

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on October 1, 2007, I was absent from the House due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 924, a motion by Ms. CASTOR to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 185, a resolution commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard upon its completion of the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I would also have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 925, a motion by Mr. CLAY to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2276, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the "Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building."

Finally, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 926, a motion by Mr. CLAY to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3325, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the "Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office."

IN HONOR OF BERNARD J. MILANO, 2007 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT FOR THE IAOAPOGH MOUNTAINS BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bernard J. Milano of Allendale, New Jersey for his dedicated support for the 35,000 Boy Scouts of North Jersey. Last week, Mr. Milano was honored by the Iaoapogh Mountains District of the Northern New Jersey Council for the Boy Scouts for his long record of service to these Scouts. This District directly serves more than 3,100 young people.

Bernie Milano is supportive of a number of worthy organizations beyond just the Boy Scouts. In addition, he serves as a member of President Bush's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and as chair for the business school advisory boards at North Carolina A&T State University, from which he has an Honorary Doctorate, and local Ramapo College. Furthermore, he is a member of the Ramapo College Foundation Board of Governors, of which he served as chair from 2002–06.

Mr. Milano is also a Senior Warden of the Church of the Epiphany in Allendale, a member of the Newark Episcopal Diocese Commission on Ministry and Audit Committee, and a member of the National Episcopal Church Foundation Board of Directors, of which he served as chair for 6 years.

Mr. Milano has served on the Allendale Board of Adjustment and board of education. He was a founding trustee of the Allendale

Foundation for Education Excellence. And, he serves on several national boards, including for the Points of Light Foundation and Business Civic Leadership Center. Trained as a CPA with a B.S. in Accounting from Temple University, Mr. Milano is president of three not-for-profit organizations: KPMG Foundation, KPMG Disaster Relief Fund, and the PhD Project Association, which is a \$6 million collaborative effort between corporate and academic America to promote greater diversity in the business world.

Mr. Milano has been active with the Scouts for over a decade. The father of six and grandfather of another six, he and his wife, Sharon Pierson, understand the value of scouting in providing boys and young men with positive outlets for their energies and talents. Through scouting, they develop character and leadership skills and promote citizenship and fitness. This is only possible because people like Bernie Milano give of their time, their energy, and their resources. I commend him for his service to these boys.

NATIONAL TELEWORK WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today my colleague Rep. JOHN SARBANES is joining with me in introducing a resolution to promote the establishment of National Telework Week and provide an opportunity to encourage more employers to consider telework for their employees. Telework should be a regular part of the 21st century workplace. The best part of telework is that it improves the quality of life for all.

Nearly 20 million Americans telework today, and according to experts, at least 40 percent of American jobs are compatible with telework. Telework reduces traffic congestion and air pollution. It reduces gas consumption and our dependency on foreign oil. Telework is good for families—working parents have flexibility to meet everyday demands. Telework provides people with disabilities greater job opportunities. Telework helps fill our Nation's labor market shortage. It is also a good way for retirees to pick up part-time work.

Companies save significantly when they have a strong telecommuting program. At one national telecommunications company, nearly 25 percent of its employees work from home at least one day per week. The company found positive results in the way of fewer days of sick leave, better worker retention, higher productivity, and increased morale.

According to a George Mason University (Fairfax, VA) study, for every 1 percent of the Washington metropolitan region workforce that telecommutes, there is a 3 percent reduction in traffic delays. George Mason University completed another study which suggests that on Friday mornings there is a 2 to 4 percent drop in traffic volume in the Washington metro region, a so-called "Friday effect."

This is promising news because it means that with just a 1 to 2 percent increase in the number of commuters who leave their cars parked and instead telework just one or two days per week, we could get to the so-called "Friday effect" all week long.

Just a few weeks ago the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University released its annual traffic congestion study which calculates that congestion creates a \$78 billion annual drain on the U.S. economy due to 4.2 million lost hours of productivity and 2.9 billion gallons of wasted gas. That's not even considering the air pollutants caused by idling vehicles around the Nation.

I have stated before that work is something you do, not someplace you go. Hopefully we can make telework as commonplace as the morning traffic report. There is nothing magical about strapping ourselves into a car and driving sometimes up to an hour and a half, arriving at a workplace and sitting before a computer. We can access the same information from a computer in our living rooms. Wouldn't it be great if we could replace the evening rush hour commute with time spent with the family, or coaching little league or other important quality of life matters?

It is time that employers give telework a shot. National Telework Week is an ideal time for employers, for just one day during one week of the year to allow employees to work from home or an alternative work site. I know that telework may not work for every job. But, there are jobs today that lend themselves to telework for which employees make the trip into the office every day of the week. Resources abound to help employees and employers set up appropriate telework programs for their businesses. Calculations also can show savings to the environment, the employer and the employee.

I encourage everyone around the Nation to give telework a chance, find out what it's about and how it can help make your business, our environment and our communities better.

Madam Speaker, I hope our colleagues will consider signing on as a cosponsor of this resolution to promote telework and provide choices for employees and savings for employers.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF FAIRFIELD CITY MANAGER KEVIN O'ROURKE

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kevin O'Rourke, who has served the City of Fairfield, CA as city manager since 1997.

Mr. O'Rourke has dedicated over 30 years of his life to serving the public. After serving as the city manager for the cities of Stanton from 1981 to 1985 and Buena Park from 1985 to 1997, Mr. O'Rourke came to Fairfield, inspiring an unprecedented revitalization in the historic town.

During his tenure, Mr. O'Rourke spearheaded the effort to modernize the public services available in Fairfield as the city was undergoing a radical transformation. He helped to modernize both the police and fire departments, enabling them to serve a rapidly urbanizing and growing region. As a part of the project, he built new fire stations and increased personnel, guaranteeing 24/7 paramedic service and quality law enforcement to the entire population.

Always a friend to the business community, Mr. O'Rourke's creativity and vision helped to achieve the longest labor agreements in the State of California, guaranteeing a stable and positive environment for employee groups as they serve the residents of the community. In addition, his efforts brought a vibrant commercial center to the Cordelia area of Fairfield, something the residents had identified as a critical need.

As chairman of the Travis Community Consortium, his legislative efforts assured the continued livelihood and superiority of Travis Air Force Base, the largest air mobility organization in the Air Force. His hard work brought a squadron of C-17s to the base, enhancing its mission as the West Coast terminal for aeromedical evacuation aircraft returning sick or injured patients from the Pacific area.

Mr. O'Rourke also successfully coordinated city, county, and State resources to bring many projects to Fairfield such as a state of the art public library, a successful auto mall along Interstate 80—a project that had eluded the city for decades and brings needed sales tax revenues to the general fund—and numerous recreational facilities important for after school programs and neighborhood events.

Mr. O'Rourke's many accomplishments have immeasurably improved the city of Fairfield and enriched the lives of its residents. I would like to thank him for his years of public service and wish him success and happiness in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall votes 924, 925, and 926 on October 1, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 924, 925, and 926.

TO CONGRATULATE THE INDUCTION OF DR. LARRY HORNBECK OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INTO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the induction of Dr. Larry Hornbeck of Texas Instruments into the National Academy of Engineering.

Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer, recognizing important contributions to engineering theory and practice.

Dr. Hornbeck invented the Digital Micro-mirror Device, or DMD, an optical semiconductor that is at the core of Texas Instruments' Digital Light Processing technology. His career at TI spans 34 years.

Texas Instruments is in my District, and I am proud of the advances in computing that

they have made and am also proud of their contributions and outreach to Dallas.

The Federal Government, through its support of basic research, played a pivotal role in the creation of the DMD.

The foundation of this technology was developed through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Security Agency research in the 1970s to assist with target detection and recognition. In 1989, DARPA provided funds to investigate the technology's application to high-definition TV.

Today, DLP is the only American display technology. Each chip contains millions of tiny mirrors that move independently to display trillions of colors.

TI's DLP business employs roughly 1,000 people in the Dallas area. The technology is now moving beyond projectors, television and cinema, into applications such as 3-D medical imaging—for example, allowing improved imaging of organs and better treatments for targeting tumors.

The current and potential success of DMD technology illustrates the importance of federal investment in basic research to innovation.

Congratulations to Dr. Hornbeck on his induction into the NAE. I am proud to highlight his work as an example of the importance of the engineering profession to the economy of Texas and the United States.

CONGRATULATING LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONER ROBERT C. CORDARO, THE 2007 HONOREE OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Robert C. Cordaro, Commissioner of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was named "Man of the Year" by the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association.

Mr. Cordaro is a 1979 graduate of Dunmore High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, senior class president and a first team all league football player where he held the position of linebacker.

He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Rochester in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in history. At the University of Rochester, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He also was a member of the first team academic All-America Football Team where he held the position of linebacker.

In 1986, Mr. Cordaro graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Mr. Cordaro went on to work for United States Congressman Charles F. Dougherty, Republican, of Philadelphia, before becoming a practicing attorney.

He was a founder of Landmark Community Bank where he served as a member of its board of directors.

Mr. Cordaro is a partner in Cord Realty, the owner and manager of a diversified real estate portfolio.

Mr. Cordaro was elected to the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners in 2000 and

was re-elected in 2004 after which he was named to the chairmanship of that board.

In 2006, Lackawanna County was the recipient of the National Award for County Arts Leadership, a first for Pennsylvania counties due to a program established in part by Mr. Cordaro.

According to Americans for the Arts, an innovative Education and Culture fee was created to encourage and support artistic endeavors within Lackawanna County, revenues from which are used to fund regional arts assets as well as arts and education activities.

The Lackawanna County Commissioners dedicated funds from this revenue source to support the Scranton Cultural Center, the Everhart Museum and the Lackawanna County Library System. "We believe that fostering arts and cultural activities is critical to our area's revitalization and growth," said Mr. Cordaro.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Commissioner Cordaro. His commitment to his community is reflected in the fact that he has been chosen for this distinguished award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY WORKFORCE ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, it is no secret that health care costs in the United States are sharply increasing. Nor is it any longer a surprise to hear that the rate of chronic illnesses and diseases has been on the rise. Left unabated, the continuing rise in both preventable illnesses and health care costs will put even more pressure on our already fragile health care system and threatens to bankrupt our Federal budget. These trends also have alarming implications for employers, both directly in terms of costs for employer-provided health care plans and indirectly through higher rates of absenteeism.

With all of these concerns in mind, I rise today to introduce the Healthy Workforce Act of 2007. In so doing, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from California, Representative MARY BONO. I would also like to thank Senator HARKIN, who is truly a leader on preventive health care issues, and who is the original sponsor of this legislation in the Senate.

The Healthy Workforce Act of 2007 provides a tax credit to businesses that offer comprehensive wellness programs to their employees, thereby promoting prevention of high cost chronic diseases. This tax credit will encourage business to raise health awareness through health education and health risk assessments. It will promote a supportive environment to encourage employee participation in workplace wellness programs, through offering meaningful incentive to participating employees, such as a reduction in health insurance premiums. And it will encourage employees to lead a healthy lifestyle through counseling, seminars or on-line programs. Keeping workers healthy in the first place can go a long way to reducing the growing health care costs to employers.

And Madam Speaker, these increasing costs are significant to employers. Average