

Sebes, a beloved figure in Cleveland area politics and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. This past June we gathered to celebrate Chuck's retirement after 20 years of service as Parma Democratic City Ward Leader.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Charles Sebes, upon the occasion of his retirement after 20 years of service as the Parma Democratic City Ward Leader. His unwavering dedication to the Party, to his community, and to the rights of working men and women is framed by honor and integrity.

Chuck has spent hundreds of hours volunteering on numerous political campaigns and causes throughout his life. During the past 30 years, Chuck has taken an active role in organizing the Northern Ohio Labor Day Parade. As Secretary of Parma Southwest Cope, Chuck has chaired the reverse raffle committee for the past 25 years. He has also been the Chairman of Parma's Democratic Steak Roast for 20 years. Chuck's devotion and enthusiasm consistently inspire those around him and has made all of these events successful.

During his 22 years of employment with the National Tool Company, Chuck served as President of the United Steel Workers of America, Local 4827. Governor Richard Celeste appointed Chuck to the Ohio Regional Board of Review for Worker's Compensation. In 1991, Martin Vittardi, Clerk of Parma Municipal Court, appointed Chuck to be the Chief Deputy Clerk of Court. His friendship is coveted not only by myself and Marty, but by numerous individuals whose lives have been touched by his energetic spirit, kindness and loyalty.

As Chief Deputy and Supervisor, his colleagues and staff know him to be a man who is passionate about all aspects of his life. They respect Chuck for his fairness and for being a man of his word. He believes that patience is a virtue and was reassuring that a task would get done, never hesitating to become part of the solution. They appreciate Chuck for always looking out for their best interest, fighting for what they deserve and for being valued by him. His reputation for being a prankster and for his colorful way of telling a joke is legendary. Chuck is a wise and generous man and he is a true friend to the people in his life.

Evelyn, his wife of 52 years, and their wonderful family have sustained Chuck with a lifetime of support. Joe, Jim, Janet and Joyce, have blessed them with seven grandchildren. Chuck and Evelyn's children and grandchildren continue to be their pride and joy.

CARIBBEAN LEADERS READY TO NEGOTIATE AT CARICOM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a July 1, 2008 New York Carib News article entitled: "Saint Vincent and the Grenadines PM wants LIAT, Caribbean Airlines Collaboration." The article attests to the combined Caribbean effort to forge business ties with partners in the U.S. financial community.

There is a new way of thinking about air service to the Caribbean. "We have to think

large and we have to think in a strategic sense with these matters," said Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves. He has suggested that the Antigua based airline LIAT become a subsidiary of Caribbean Airlines and essentially create a "nexus." In the future he believes that Air Jamaica and Bahamas Air will join the collaboration to create a regional airline service.

These plans were largely facilitated at the New York CARICOM Conference. The conference provided a medium through which Caribbean leaders could propose their vision for the economic reshaping of the Caribbean.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was delayed by traffic on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, and I missed two votes on the House floor.

However, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3981—To authorize the Preserve America Program and Save America's Treasures Program, and for other purposes; and "yea" on H.R. 1423—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease a portion of a visitor center to be constructed outside the boundary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter County, Indiana, and for other purposes.

ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3195, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. I am very pleased that the House is considering this important legislation, and I urge our friends in the Senate to swiftly take action on it as well.

As it stands now, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) leaves too many Americans at an unfair disadvantage. Many workers who suffer from debilitating diseases such as epilepsy or cancer are being discriminated against in the workplace but are denied redress by the courts. No one should be denied employment or be fired from his or her job because of a disability, but the Supreme Court has on multiple occasions interpreted the law in a way that opens the door to this possibility. In fact, plaintiffs lost 97 percent of ADA employment discrimination claims in 2004 alone, often due to the interpretation of the definition of "disability."

The starkest demonstration of this problem is found in *Toyota Motor Manufacturing v. Williams*, which the Supreme Court considered in 2002. The majority decision in this case held that the ADA's language regarding the extent of disability must be strictly interpreted so that legal protections from discrimination would apply only to those whose disabilities are long-term or permanent, and substantially limit their ability to perform routine tasks.

This was not the intent of the ADA. Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 to clearly and comprehensively eliminate discrimination against all individuals with disabilities. Since that time, the ADA has transformed our Nation, helping millions of Americans with disabilities succeed in the workplace, and making transportation, housing, buildings, and services more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The bill we are considering today restores the original intent of Congress by rejecting the Supreme Court decisions that have reduced protections for people with disabilities. Additionally, the legislation clarifies the definition of "disability" to include what it means to be "substantially limited in a major life activity." The legislation also prohibits the consideration of mitigating measures such as medication, prosthetics, and assistive technology in determining whether an individual has a disability, and provides coverage to people who experience discrimination based on a perception of impairment regardless of whether the individual does in fact have a disability.

The most important factor for a court to weigh in on a discrimination case should be the allegation itself—not the extent or nature of a worker's disability. This is not what every day Americans stand for, and this is not what Congress meant when the law was originally enacted.

By more clearly defining the term "disabled," we will be able to free up the courts in the future to focus on alleged acts of discrimination and better protect the American workers for whom this law was enacted.

I urge my colleagues to join the broad coalition of civil rights groups, disability advocates, and employer trade organizations who support this bill and vote with me to stop discrimination against individuals with disabilities by restoring the original intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN CRUISE SHIP ACT OF 2008

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, many Americans enjoy taking cruises, in large part because they get to see some of the Nation's most beautiful marine ecosystems. Cruise ships have the potential to bring these beautiful locations to many people, but these people also have an expectation that the ship that transports them will not damage the environments that they are visiting. Because I want to see these beautiful marine ecosystems protected for future generations to enjoy, I am introducing the Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2008.

The Cruise Ship Industry has experienced much success over the past 18 years and has been growing at a rate of 5 percent per year. U.S. ports handled 8.6 million cruise embarkations which accounted for 75 percent of global passengers. Unfortunately, as it grows, its potential to negatively affect the marine environment grows as well.

Cruise ships are floating cities, with large cruise ships routinely carrying more than 3,000 passengers and crew. Right now a new 225,000 gross-ton cruise ship is being built