

lifelong friends, and she has virtually adopted two of our sons, Alan and Julian, as her own.

On Saturday, we will congratulate Judge Mason on her 89th birthday and thank her for nearly 70 years of public service. She has dedicated her life to serving her country and the people of South Carolina. I applaud my friend Judge Mason on this occasion and wish her the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was detained in my district and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, October 22, 2007, for H.R. 189 (rollcall No. 983), H.R. 523 (rollcall No. 984), and H. Res. 762 (rollcall No. 985). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of these measures.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICES INDUSTRY

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the buoyant U.S. services industry, an unsung American success story that will continue to ensure that our workforce is second to none in the global economy of the future.

Services impact every village, town, city, and State all across this country in nearly every sector of the economy. Just think about the services we all rely on: lawyers, doctors, bankers, insurance agents, accountants, nurses, college professors, restaurant workers, web designers, and software engineers. And there are many more service workers who touch our lives every day.

What is often lost in attention-grabbing headlines is that the United States has run a large trade surplus in services since 1971 with almost 90 percent of the \$72 billion surplus generated by business and professional services.

Services accounted for 77.8 percent of U.S. private sector gross domestic product in 2005, or \$8.5 trillion. The services industry remains the engine of growth in our economy and we must not take our eye off the ball.

The United States is also the world's largest and most competitive exporter of services. We have enjoyed surpluses in the services sector since the 1970s because U.S. companies are exporting a wide range of high-value services around the world that other nations value, like financial services, express package delivery, web hosting, or software design. We are second to none in the services sector against our international competitors. To keep our lead, we need to strive for fair and open markets around the world so that we can sell these services in other countries.

Close to 400 congressional districts have 70 percent or more of their workforce employed in the services industry. By 2012, 19.2 million new services jobs will be created, which would

account for 90 percent of all new job creation, according to the Coalition of Service Industries. This is a phenomenal achievement and clearly where our workforce of the future will come from.

In my home State of Florida and in my congressional district, some 85 percent of all our jobs stem from a wide variety of services. And we're growing. In 2002, there were 5.5 million Floridians involved in services employment. That number grew to 5.9 million by 2005. Between 2004 and 2005, Florida's exports of services grew 13 percent to \$23 billion.

Services are being used in areas that we could hardly dream of just a decade ago. With today's fast-changing technology, services are provided around the globe—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For instance, IBM, one of my constituents which employs nearly 1,200 highly skilled workers at its Boca Raton facility, is providing a host of innovative services from its south Florida hub, such as network services, integrated technology services, and e-business hosting.

To give you an example of the IBM skill set, the company is testing speech translation-based products in my district. One of the products currently undergoing testing is a "speech to speech" voice recognition translator with two-way real-time speech capability. IBM is donating this key technology to the U.S. Government to translate between Iraqi Arabic and English.

A user speaks into the system in one language, their speech is recognized, translated, and spoken in another language using a combination of IBM technologies. They are also donating 1,000 laptops or handheld devices plus 10,000 software licenses to support better communication between the U.S. military, Iraqi citizens, and aid organizations in Iraq. We sincerely appreciate this type of corporate commitment to our community.

Services are making the world more connected, allowing producers, consumers, and everyone in between to communicate and collaborate quickly and easily in every corner of the globe. Our service industries are constantly providing new ways to innovate, both here and abroad, to grow our economy.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the impact and importance of this growing, vital sector to our economy and to keep fair and open markets that service providers need to achieve even greater success in the skills-based knowledge economy of the future.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this effort to override the President's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

This legislation would provide health care coverage for 10 million American children, at

a cost of less than \$3.50 a day per child. The State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act is supported by individuals and organizations from across the political and ideological spectrum. It is supported by 81 percent of Americans, the majority of Congress, 43 Governors, and more than 270 organizations, including AARP, American Medical Association, and America's Health Insurance Plans.

The arguments against this bill are at best distorted and at worst flat wrong. This legislation targets low-income children, it utilizes private health insurance, and it is paid for. H.R. 976 is also a bipartisan compromise bill created with cooperation of the House, Senate, health care providers, and consumers. Most importantly, ensuring our children have health care is the right thing to do.

As a mom, it is unconscionable to me to choose not to provide health care for children in need. As a Member of Congress, I am disappointed, but not surprised, that this President has put politics before the health of America's families.

Investing in our children's health care must be a priority. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President's misguided veto of H.R. 976.

CONGRATULATING NEIL ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON MOVING INTO THEIR NEW FACILITY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, Neil Armstrong Elementary School in Port Charlotte, Florida is celebrating the first day of school for the second time this year. It is my honor to rise today to congratulate the resilient and determined staff, students, and parents of Neil Armstrong Elementary School as they move into their new permanent school facility.

On August 13, 2004, the school's campus was completely destroyed by Hurricane Charley. Immediately following the Hurricane, the students attended classes on a split shift arrangement at Liberty Elementary School until they moved into a temporary modular school on the grounds of Port Charlotte Middle School.

Today, the students and staff move in to a brand new 112,000 square foot school. The newly completed school has been built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, standards, which is a nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Neil Armstrong Elementary School is named in honor of the first man on the moon, Neil A. Armstrong. A replica of the space suit that he wore on his historic lunar voyage will be displayed in the lobby of the new school.

When Neil Armstrong took that first step on the moon, he understood the importance of his small step and how it represented the determination of mankind. Today, I am pleased to paraphrase Mr. Armstrong in recognizing that the first step on the new campus today represents a giant leap toward recovery from