

designed to help eliminate future deadly food-borne illness outbreaks. The Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program shifted the responsibility for ensuring meat safety from USDA inspectors to the meat companies themselves and instituted microbial tests for harmful bacteria. Since the implementation of the HACCP regulations, however, controversy has erupted over whether the new rules place too much power in the hands of the meat industry to regulate itself.

Due to the huge political clout of the meatpacking industry, USDA does not have, nor seem to want, the power to issue mandatory recalls of tainted meat and poultry products. Complying with agency recalls, therefore, is at the industry's discretion. The meat industry says that it has never failed to cooperate with a recall request from the USDA, thus mandatory recalls of tainted meat are not needed. However, when USDA asks for a recall, a negotiation process ensues between the agency and the industry. Meanwhile, thousands of people could continue to eat potentially harmful meat. This is not a trivial matter. This is meat that is potentially contaminated and could result in death. From the time that contaminated meat or poultry is identified, there should not be a negotiating period. It should be recalled.

This is a question of accountability. Somebody must be held responsible for the quality and safety of the meat we consume. The government must ensure that the meatpacking industry produces only safe meat products. My bill will facilitate this need by amending the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. My bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to order the recall of meat and poultry that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe or tainted from the market. The time has come for this necessary step.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and the Republican Leader Mr. BOEHNER to congratulate the Congressional Management Foundation on its 30th anniversary. CMF has had a widespread and positive impact on this institution, and we are proud to applaud its efforts over the decades in applying its motto, "Good government through good management."

Founded in 1977, the Congressional Management Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to serving the Members of the House and Senate, as well as the institutional offices of the Congress, through staff management training, office facilitation services, publications on best practices, and technology research.

The idea for CMF was born out of the rapid growth of congressional offices in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Offices no longer were comprised of a single Member with a few support staff. Citizens had come to rely on Congress for a vast array of constituent services and expected rapid responses to questions and opinions on pending legislation.

Tom Bedell came to Washington to work in Congress in the 1970's to work for his father, Congressman Berkley Bedell from Iowa. He saw that, while Members of Congress could be brilliant legislators and great communicators, they were often overwhelmed by the management challenges of running up to four offices and a staff of twenty. Along with Dr. Len Hirsch, an organizational development consultant, Tom founded CMF and they began offering programs on enhancing efficiencies in office budgeting, managing constituent correspondence, and hiring staff.

Working with staff organizations such as the House Chiefs of Staff Association, CMF expanded its programs in the 1980's and 1990's, training hundreds of senior managers on everything from how to perform high quality personnel reviews to how to conduct difficult conversations with their staff and their bosses. With the help of CMF's strategic planning services, scores of Members of Congress have clarified their goals, enhanced their effectiveness at serving constituents and improved staff morale.

CMF strives to help congressional offices get off on the right foot even before the swearing-in ceremony. In 1984, CMF wrote the first edition of *Setting Course: A Congressional Management Guide*. This book, which is revised for every Congress and distributed within days of the election, is now a staple for freshmen Members and veterans alike. They also produced a companion, *Frontline Management: A Guide for Running Congressional District/State Offices*. Additionally, for 20 years CMF has been offering an orientation program to introduce new senior staff to the basics of hiring staff, creating a budget and setting up an office while their bosses are struggling to learn the nuances of parliamentary procedure and committee assignments.

CMF was also the first organization to create salary and employment studies for Capitol Hill, providing Members and senior managers with useful benchmarks to aid in the office budgeting process.

In the last few years CMF has been an invaluable resource as Congress has adopted new technology to respond to the dramatic increase in communications and citizen advocacy as a result of the Internet. It partnered with distinguished universities, such as George Washington University, Harvard University, Ohio State University and the University of California-Riverside, to offer guidance on how to design congressional Web sites and be more responsive to constituents online. Their Gold Mouse Awards for superior Web sites have become coveted commodities on Capitol Hill.

Also in the last few years CMF has helped respond to a House request for perhaps one of its most important projects in its 30-year history: helping to design a 10-year information technology roadmap for the House of Representatives.

Thanks in part to CMF, Congress has a more professionalized workforce with better morale and performance. And the American people get a better government when our democratic institutions are more efficient and effective.

We thank all of the current and past supporters, leaders, and staff of the Congressional Management Foundation who believe in the Congress and the people who work here, and who feel that we truly can achieve "good

government through good management." We congratulate them on 3 decades of outstanding service to the Congress and the Nation. And we wish them success in the decades to come.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2008

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 930 and especially in support of Brown Mackie College in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, there is a huge need for highly skilled workers, and Brown Mackie College plays a critical role in helping our region meet this demand. Each year they provide thousands of students opportunities to "skill up," so that they can better contribute to local employers and better provide for their families.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the top 20 fastest growing occupations in our country are supplied by career and technical education. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that nearly three-quarters of employers struggle to hire qualified workers. Clearly the need for career and technical education is severe, and we in Congress must do what we can to encourage its growth.

In northeast Indiana—as in the rest of the country—a high quality education is critical to obtaining a good, well-paying job. While northeast Indiana is still a manufacturing center of the country, these jobs are becoming increasingly more high-tech and require higher levels of skills and training. Schools like Brown Mackie College are helping prepare students for these changes.

Mr. Speaker, as competition in our global economy continues to grow more fierce, career and technical education is essential to preparing a well-educated, skilled workforce. I ask that my colleagues join with me in expressing support for Brown Mackie College and schools like it. They are critical to the future of northeast Indiana, and they are critical to the future of our country.

HONORING MR. PHIL DRAKE OF DRAKE ENTERPRISES FOR YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Phil Drake, a constituent of North Carolina's 11th District and the owner of Drake Enterprises.

Drake Enterprises was founded in Franklin, NC, in 1954 by Mr. Drake's father. At the time, the business focused on helping individuals prepare their taxes. When Phil took over the family business in the 1970s, he shifted the company's focus to the development of tax preparation computer software.

Today, that small business started by one man employs more than 300 people in Western North Carolina and Drake software is used by over 20,000 tax professionals across the Nation. In 2006 alone, Drake software delivered over 6 million Federal returns and 5 million State returns.

But, Phil Drake's success extends far beyond his business savvy and entrepreneurial spirit.

Phil has implemented a set of core principles at Drake Enterprises that are an excellent model for all to follow. Those core principles include: a commitment to follow Biblical principles, motivating and helping employees achieve their maximum potential, and rewarding employees for excellence and loyalty.

Phil has not limited those principles to his business; he has shared them with the community. Whether working to bring high-speed Internet access to the mountains through Balsam West Fiber Net, in his church, or being the drive behind Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, Phil Drake has been a leader in every sense of the word.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Phil Drake and thanking him for his service to his community and our country.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE KEATHLEY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mike Keathley, of Dexter, Missouri, for his noble service to the people of Missouri. Because of Mike's expertise and leadership, Missouri State government works better and more effectively for all citizens.

Mike has always possessed a deep sense of community and true desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. As Commissioner of Office of Administration for the State of Missouri, Mike has done more than any other person to improve the State's budget situation and ensure government is delivered more responsibly and effectively to all citizens. I know Mike personally and can attest to the fact that his dedication and steadfast leadership are responsible for making these improvements possible.

Mike has played a crucial role in bettering lives in the private sector as well. He has served admirably on the Board of Directors of numerous companies and associations, including the Dexter Memorial Hospital and his church, the First United Methodist Church of Dexter. I am confident his successes have been closely observed and duplicated throughout our community and State. Mike serves as a tremendous role model for all Missourians, especially those among the younger generation beginning new careers, whether they be in the public sector or private sector.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mike Keathley for his many achievements and the profound impact he has made on his community, State and Nation. I ask that you join me along with Mike's family, friends and the entire State of Missouri in paying tribute to his remarkable career.

BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION CON-
DEMNING IRAN'S PERSECUTION
OF BAHAI'S

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague ROB ANDREWS, I am introducing a bipartisan resolution to condemn Iran's continued persecution of its Baha'i minority.

In 2006, Iran's Armed Forces Command Headquarters ordered the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the Police Force to identify members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran and monitor their activities.

In that same year, we saw the largest roundup of Baha'is since the 1980s. The Iranian Interior Ministry ordered provincial officials to "cautiously and carefully monitor and manage" all Baha'i social activities. The Central Security Office of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered to be a Baha'i.

In 2007, the situation worsened. More than two-thirds of the Baha'is enrolled in universities were expelled once identified as Baha'is. Police entered Baha'i homes and businesses to collect details on family members.

Twenty-five industries were ordered to deny licenses to Baha'is. Employers were pressured to fire Baha'i employees and banks were instructed to refuse loans to Baha'i-owned businesses. Baha'i cemeteries were destroyed.

In November 2007, three Baha'i youths were detained for educating underprivileged children. The following month, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code, requiring the death penalty for all "apostates"—a term applied to Baha'is and any convert away from Islam.

This government-sponsored persecution must end. The world cannot be silent as Iran prepares to ethnically cleanse its Baha'i minority.

I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this bipartisan resolution condemning Iran's persecution of the Baha'is, calling for the immediate release of three Baha'i youths and calling on Iran to reject a recent draft Islamic penal code requiring the death penalty for all "apostates."

TRIBUTE TO HAL BRUNO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Hal Bruno—an individual that most of you will know best for his 50-year career as a professional journalist whose integrity and trust earned him the respect and approbation of his peers and politicians alike. Today, however, I'd like to recognize another, perhaps lesser known, side of Hal—his more than 30-year commitment to the men and women of the fire service.

Recently, Hal Bruno announced that he was stepping down as Chairman of the National

Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the organization established by the Congress to honor our fallen heroes and assist their families and co-workers. It was with deep regret that the board of directors accepted his resignation. Since 1993, Hal has served with distinction on the board of directors, the last seven as chairman. For Hal and his lovely wife, Meg, the Foundation is that ray of light that has guided family members of fallen firefighters through their dark journeys.

When a firefighter falls in the line of duty, Hal likens it to losing a family member. Long after the death, Hal has always been there to provide comfort and assistance to the family members, no matter how long it takes for them to regain their strength and move ahead with their lives. The Foundation and the fire service, itself, are fortunate to have had a leader with such compassion and dedication as my friend, Hal Bruno.

Always humble, Hal has always been one to credit the professional staff of the Foundation for the positive impact the Foundation has made on the people it serves—family members of our fallen heroes. But Hal, through his leadership, inspiration and selfless dedication—set the course of the Foundation in a new direction, resulting in a tremendous growth of the Foundation's programs during his years as chairman. Those of us involved with the fire service are pleased to hear that he will continue to serve as an active member of the board of directors.

To both Hal and Meg Bruno, I extend my personal thanks and the thanks and gratitude of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, for their dedication to our first responders, and, especially, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to Hal and congratulating him upon his retirement and a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL COSTELLO

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special person, Mr. Paul Costello, for his outstanding work with young men and women from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In organizing the Washington-Ireland Program for Service and Leadership, Paul has used his boundless energy, enthusiasm and passion for peace to bring together students from varying backgrounds to learn about one another as they also gain valuable work experience in our Nation's Capital. Promoting cultural understanding among the next generation has united students to face the challenges of the future together, in keeping with the spirit of the Northern Ireland peace process.

I have been fortunate to host young men and women from the Washington-Ireland Program in my Congressional office during the summer months. I have been impressed with their commitment to positive change as well as their strong desire to develop leadership skills they can put to use when they return home. As a result of Paul Costello's vision and dedication, more than 350 young graduates