

Management Plan, served as the initial director of Alabama Sea Grant, and served as a member of the board of directors of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. In addition, he serves on the board of the Alabama Coastal Foundation, grassroots, inc., Smart Coast, Inc., and Robinson Island Estuary Foundation. George also serves on the board of national advisers for Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, and he is a member of the Urban Land Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family, his friends, and the many students who have benefited from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab join me in extending thanks for his many years of distinguished service. On behalf of a grateful community and state, I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN SOLOMON  
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING YEARS  
OF SERVICE

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker and members of Congress, I rise to ask you to join me in recognizing the excellent service of someone many of the residents of the Longworth Building are familiar with—Mr. Ben Solomon, store manager in the House of Representatives.

For the residents of Longworth, Mr. Solomon was the quiet, unassuming friend who greeted us when we made a pit-stop to the store for an afternoon snack to get us through the rest of the day.

Mr. Solomon and his loyal co-workers, Jason and Veronica, took extra care to stock the store with the favorites of those who frequented the establishment.

I ask you to join me in extending our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Ben Solomon for his first-class service.

We are saying farewell on Friday, December 14, 2007 to a peaceful man, one who has not only dedicated his extraordinary service to us, but to his wife, three children and family members in Ethiopia.

Born on June 16, 1965 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mr. Solomon made his journey to the United States of America in 1982 for his quest to study and work to support his family.

Mr. Solomon studied engineering at the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland, College Park.

As one of his regular customers, I am honored to take this time to celebrate Mr. Solomon for his kind spirit and twenty years of dedication to guest services.

One of his employees said it best, when she said that Mr. Solomon will truly be remembered as “A person who gets along with everyone.”

Madam Speaker and members of Congress I congratulate Mr. Ben Solomon for his outstanding service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING QUALITY CABINETS/  
MASCO BUILDER CABINET  
GROUP ON OSHA STAR AWARD

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Quality Cabinets/Masco Builder Cabinet Group (MBCG) on earning the prestigious Star Award for the Volunteer Protection Program from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its outstanding safety performance and processes.

Quality Cabinets was founded by Charles Ladd in 1969 with three employees in a 7,500 square foot building in Duncanville, Texas. The company grew to add a location in Kentucky and another Texas facility in Cedar Hill. The Texas locations have a total of 1,259 employees. The company now is based in Adrian, Michigan and is part of the MBCG.

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) encourages employers to participate and improve their safety program to very high levels. Achieving the VPP Star award is the pinnacle in recognition for participants that exceed OSHA standards. Quality Cabinets are the first Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturing Company to achieve this exceptional feat.

Programs implemented in the Texas Quality Cabinets facilities include Management Leadership and Employee Involvement, Worksite Analysis for Safety Hazards, Prevent and Control Hazards, and Safety Knowledge training.

I am proud to represent Quality Cabinets/Masco Builder Cabinet Group for their outstanding efforts of both its management and employees on achieving exemplary occupational safety and health standards. The VPP Star Award is truly representative of Quality Cabinets dedication and commitment to safety.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4299, which revises and extends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) for 15 years. I commend Chairman FRANK and Congressman CAPUANO for their fine work in shepherding this critical legislation to the House floor. This act reminds us that the true measure of our homeland's preparedness against terrorist attack is our ability to prepare for such an attack comprehensively and that includes the insurance industry which is an essential part of our economic landscape.

Mr. Speaker, the horrendous events of September 11, 2001, tested our nation's ability to defend itself in many ways. Along with the human and emotional toll these events took on all Americans, we noticed that not only our government but also our private industries were not sufficiently prepared to deal with the

implications of a terrorist attack. Terrorist activity since September 1, 2001, has come to prove that our enemies are becoming more agile and technologically sophisticated. There is no doubt in my mind that terrorists are targeting not only our fellow citizens but also our critical infrastructure including our financial services sector, since they are determined to undermine the United States in the most fundamental of ways.

History has shown that Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations will explicitly direct their efforts against American citizens and property in an effort to inflict economic harm. According to a RAND policy brief, “there is reason to believe that al Qaeda is interested in continuing its efforts to disrupt the fiscal base of the United States by attacking its borders.” If al Qaeda and others are determined to strike our financial targets, public policymakers need to examine possible financial mechanisms to mitigate these effects.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4299 is a critical and timely legislative response to the fact that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their policies. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies. As a result, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act as a three year temporary program in 2002. The act created a federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses. In 2005, the measure was extended until 2007. TRIA is now set to expire at the end of this year, unless we today extend the law.

Since its enactment, TRIA has ensured the availability of affordable terrorism risk insurance in the marketplace and thereby fostered continued urban development and real estate development in the United States. While the TRIA program has successfully kept terrorism insurance affordable, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets' most recent report concluded that a private market for terrorism reinsurance is virtually nonexistent—especially with regard to nuclear biological chemical and radiological (NBCR) acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4299 because it provides federal backstop for private terrorism insurance. One of the strongest features of the bill is that it comes at no cost to the American taxpayer unless there is a terrorist attack.

The security of our country can not be ensured unless we make certain that the U.S. government works hand-in-hand with the private sector to confront terrorist threats. H.R. 4299 exemplifies this idea.

The bill before us is based on the idea that it is in the best interest of our country that the federal government coordinate with insurers to provide financial compensation to insured parties for losses from acts of terrorism. It will contribute to the stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill because I believe that extending TRIA for 15 years will contribute to the long-term stability of two critical American industries, the construction and real estate industries. The long-term stability it provides will allow both industries to engage in large-scale building projects in areas considered high-risk for terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, terrorist attacks target our country as a whole and not individual cities or