaged from literally every direction. So if you have anything to say to me at the end of this reading, let it at least include "Good Luck."—Lt. Mark J. Daily, United States Army.

CONGRATULATING ST. JUDE MEDICAL CENTER ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the sisters, physicians and staff of St. Jude Medical Center, I rise to congratulate the hospital on its 50th Anniversary.

In 1957, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange opened a new hospital in Fullerton to continue their remarkable ministry of compassion and healing. Since then, St. Jude Medical Center, a nonprofit, faith-based facility, has grown into

one of Southern California's most respected and technologically-advanced hospitals. And the same excellence that it strives for within its walls, is apparent in its efforts to touch lives outside its walls.

St. Jude continuously improves the health and quality of life of the people in the communities it serves. One example is the St. Jude Neighborhood Health Center. Located in an underserved area, this new facility offers a full range of outpatient care to uninsured and low-income families.

St. Jude's commitment to improving lives is evident in each of the 14 hospitals within the St. Joseph Health System (SJHS), the Catholic healthcare ministry of the sisters. In Southern California, SJHS is considered the pre-eminent healthcare network and includes four hospitals, outpatient facilities, hospice and home health care agencies, and physician groups.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes:

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of a long overdue measure, the Employee Free Choice Act. This necessary bill gives America's hard workers basic rights that they have been denied for over 70 years.

My father was an ironworker, and a member of his local union. I saw firsthand the struggles employees went through in order to organize their workplace. I also saw how easy it was and how easy it still is to fire union organizers with impunity. This unlawful practice happens all the time, and the worst that can possibly happen to the employer is a slap on the wrist.

I was also a proud member of a union. I was a teacher and a guidance counselor in New York City, where I became a member of the American Federation of Teachers. I learned the personal benefits to collective bargaining, and I discovered the security of having thousands of other brothers and sisters of the union behind me if I ever needed them.

Unions were an integral part in making this Nation the economic superpower it is. And while this bill will not put laborers on an even footing with employers, it will help to bridge the chasm between workers' rights and corporate rights.

Madam Chairman, we owe unions and their members a massive debt of gratitude for everything they have done for this country. We can start paying back that debt by passing the Employee Free Choice Act. I strongly support this measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF "OPENNESS PROMOTES EFFECTIVENESS IN OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the "Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act of 2007" (the "OPEN Government Act").

This legislation will give the public more information and better insight into the workings of government by strengthening the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The OPEN Government Act also creates a broader definition of "news media" so that additional types of news media can obtain government documents at minimal cost.

The legislation establishes a system that assigns individualized tracking numbers to requests for information so individuals can track their requests.

I want to protect our open system of government and ensure that the Federal government responds to the American people.

Unfortunately, the process for obtaining government information is overly burdensome and federal agencies have become less and less responsive to requests for information.

This deters citizens from obtaining information to which they are entitled.

Taxpayers should have the opportunity to obtain information quickly and easily from the Federal government.

I had hoped to work with the Democrats to draft bipartisan legislation this year and we were able to compromise on several provisions of the bill.

Unfortunately, we could not come to an agreement on all provisions.

The bill I am introducing today includes provisions regarding recovery of attorneys' fees when an individual has been wrongly denied information, penalties for agencies that do not comply within the specified FOIA time limits, and additional agency reporting requirements.

However, the key issue the Democrats insisted on adding to the bill was a statutory presumption of disclosure surrounding FOIA.

It would in essence reverse the FOIA guidelines set out by former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

In 2001, then Attorney General Ashcroft established a policy that information from the government should not be provided if it was likely to threaten national security or invade personal privacy.

My bill would continue this policy and make FOIA requests subject to these national security and personal privacy concerns.

This bill makes it easier for citizens to get an answer to their requests for information. Citizens should have the opportunity to obtain information quickly and easily from the Federal government.

BICENTENNIAL OF THE BRITISH ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE—ACKNOWLEDGMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Bicentennial of the British Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and enter into the record an article from the *Africana Heritage* newsletter, published by the Schomburg Center for the Research in Black History and Culture entitled "Bicentennial of the American and British Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade."

On March 25, 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. This act outlawed slave trading, granted authority to the British Royal Navy to search and seize ships, and also required payment for the freedom of slaves. This act also was a pivotal piece of legislation and eventually contributed to the full abolishment of slavery in Great Britain and in the United States.

This bicentennial offers an opportunity, for people around the world, to remember the historical significance of the slave trade and slavery as a whole. We must never forget the immeasurable human cost of slavery or the aftermath that still lingers today. Considerable progress has been made toward equality and to repair the damage caused by the British institution of slavery, but work still needs to be done in the area of race relations for people of African descent in the U.S. and abroad. The bicentennial provides us an opportunity to remember the history of our past while working toward equality today.

In March of 2007, Great Britain will begin a year long commemoration of the bicentennial in several ways. Approximately \$37.5 million has been allocated for projects. Specifically, the government is funding projects that involve education on the history of the transatlantic slave trade in schools and communities. The dedication of funding to educate people about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade is noteworthy. I applaud Great Britain for their efforts and look forward to the planning of similar events in the United States during the coming year.

BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Two hundred years ago, on March 3, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed into act a bill approved by Congress the day before "to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States." A few weeks later, on the 25th, the British House of Lords passed the Slave Trade Abolition Bill. In neither country did new legislation signify the immediate end of the international slave trade. Twenty years earlier, the Constitution of the United States (article I, section 9) had clearly spelled out that it could not be banned before 1808, and it was not until January 1, 1808 that the American and British acts went into effect.

Nevertheless, the deportation of Africans continued: legally to Brazil, and the French and Spanish colonies; and illegally to the United States and the British West Indies. Of the 12.5 million men, women, and children uprooted by the trans-Atlantic slave trade—93 percent towards South America and the

Caribbean—3.5 million were transported between 1801 and 1867.

Throughout 2007, the bicentennial of the abolition of the international slave trade will be commemorated in Great Britain—the largest slave trading country with more than 40 percent of the deportations—and Anglophone Caribbean countries with exhibitions, conferences, and other activities. About \$37.5 million have been awarded in Great Britain to various projects. The American commemoration will take place in 2008.

MAJOR MANIFESTATIONS OF THE BICENTENNIAL IN GREAT BRITAIN:

Bristol

Between 1698 and 1807, Bristol sent 2,000 slave ships to Africa. To commemorate the city's involvement in the slave trade, The Bristol Industrial Museum will propose an exhibition on the slave trade and its abolition. The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum's exhibition "Breaking the Chains" will open on February 15 and run for two years.

Hull

The Wilberforce House Museum and the Wilberforce Institute will develop and update their slavery and abolition collections. The University of Hull will organize a conference, "Slavery: Unfinished Business," on May 16–18.

Liverpool

The International Slavery Museum will open on August 23 in the city that deported 1.5 million Africans in 5,000 voyages (300 to North America), making it the first slave-trading port in Europe.

London

The Museum of London and The Museum in Docklands will present exhibitions on the role of London in the slave trade. The city—second in Europe after Bristol—sent more than 2,700 slave ships to Africa.

The Victoria and Albert Museum will have two exhibitions starting on February 20, on the impact and legacy of slavery on art.

Manchester

A partnership of 11 organizations will examine the economic, cultural, and social effects of the slave trade on Great Britain beyond the port cities in a wide-ranging project called "Revealing Histories."

Portsmouth

The Royal Naval Museum will show an exhibition on the role of the Royal Navy's Africa Squadron in the repression of the transatlantic slave trade.

Warwick

A conference, "Free at Last? Commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Abolition of the British Slave Trade," will take place from July 11 to 13.

York

The University of York will present a conference on April 12–14, "Abolitions, 1807–2007: Ending the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World."

Conference in Ghana

From August 8th to the 12th, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture (Virginia), UNESCO, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (Yale), the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute (Harvard), the Reed Foundation, and the Wilberforce Institute will convene an international conference, "The bloody Writing is for ever torn: Domestic and International Consequences of the First Governmental Efforts to Abolish the Atlantic Slave Trade."

SUPPORT FOR THE SAFE
COMMISSION**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, earlier this year I reintroduced legislation in the House of Representatives aimed at addressing the looming financial crisis facing the Nation, the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act. The bill would establish a national bipartisan commission that will put everything—entitlement spending as well as all other Federal programs and our Nation's tax policies—on the table and require Congress to vote up or down on its recommendations in their entirety, similar to the process set in 1988 to close military bases. Mandating congressional action on the panel's recommendations is what differentiates this commission from previous ones.

I submit for the RECORD an op-ed by Dr. Ed Feulner, President of the Heritage Foundation. Dr. Feulner believes that the SAFE Commission provides an opportunity to address this looming crisis. This legislation can provide a path toward a safe and secure economy for generations to come—a renaissance for America.

This legislation will be good for the future of America.

[From the Sun Times, Feb. 28, 2007]

WE NEED A NEW COMMISSION TO TACKLE
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

(By Ed Feulner)

In any policy battle, it helps to have allies. So it's good that AARP seems finally ready to help press for reform of entitlements such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

AARP's shift can be seen in its latest TV ad, "Future Champions." It shows children stressing the need to "find real long-term solutions to some of America's most pressing issues—health care and long-term financial security."

The ad is misleading in some ways. Speaking about entitlements, one boy asks, "Will we keep those promises?" when, of course, this child has made no promises. In fact, the big three entitlement programs are promises made by older generations—to give themselves benefits that younger workers will have to pay for through ever-rising payroll taxes.

But the overall message of the ad is that we need to make some big changes to fix entitlements. That's a refreshing change from two years ago. Back then, when President Bush was urging the creation of individual retirement accounts within Social Security, AARP's ads insisted, "If you had a problem with the kitchen sink, you wouldn't tear down the entire house," hinting that entitlement problems weren't all that bad.

But the organization now seems to understand that the country's on the verge of a fiscal catastrophe.

The Congressional Budget Office predicts that spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will soar from just over 8 percent of GDP today to almost 19 percent in 2050, when the cute children in today's TV ads will be middle-aged parents. Their bill will be gigantic: \$38 trillion to pay for the Social Security and Medicare benefits their parents have promised themselves—but not arranged to pay for. Add in the national debt and other entitlements, and it works out to \$440,000 for every household in the United

States today—enough to buy each of those families a new home. Or two.

So how can we fix things? Well, as we learned in the debate over Social Security, we can't simply take on one problem at a time. If we try to reform just one of the big programs, some group will always fight for the status quo. We need to fix all three at once.

Also, we need to give lawmakers some cover. To accomplish that, Congress should form a commission such as the one Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.) proposed last year. Wolf would label it "SAFE," for "Securing America's Future Economy." It would have 16 voting members, including at least four members of Congress, the director of the Office of Management and Budget and the secretary of the Treasury.

The commission would be bipartisan and have one year to develop plans to:

Fix the imbalance between long-term federal spending promises and projected revenues.

Boost national savings to spur domestic investment and economic growth.

Simplify the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

The first thing the commission would do is leave Washington and discuss reform options with Americans. That should help it avoid the temptation to hatch some scheme behind closed committee-room doors. Plus, the members would surely find, as the Heritage Foundation has with our ongoing Fiscal Wake-Up Tour, a real desire out there to fix entitlement programs.

Once it reports to Congress, lawmakers would be required to hold a simple up-or-down vote on each of its recommendations. This should help break the legislative logjam. Just as base-closing commissions enabled lawmakers to shutter obsolete military bases (even those in their own districts or states), a SAFE Commission would help lawmakers make necessary changes without being accused of "destroying" entitlement programs.

Many of us over 50 realize that our generation, however inadvertently, created the coming entitlement crisis, and we understand it's up to us to solve it. AARP will be a welcome ally—if we can believe their ads. Establishing a SAFE Commission should help us find out.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF A NATIONAL MEDAL
OF HONOR DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 47, observing National Medal of Honor Day and honoring the sacrifices of Medal of Honor recipients and their contributions to our Nation. March 25th is an appropriate day to recognize these individuals, since the first Medal of Honor was awarded on March 25, 1863.

This resolution not only salutes the bravery of Medal of Honor recipients, but also gives the American public the opportunity to learn about the history of this prestigious military distinction and the uncommon acts of courage that made recipients real-life heroes.

Previous honorees include several El Pasoans. Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen was posthumously awarded the Medal of

Honor for going above and beyond the call of duty during the Korean War. Sergeant Guillen sacrificed his life in order to thwart an enemy attack, saving the lives of the men in his platoon. He was laid to rest at Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

Colonel Joseph C. Rodriguez was also awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions in the Korean War. While facing a barrage of hostile fire and improbable odds, Colonel Rodriguez secured a strategic stronghold by killing 15 enemy soldiers occupying well-fortified positions. He later moved to El Paso following his retirement from the Army and served as Facilities Director at the University of Texas at El Paso for over 10 years.

Most recently, on April 4, 2005, Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his "extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor" while repelling an enemy attack on a prisoner of war holding area during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Smith quickly organized two Army platoons to defend their position. In the face of enemy fire, Smith manned a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a damaged armored vehicle. Although exposed to enemy gunfire, Sergeant Smith maintained his position. His heroism resulted in the death of over 50 enemy soldiers before Sergeant Smith was mortally wounded during this courageous act.

As a Vietnam veteran, I recognize the importance of honoring these selfless acts of courage. In order to preserve their legacy and costly sacrifices, I proudly stand in support of our Medal of Honor recipients.

HONORING READ ACROSS
AMERICA**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in May 1997, a small reading task force at National Education Association came up with a big idea. "Let's create a day to celebrate reading," the group decided. "We hold pep rallies to get kids excited about football—why don't we do something to get kids excited about reading? We'll call it 'NEA's Read Across America' and we'll celebrate it on Dr. Seuss's birthday." And so was born on March 2, 1998, the largest celebration of reading this country has ever seen.

To commemorate this special day, I recently joined third-graders at Coal City Elementary and read to them some of Dr. Seuss' more famous stories, including *The Cat in the Hat*, which marks its 50th anniversary this year. As always, it was a joy to spend some time with the students and their instructors, Sandra Snuffer, Donna Thomas and Janet Smith. I was inspired by the students' interest in learning, and encouraged by our educators' dedication to teaching them the importance of literacy.

Of course, as we all know, just as reading should not be confined to our classrooms, neither should our efforts to encourage literacy be confined to one single day of the year. As President Bill Clinton once said, "Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens."

It's hard to believe, but 20 percent of the people you see during the course of a day cannot read, according to most recent statistics. In the Third District of West Virginia, this average is even higher, at 24 percent. This is a startling statistic that needs to change and we are deeply indebted to the organizations that devote themselves to this important cause—organizations like the Literacy West Virginia, which has councils in all of West Virginia's 55 counties. On February 21, I had the opportunity to meet with the Tri-State Literacy Council and its director Dee George at the Cabell County Library to discuss the great strides the organization is making in adult education.

I am proud of my record of support for literacy programs and initiatives. Time and again I have opposed budget proposals from this Administration that would cut funding to important literacy programs which are intended to assist families break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. And I will continue to fight policies that undermine the hard work so many are doing to improve reading levels in the Mountain State.

I have also again contacted my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in Congress urging them to provide \$25 million in federal funds to the Reading Is Fundamental Inexpensive Book Distribution Program (RIF), allowing this important literacy initiative to continue operating at its current level. As the Nation's largest children's literacy organization, RIF last year provided more than 16 million new books free of charge to nearly 4.5 million of the nation's most underserved children in all fifty states.

Literacy is the gateway to educational excellence and a key to success in our society. On Read Aloud Day, let us recommit to helping improve the lives of the men, women, and children in West Virginia and across America who cannot read.

Because with literacy, to borrow from the great Dr. Seuss himself:

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

TRIBUTE TO MS. C. "JEANNE"
TIMMONS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, earlier this month the United States Coast Guard and the entire Coast Guard community lost a great friend and colleague with the retirement of Ms. C. "Jeanne" Timmons.

Jeanne began her incredible career with the United States Government in May 1963, when she became a staffer to Congressman Victor Wickersham from her home State of Oklahoma. Over the next 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, she worked for Congressman Jack Flynt, Congressman Bob Sikes, Congressman Earl Hutto, and the House Coast Guard Subcommittee.

In July 1989, Jeanne left the House to begin a new career with the United States Coast Guard, where she was able to utilize her expertise and passion to enhance recreational

boating programs in our Nation. Her tenure with the Coast Guard has included various positions, all related to recreational boating safety. She has worked as a State Grant Regional Coordinator, the Chief of the State Affairs Branch, a Program Analyst, the Chief of the Program Management Division, and finally the Executive Director of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

Throughout her career, Jeanne's invaluable knowledge and experience were a tremendous asset to Congress, the Coast Guard, and to the boating community as a whole. I take this opportunity to commend and thank Jeanne for her years of service in the United States Government and wish her good health and good luck in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE 80TH ANNIVERSARY AFRICANA HERITAGE AWARDS GALA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Schomburg Center For Research in Black Culture for hosting the 80th Anniversary Africana Heritage Awards Gala, in which 13 living legends were honored and to enter into the record an article from the Africana Heritage newsletter entitled "80th Anniversary Gala Pays Tribute to 13 Living Legends."

On October 6, 2006, the Schomburg Center For Research in Black Culture, which is a community treasure, recognized and honored Black achievement by paying tribute to living legends Maya Angelou, Chinua Achebe, Clarence Avant, Harry Belafonte, Elizabeth Catlett, Aime Cesaire, Ruby Dee, John Hope Franklin, William Greaves, Ernest Kaiser, Don Newcombe, Herman J. Russell, and Percy Sutton. The legends have made significant contributions to African American history and culture in areas such as law, business, acting, music, filmmaking, poetry, and sports. Each honoree was presented with a Heritage Award statuette. I was honored to present an award to Percy Sutton.

The well organized gala was attended by over 1,000 people. Honorees and guest enjoyed music and poetry performed by the Eli Fountain Percussion Discussion Ensemble, Angelique Kidjo, Kaissa, Kayo, Avery Brooks, and Phylcia Rashad. Dinner was also served. The gala marked a historical moment for the Schomburg Center. The honorary chairs for the gala including myself were President Bill Clinton, Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, David Dinkins, Catherine C. Marron, and Paul LeClerc.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, which is located in Harlem, is a part of the New York Public Library. It was named after black scholar Arturo Alfonso Schomburg in 1940 and in 1972 was designated as a Research Library within the New York Public Library.

It contains an immeasurable wealth of information in the form of manuscripts, rare books, archives, art, photographs, oral history record-

ings, motion pictures, and videotapes relative to global African and African diasporan experiences.

I have introduced legislation, H. Con. Res. 57, to recognize the Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture for educating the people of the United States about the African-American migration experience, and for other purposes.

[From the African Heritage Newsletter]

80TH ANNIVERSARY GALA PAYS TRIBUTE TO 13 LIVING LEGENDS

Legends came to life for the nearly one thousand guests gathered at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center for the Schomburg Center's 80th Anniversary Africana Heritage Awards Gala, on Friday, October 6, 2006. Chaired by Billye S. Aaron and Sherry B. Bronfman, the Gala Honorary Chairs included President William Jefferson Clinton, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congressman Charles B. Rangel, The Honorable David N. Dinkins, Chairman of the Board, The New York Public Library Catherine C. Marron, and President and CEO, The New York Public Library Dr. Paul LeClerc.

One of the most memorable evenings in the Center and New York's cultural history, the event honored an extraordinary group of 13 individuals, whose careers and lives have had an immeasurable impact on African-American and American culture. The honorees included author, poet, dancer, actress, and director, Maya Angelou; author and scholar, Chinua Achebe; music executive and producer, Clarence Avant; singer, actor, and activist, Harry Belafonte; sculptress and printmaker, Elizabeth Catlett; author, poet, and playwright, Aimé Césaire; actress, writer, activist, Ruby Dee; historian and author, John Hope Franklin; filmmaker and producer, William Greaves; librarian, bibliographer, and editor, Ernest Kaiser; athlete and community leader, Don Newcombe; entrepreneur and civic leader, Herman J. Russell; and lawyer, activist, political and communications leader, Percy Sutton.

The evening began with a VIP reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for the award recipients and major donors, and continued at the Frederick P. Rose Hall with: a cocktail reception in the Atrium, tribute program in The Rose Theater, and a post-tribute dinner in the Allen Room. At the Mandarin, many of the honorees gathered and mingled with distinguished guests including the Gala Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfman; Honorary Chairs Congressman Charles B. Rangel and The Honorable David N. Dinkins; and Vice Chairs Hank Aaron, Joyce Dinkins, Evem Cooper Epps, president of the UPS Foundation and vice president of its Corporate Relations, Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company and chair of the Coca-Cola Foundation, and The Honorable Andrew J. Young; along with New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, President and CEO of Major League Baseball Bob DuPuy, actor Danny Glover, and author Walter Mosley. Entertained by Saleem Waters, the group also included poet Sonia Sanchez, author Walter Mosley, NYU Professor Manthia Diawara, Essence Magazine Editorial Director Susan L. Taylor, and New York Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright.

The tribute program in the Rose Theater began with a prelude of songs spanning 80 years to mirror the center's and the honorees' lifetimes by Eli Fountain Percussion Discussion Ensemble, featuring musicians Lyndon Achee, Alex Blake, Brian Carrot, Miles Dalto, Roland Guerreo, Phoenix Rivera, William Smith, Marc Taylor, and special guest artist Patato Valdez on the congas. Program hosts, actors Avery Brooks

and Phylcia Rashad, greeted the audience followed by welcomes and acknowledgements by Howard Dodson and David Ferriero and Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfinan. Author and spoken word artist Kayo presented the first performance tribute to the honorees, "I Can Move Mountains." The award presenters gave biographical sketches and read the citation for each honoree before presenting the award statuettes with the assistance of four students from the Schomburg Center/New York Life Junior Scholars Program. The audience paid tribute to each recipient with a standing ovation. The first awards were presented to Ernest Kaiser by Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson; William Greaves by President of the Black Filmmaker Foundation Warrington Hudlin; Ruby Dee by actress Lynn Whitfield; and Harry Belafonte by Sherry Bronfman and Danny Glover. West African singer Angelique Kidjo then performed a special song in honor of the Africana Heritage Award recipients. The second set of awards were presented to Don Newcombe by Hank Aaron and Bob DuPuy; Clarence Avant by Billye Aaron; Herman Russell by Ingrid Saunders Jones; and Percy Sutton by Charles Rangel and David Dinkins. Avery Brooks performed Sterling Brown's poem "Strong Men" followed by Percussion Discussion, which kept the audience excited throughout the evening with their distinct and diverse sound.

The third and final set of honorees to receive statuettes were Elizabeth Catlett by Evren Cooper Epps and David Driskell, Dean of African-American Art Historians; John Hope Franklin by Howard Dodson; Aime Cesaire by Walter Mosley; Maya Angelou by Andrew Young; and Chinua Achebe by Manthia Diawara, Professor of Comparative Literature and Film and Director of Africana Studies and the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University. The final performance tributes were Phylcia Rashad's reading of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman," and a musical selection by vocalist Kaïssa, from Cameroon.

After the tribute program, the honorees and major donors enjoyed dinner in the Allen Room. Awaiting them was a breathtaking view of New York City from the room's dramatic glass wall facing Broadway and Central Park, allowing guests a remarkable—but rare view of the City's streetscape. Tables with lavender rose centerpieces designed by Sandra Parks on royal blue overlays designed by David Fleming, along with music by Saleem Waters added to the extraordinary ambience. The Gala closed with words of appreciation from Howard Dodson, marking one of the most historical moments in the history of the Schomburg Center.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes;

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Strengthening unions results in a stronger and more vibrant middle class, which is something we can all support.

Madam Chairman, we have heard arguments about how this legislation is taking away a worker's right to vote.

Let me make it absolutely clear, this bill does no such thing!

It does not take away the voting rights of workers.

The bill says that if 30 percent of workers want an election instead of a majority sign up, they get the election.

I want people to know, though, that most workers do not want to go through the so-called election process because it is so favorable to the employers.

Despite recent arguments from the bill's opponents, we are not talking about anything remotely similar to the American election system.

During our election season, we will be exposed to ads on our TVs that we can turn off.

With the union elections, employers hold employees captive for one on one meetings with supervisors to listen to anti-union rhetoric.

Having someone tell you how to vote on campaign ads over and over again might be annoying.

But imagine if it was your boss telling you how to vote with your job hanging over your head.

In Committee, we heard about situations where employees have to walk past armed law enforcement to cast their votes.

One witness, a Smithfield Foods worker, talked about a time when on "election" day, sheriffs officers were dressed in battle gear with guns lining the long driveway leading to the plant.

This is not the traditional American election.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and give workers the choices they deserve.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

- 9:30 a.m.
 - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - To hold hearings to examine investing in our nation's future through agricultural research. SR-328A
 - Energy and Natural Resources
 - To hold an oversight hearing to examine market constraints on large investments in advanced energy technologies and investigate ways to stimulate additional private-sector investment in the deployment of these technologies. SD-366
 - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 - To hold hearings to examine strengthening American competitiveness for the 21st Century. SH-216
 - Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 - Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism Subcommittee
 - To hold hearings to examine policy implications of pharmaceutical importation for U.S. consumers. SR-253
 - Judiciary
 - To hold hearings to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity. SD-226
 - Veterans' Affairs
 - To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Veterans Administration adjudication process. SR-418
- 10 a.m.
 - Appropriations
 - Defense Subcommittee
 - To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense medical programs. SD-192
 - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 - Investigations Subcommittee
 - To hold hearings to examine fees, interests rates and grace periods relating to credit card practices, focusing on high fees charged for late payments, over-the-limit charges, including how those fees are assessed, how they add to interest costs, and how they contribute to consumer debt, and an industry practice requiring consumer payments to be applied first to balances with the lowest interest rates instead of to balances with the highest interest rates. SD-342
- 2 p.m.
 - Judiciary
 - Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
 - To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws. SD-226
 - Appropriations
 - Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
 - To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy. SD-138
- 2:30 p.m.
 - Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 - Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 - To hold hearings to examine national imperatives for Earth Science research. SR-253

- 3 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-406
- MARCH 8
- 9:15 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine cross-border trucking with Mexico. SD-138
- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Admiral Timothy J. Keating, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, Lieutenant General Victor E. Renuart, Jr., USAF, for appointment to be general and to be Commander, United States Northern Command/Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, USA, for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general and to be Chief of Engineers/Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers. SH-216
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposal to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration Part II. SR-253
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine time for a new strategy relating to Afghanistan. SD-419
- Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007. SR-485
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Non Commissioned Officers Association. SD-106
- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Science Foundation. SD-192
- Finance
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on the 2007 trade agenda. SD-215
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine follow-on biologics. SD-430
- Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas M. Hardiman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, and Vanessa Lynne Bryant, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, the possibility of the issuance of certain subpoenas to former U.S. attorneys, S. 236, to require reports to Congress on Federal agency use of data mining, S. 261, to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 231, to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012, S. 368, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 655, to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American Red Cross in the 21st century, S. 627, to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center, to assist local Court Teams, S. Res. 88, honoring the extraordinary achievements of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and S. Con. Res. 14, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a leading association for the 1,300,000 United States citizens of Greek ancestry and Philhellenes in the United States. SD-226
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine small business solutions for combating climate change. SR-428A
- 2 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing regarding Gulf security. S-407, Capitol
- 2:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Homeland Security. SD-192
- Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- MARCH 9
- 9 a.m.
Appropriations
Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Small Business Administration. SD-138
- MARCH 13
- 10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations. SD-226
- MARCH 14
- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on education and training. SR-418
- 10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act relating to open government. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine technology solutions for climate change. SR-253
- MARCH 20
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine energy innovation. SR-253
- MARCH 27
- 9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SH-216
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on health care issues. SR-418
- MARCH 28
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine transitioning to a next generation Human Space Flight System. SR-253
- MARCH 29
- 9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of AMVETS, Ex-POWs, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Fleet Reserve Association. SD-106