

loans. I am a strong supporter of making college more accessible for everyone, and am pleased that the bill invests \$90 million in North Dakota for the Pell Grant program. This increased level of funding means that 17,143 student will be eligible for a Pell Grant award in the 2010–2011 academic year, an increase of 37 percent over the 12,467 North Dakota students eligible in the 2007–2008 school year. And by 2019, the number of students receiving Pell Grants will nearly double from 2007–2008 levels to 21,410. Under this legislation, the maximum Pell Grant scholarship will ultimately reach \$6,900 by 2019, representing over a 45 percent increase in the maximum Pell Grant Award over the next 10 years from today's maximum Pell Grant level of \$4,731. This is good news for students.

However, there are a few issues of remaining concern with H.R. 3221. First, I strongly believe that student loans should be affordable. I have heard concerns from several North Dakota institutions that under the new Direct Perkins loans program, students are required to pay interest accrued on Direct Perkins loans while they are in school. The final proposal of this bill must weigh these concerns with the number of new students who will enter the Perkins loan program as a result of increasing the loan authority of this program.

Second, it is important to ensure that rural and rural-serving community colleges receive their fair share of funding from the new Higher Education Federal Assistance for Community College Modernization and Construction program. Rural and rural-serving colleges face unique challenges in providing critical educational opportunities for our nation's rural students, and should receive an appropriate portion of the funding provided under this program. I also believe that the Veterans Resource Officer Grant program should be modified to better ensure that rural and small schools have access to this program.

Third, as the only state-owned bank in the country, the Bank of North Dakota should continue to be allowed to provide student loans. The Bank of North Dakota currently serves about 75 percent of North Dakota students and has been a wonderful partner for students and their families. The Bank of North Dakota's service should not be disrupted. This is why I led an amendment that was made in order that ensures that non-profit entities like the Bank of North Dakota can continue to provide valuable student borrower services, including delinquency prevention, default aversion, and loan counseling. In addition, I appreciate Chairman MILLER'S commitment on the floor to work with me in conference to ensure that this important institution will continue to have a role in federal student lending programs.

Having received the Chairman's assurances to work together on these issues in conference, I am going to vote to move this bill forward. I hope by furthering this bill, we can build on its historic investments in the Pell Grant program and strengthen its provisions for North Dakota schools and students.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN TRACY
FOR BEING NAMED THE 2009 AG-
RICULTURIST OF THE YEAR BY
THE KERN COUNTY FAIR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Tracy of Buttonwillow, California, the recipient of the 2009 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Kern County Fair.

A fourth generation Californian, John Tracy was born in Bakersfield in 1947, the third of four sons to Tilton and Kathryn Tracy. John attended Wildwood Grammar School and graduated in 1965 from Wasco High School, where he was active in athletics and student government. Immediately following high school, Mr. Tracy attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, earning a degree in Farm Management in 1969. While at Cal Poly, Mr. Tracy met his wife, Donna Allen. They married in 1970 and have two children, Allen and Jessica.

Mr. Tracy is a member of the Historic Tracy Ranch, established in 1862 in Buttonwillow. He is also a founding partner of the Buttonwillow Land and Cattle Company. Primarily an agricultural operation, the enterprise has ventured into other business interests such as commercial property, a hotel, and a feedlot in Texas. Mr. Tracy's business sense and work ethic are excellent examples of his fine character and success.

Mr. Tracy is involved with several community and professional organizations including the Kern County Cattleman's Association, California Cattleman's Association, National Cattleman's Beef Association, California Feeders Association, California Beef Council, Cattle PAC and the Kern County Ag Foundation. He also has been active in the Buttonwillow Lions Club, Kern County Law Enforcement Association, Pismo Beach Moose Lodge, Los Flojos and Rancheros Visitadores. Mr. Tracy also served as Mayor of Buttonwillow in 1982.

Mr. Tracy has been involved with the Kern County Fair throughout his life. He showed animals during his youth, and then helped his children, as well as countless others, do the same. His family's support of the junior livestock auction is also a testament to Mr. Tracy's contributions to the Kern County Fair and the community.

John Tracy is a man of integrity, honesty and compassion. He genuinely cares for his community and is willing to share his vast knowledge with others. In addition, he and I share the same passion for the well-being of California's San Joaquin Valley. For this and so much more, I am honored to consider John Tracy a friend and certainly commend him for all his accomplishments and extend my most sincere congratulations for receiving this prestigious award from the Kern County Fair. As a respected agriculturalist in our nation, it is fitting and proper that John be so honored.

NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN TURKEY AND ARMENIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, on August 31, 2009, the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Armenia announced their intention to normalize relations. The leaders of these two countries, working together with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, have agreed to begin discussions that will culminate in the signing of two protocols within the next six weeks. The protocols will then be submitted to the respective Parliaments for ratification on each side. These two protocols provide for a framework for the normalization of relations, including the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of the common border.

This development has significant implications not only for Turkey and Armenia, but for the entire Caucasus region, which has had a turbulent and sometimes troubled history. The successful efforts of Turkey and Armenia to open borders, develop trade relations and other economic benefits, and create a long-lasting dialogue will serve to promote peace and stability throughout the region. I believe that we all should welcome this development and strongly support it.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the leadership of Turkey and Armenia and encourage these two nations to work diligently in the weeks ahead to create a framework that will advance peaceful and fruitful relations for many years to come.

HONORING KENNEDY CHILD
STUDY CENTER

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Kennedy Child Study Center to commemorate its remarkable contributions to the youth of America. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Kennedy Child Study Center has helped thousands of children overcome major developmental obstacles. Through a wide range of programs, the Kennedy Child Study Center, and its highly qualified staff, have provided children with guidance and encouragement. For this, the Kennedy Child Study Center and its staff, both present and past, are deserving of recognition.

The Kennedy Child Study Center has done much for the communities in Manhattan and the Bronx in New York City. Over the past half-century, thousands of children have been given the opportunity to receive the proper care, education and social interactions they deserve through the Kennedy Child Study Center. This organization fully understands the significance early diagnosis of learning disabilities has on a child's achievements in school and everyday life. Through preschool and early intervention programs they are able to detect developmental problems and then provide the proper guidance and developmental assistance. They offer a wide spectrum of programs to enhance a child's lifestyle. A few examples of these services include special early

childhood education, physical therapy, nursing, psychological testing and music and art supervision. As the Kennedy Child Study Center celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is a great time to reflect on all the positive work its organization has done for the youth of America and to look towards a future where children with developmental disabilities have access to quality care and educational success.

The dedicated work of the Kennedy Child Study Center is inspiring to us all, and I am immensely grateful to them for all that they have accomplished. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for their extensive contributions to society.

ADVANCED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3246) to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009. I commend our colleague from Michigan, Representative GARY PETERS, for authoring this important legislation, which will create the most comprehensive national vehicle research and development program to date. I would also like to acknowledge my colleague from the Illinois delegation, Representative JUDY BIGGERT, for her efforts in working with Representative PETERS to bring this bill to the floor.

Today, our nation faces many serious challenges such as rising unemployment, energy demands that continue to increase exponentially, fierce global competition in technology innovation and the threat of a warming planet, yet the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act provides hope in many of these areas. As one of the largest and busiest bases of manufacturing in the U.S., my home state of Illinois stands to greatly benefit from H.R. 3246. New opportunities are created for Illinois engine and equipment manufacturers, such as John Deere, to build and use products that excel in terms of efficiency and productivity, and contribute to our sustainability. The bill also ensures that American manufacturers remain competitive worldwide by allowing for the collaboration between the Department of Energy and American automakers and commercial, transit, and non-road vehicle manufacturers to develop cutting edge, environmentally friendly technologies.

Additionally, I strongly urge the passage of Chairman GORDON's amendment to H.R. 3246, that includes a small—but important—change to this measure that I authored, which broadens the playing field for those wanting to collaborate with the Department of Energy under this program to include non-road mobile equipment manufacturers. I believe this

change in language is critical as many states have petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency with their concerns over greenhouse gas emissions from non-road vehicles and have stated that these vehicles and pieces of equipment are worthy of consideration for partnership with the Department of Energy. Put simply, this amendment makes a great bill even better by allowing manufacturers of non-road mobile equipment in the fields of agriculture, construction and mining and forestry a chance to work with the Department of Energy to find innovative ways to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and the harmful emissions that cause global warming.

The Gordon amendment and the overall bill both help keep American innovation within U.S. borders, and importantly do the same for the research, development and manufacturing jobs that come with those innovations. Furthermore, this bill has the support of a broad range of groups such as Deere & Company, Caterpillar, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club. The wide array of support this bill has drawn from both ends of the spectrum is evidence of the need for this legislation to become law.

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act creates and preserves American jobs while having the potential to greatly impact our environment. Again, I applaud and thank my friends GARY PETERS and JUDY BIGGERT, who serve on the Science and Technology Committee for leading the charge on this important legislation. I would also like to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their support of this bill. Madam Speaker, I urge the House to adopt both the Gordon amendment and H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009.

SAFETY CENTER INCORPORATION
CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the civic leaders, city officials and community members who have contributed to making Safety Center Incorporation a success for the past 75 years. This organization started in 1934 and has created a number of innovative programs to help educate thousands of people around the Sacramento area regarding safety on and off the road. I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting Safety Center Inc. on the 75th anniversary of their founding.

Since its inception, Safety Center Inc. (SCI), formerly known as Sacramento Safety Council, has created several safety training programs for children, teens, disabled adults and seniors. In 1935, 1 year after establishing the organization, SCI conducted its first safe driving training to Sacramento High School students; and in 1936, SCI opened a traffic school for teens. By means of this traffic school program, young drivers were able to use the SCI testing device to learn how quickly they would react in potential driving sce-

narios. After much excitement between the 1930s and 1950s, the SCI was formally incorporated into the State of California in 1959.

In the 1970s, SCI continued to expand its horizons. On December 9, 1971, SCI authorized the establishment of a drinking and driving program. One week after SCI authorized this program, the State mandated that drunk drivers attend remedial classes, in order to help prevent future drivers from this illegal and unsafe driving behavior. Due to a high Spanish-speaking population, the organization offered Spanish-language defensive driving courses, as well as Courts Alcohol Re-Education (CARE) programs by the mid-1970s.

Within the last quarter-century, Safety Center Inc. has educated more than 2,000 teens in defensive driving techniques, almost 900 seniors in mature driving and more than 600 students in motorcycle riding safety. To include children in their efforts to keep all Californians safe, SCI established a life-saving safety education center known as Safetyville. Children, preschool through third grade, are taken on a tour through a town-like setting, in which they learn fire, pedestrian, stranger danger and railroad safety precautions. This children's program has provided life-saving safety education and training to more than 125,000 children since 1984.

On September 26, 2009, SCI will celebrate 75 years of stability, innovation and of course, safety. I am honored to congratulate and its members who have helped train and protect thousands of people. Madam Speaker, as my constituents gather to celebrate the Safety Center Inc.'s 75th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the organization's monumental history and success.

RECOGNIZING THE HUBBARD
FAMILY

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH I rise to offer gratitude to the heroism and strength of the Hubbard family.

Jeff and Peggy Hubbard lost their son Jared, a Marine, in Iraq in 2004. Six months later, their remaining two sons, Nathan and Jason, both enlisted together in the Army—to honor Jared and serve their country.

Both Nathan and Jason served in the same unit in Iraq. In August of 2006, Nathan lost his life while defending freedom, leaving Jason as the remaining sole survivor of his family.

Since then, the Hubbard family has shown grace and strength during these most difficult of times. Because of their sacrifice, in 2008, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the Hubbard Act which provides benefits to those soldiers who separate honorably as a sole survivor.

The Hubbards have shared the burden of service to this Nation with honor and focused resolve.

Today, I ask that this legislative body recognize the strength of their family, the bravery of Jared and Nathan and the ultimate sacrifice they paid for our country.