

HONORING THE LIFE OF EMMA  
BATES

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the memory of Emma Bates from Riviera Beach, Florida. Mrs. Bates passed away on October 9, 2011, following a year-long battle with stomach cancer. Previously, she had beaten both breast and colon cancer, attesting to the strength and perseverance that drove Mrs. Bates throughout her life.

Mrs. Bates moved from her native Baxley, Georgia to the Glades area in Florida as a child. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach. After graduation, she enrolled in several business management courses at what is now known as Palm Beach State College and later found an interest in cosmetology. It was not long until she opened her own hair salon, the Intimate Salon of Beauty in Riviera Beach. Mrs. Bates was believed to have been the first licensed African-American beautician in Palm Beach County.

She was known by many in the community as an activist who worked tirelessly for what she believed was right and in the best interest of the Riviera Beach community. She served as the chairwoman of the Citizens Task Force and was a campaign manager for multiple candidates, including a successful campaign for City Council in 2007.

Mrs. Bates was a woman who was truly loved by her community and worked hard for what she believed in. I am deeply saddened by her passing, which is more than a personal loss, but also a loss for the community that she fought for and inspired. Her selfless efforts will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Mrs. Bates' family and friends during this most difficult time. Her memory will live on and she will be dearly missed.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH  
BIRTHDAY OF TAKAYOSHI OSHIMA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American innovator and entrepreneur, Mr. Takayoshi Oshima. On the occasion of his 70th birthday, which he celebrated last month, I would like to take this opportunity to herald Mr. Oshima's many achievements in the field of business and technology—achievements that have helped establish Silicon Valley, which I am proud to represent, as the international center of IT research and development.

Born in Tochigi, Japan on September 17, 1941, Mr. Oshima moved to the United States with the support of generous benefactors to pursue an engineering degree at the University of Florida. He began his studies with little English fluency, but he studied hard and excelled academically, demonstrating early the

high standards to which he has held himself throughout his life. Upon graduating, he was recruited by ITT to work in Puerto Rico. Restless for new challenges and opportunities, Mr. Oshima returned to Florida to study business after which he joined the esteemed ranks of the technology industry's earliest and most promising pioneers. He worked for the legendary Fairchild Semiconductor company, where he and his colleagues like Dr. Robert Noyce, Dr. Gordon Moore, and Dr. Andy Grove helped start what today has become Silicon Valley. He would later take on senior technical, marketing, and managerial roles at Advanced Micro Devices and Ungermann-Bass.

Taki currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Allied Telesis Holdings KK which he founded in San Jose, CA in 1987. Internationally recognized for developing sophisticated data networks used in high performance and high reliability applications, Allied Telesis today employs over 2,400 people in 23 countries around the world. At 70, he remains committed to leading a company on the cutting edge of technological innovation. He is personally motivated to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges: improving health care, homeland security, and transportation through more advanced technologies.

Mr. Oshima has not only distinguished himself in engineering and business; he is also a respected leader in the San Francisco Bay Area's Japanese American community. He is a committed family man—a proud father to two daughters and one son and a doting grandfather to four grandsons.

As a fellow Californian, as a Japanese American, and as a friend, I am proud today to pay tribute to Mr. Oshima for his contributions to America's technological advancement and economic growth. Although his modesty would seek to convince you otherwise, Mr. Oshima is among Silicon Valley's most successful and transformative entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and applaud Mr. Takayoshi Oshima for his outstanding achievements and his passion to discover and foster untapped potential in every frontier. He is a true American pioneer.

MS. MARIE PAGE

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Marie Page, president of Marie Page Cleaning Services, for her entrepreneurial spirit. Ms. Page started her business in residential cleaning and janitorial service in 1989. She proved herself as a legitimate business owner through hard work and determination. Marie Page Cleaning Services LLC is certified by the State of Pennsylvania as a woman-owned business enterprise.

Ms. Page's company is affiliated with the not-for-profit organization, Cleaning for a Reason, through which Marie Page Cleaning Services provides free cleaning for women undergoing cancer treatment—something we should note during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Page shows her good heart as a business owner as she still offers compensation to her employees but donates the supplies and serv-

ices. Marie Page has made her presence known as a businesswoman as well as her community efforts. It is for these reasons that I commend her.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of this woman and her enterprising spirit in the face of adversity and in a difficult business climate. It is citizens such as Marie Page that make Northeastern Pennsylvania a wonderful place to live and work. As a former small business owner, I understand the concerns of starting a business, and Ms. Page has turned her start-up company into a successful and philanthropic organization that I am sure has a very bright future.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE  
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLE-  
MENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 11, 2011*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, the free trade agreement between the United States and Colombia means jobs. If you are looking for bright spots in the U.S. economy, our trading relationship with Colombia is one of them. Even though we have been operating under a handicap to competitors like Argentina because of higher tariffs and duties, American exports to Colombia have been growing. Our exports last year were worth \$12.1 billion, up 26 percent, and the International Trade Commission estimates this agreement will increase exports by at least another \$1.1 billion.

Each of those exports supports jobs in the United States, not to mention jobs in the State of Alabama. Colombia is one of Alabama's best export markets in this hemisphere, and it is an excellent customer for high-value manufactured products like machinery and transportation equipment. Our former Governor Bob Riley demonstrated the importance of the partnership when he led a trade delegation to Colombia in 2009, and it is my view that this agreement will create even more opportunities for mutually beneficial trade.

Colombia is a strategic ally committed to a free market economy. Working together, our governments have made progress in addressing the scourge of narcotics. The Colombian government has also instituted major labor reforms, and the labor provisions in this agreement reflect the government's commitment to protect those rights. For the record, I am submitting information I received from the Colombian Ambassador to the U.S. regarding the Action Plan on labor protections.

The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will open up new avenues of cooperation between our two countries, and provide an immediate boost to our farmers, the textile industry, our energy industry, and our manufacturers to name just a few. It is a win-win agreement and I am pleased to support it.

THIRD PARTY VALIDATORS

COLOMBIA HAS ACHIEVED ALL OF THE ACTION  
PLAN MILESTONES

September 15 Milestones: "Colombia continues to meet its milestones for the action plan."—Deputy USTR Miriam Sapiro, September 23, 2011.

June 15 Milestones: "The Action Plan is designed to significantly increase labor protections in Colombia, and we are pleased

that Colombia is meeting its commitments. We are eager to see Congress move the Colombia trade agreement forward as soon as possible (. . .).”—USTR Ron Kirk, June 13, 2011.

April 22 Milestones: U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk sent a letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees “indicating that Colombia has taken the necessary steps, consistent with the April 22 milestones outlined in the Action Plan, to move to the next stage in the process.”—USTR Ron Kirk, May 4, 2011.

**COLOMBIA IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK: PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS AND THE RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS**

“On September 8, 2011, the Department of State determined and certified to Congress that the Colombian Government is meeting statutory criteria related to human rights.”—U.S. State Department, September 15, 2011.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Committee that has monitored Colombia since 1985, excluded Colombia in June 2010 and again this year from the list of countries that need special monitoring.—ILO, June 2011.

For the first time in more than a decade, Colombia has been selected as a titular member of the ILO Governing Body for the 2011–2014 term. Colombia was elected with 96 percent of votes from the tripartite delegations of 182 countries around the world.—ILO, June 2011.

**COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND LABOR UNIONS: WORKING HAND IN HAND**

An effective Three-Party Agreement was signed by the Colombian Government, labor unions and employers to strengthen democracy and advance the social dialogue on labor issues. The Agreement, which was originally signed in June 2006, was updated in May 2011 to reaffirm all three parties’ commitment to reestablishing a social dialogue to generate solutions on labor-related issues and address conflicts and differences.—May 2011.

The Colombian Government and Colombian Federation of Educators—Fecode, which represents 250,000 educators—signed an historic agreement on May 4, 2011 that will improve working conditions and the quality of life for the nation’s educators. “We achieved very important points and discussed important topics such as the teachers’ status. As teachers, we have welcomed this agreement.”—Senén Niño, President of Fecode. June 15, 2011.

**TRADE UNIONS AND NGO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ACTION PLAN AND PROGRESSIVE AGENDA**

On the Progressive Agenda: “The General Labor Confederation (CGT) salutes the achievements of the Administration of President Juan Manuel Santos during his first year in office. The Administration has enacted a series of policies of enormous value to workers and all Colombians.”—CGT, August 11, 2011.

On the Progressive Agenda: “The agenda that is being constructed at this moment is the result of a constant battle and the work of the Colombian union movement with the support of international unions. The measures contained in the agreement signed by Presidents Santos and Obama last week, the recommendations of the High Level Mission of the OIT that visited us in February, and President Santos’ programs on labor are all measures that the union movement has advocated for years.”—Luciano Sanin, Director of the National Union School (ENS), April 2011.

On the Action Plan: “It is a step in the right direction that the President (Santos) deepened the agreement so that the topics of union liberty, human rights and guarantees for workers are included in the FTA.”—Julio Roberto Gomez, General Secretary of the CGT, April 8, 2011.

**A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE: “COLOMBIA’S PROGRESS DESERVES SUPPORT”**

“The best way to encourage Mr. Santos to take further steps to end impunity and protect activists, political candidates and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities is to approve the FTA.” (. . .) “Democrats should join in ratifying the Colombia pact, and they should credit progress on human rights.”—Mark Schneider, Senior Vice President, International Crisis Group and Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, September 18, 2011.

“We commend President Juan Manuel Santos’s commitment to compensate the victims of violence and return confiscated land to poor farmers. And we applaud efforts to reduce homicides of union members, which Colombia reports have declined by nearly 90% since 2002. These are significant steps. The FTA will further Colombia’s progress by providing clear protections for fundamental labor rights.”—Sens. John Kerry (D-MA) and Max Baucus (D-MT), Wall Street Journal Op-ed, April 4, 2011.

“A Gain for Workers.” In an article on labor cooperatives, *Revista Semana* highlighted that the new decree that tackles illegal forms of labor intermediation “is very good news for the working class (. . .) 300,000 jobs will be formalized (. . .) several companies are already adjusting to the new standard. Carrefour added 600 employees to its payroll, representing additional annual costs of about 5,000 million pesos (US\$2.5 million). Exito has hired 2,500 packers, as part of a plan that includes the direct hiring of 6,250 employees this year. This will cost Exito about 70,000 million pesos per year (US\$35 million).”—*Revista Semana*, June 18, 2011. The Colombian news weekly *Revista Semana* was awarded in 2009 by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) with the Charles A. Perlik, Jr. Award for Excellence in the Field of Print Journalism throughout the hemisphere.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,863,312,407,851.35.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,224,886,661,557.55 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

**SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID**

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the Joint Select Committee on

Deficit Reduction to not make cuts to vital safety net programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

52.5 Million people received Social Security in 2009 alone—and 3 million seniors live below the \$11,000 federal poverty level.

Today, 40 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare.

More than 48 million people rely on Medicaid services.

Unfortunately, Republicans want to turn back the clock and place increasing costly burdens on the backs of America’s seniors and their families.

We must not ask seniors to sacrifice benefits before asking the wealthiest few and major companies to pay their fair share.

Seniors have health care security and a greater financial security because of these services—we must ensure their protection and avoid cuts that will negatively impact job creation.

We must lower our long-term deficit and work together to find a better solution so that America’s beneficiaries are not at risk.

**TO COMMEMORATE THE GRAND OPENING OF OTTO BOCK POLYURETHANE TECHNOLOGIES IN ROCHESTER HILLS, MI**

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 12, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the grand opening of Otto Bock Polyurethane Technologies in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Otto Bock is world-renowned and award-winning for its work in the field of prosthetics and orthotics. The story of the Otto Bock family of companies is a striking example of how innovation and technology can be transferred across discrete industries to create synergies for new products and processes.

Founded in 1919 in Berlin, Germany and named for its founder, Otto Bock has stayed true to its origins as an innovator and manufacturer of prosthetic devices. The perpetual process of innovating and improving prostheses combined with the challenge presented by the physical needs of returning war veterans, pushed Bock to use new materials and processes to increase production of improved prostheses. Traditionally an artisan-based process, Bock sought to move the industry toward a component-based manufacturing system. He was a forerunner in the use of aluminum parts and in 1950, he applied the first plastics to prosthetic production, some of which are still used today. Recognizing the vast potential of this new material, Max Näder, Bock’s son-in-law, founded the Otto Bock Kunststoff in 1953. Today, the company is an important technology partner for Otto Bock HealthCare as well as a successful developer