

THE BRIDGE TO JOBS ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as every American knows already, we have a jobs crisis in this country. While unemployment has improved within the past year, at 8.5 percent it is still strangling our economy. Over 40 percent of jobless Americans—who lost their jobs through no fault of their own—have been out of work for six months or longer, and the longer they wait, they harder it is for them to find jobs. The fact of the matter is that we will not see robust economic growth again until we put Americans back to work.

We also have an infrastructure crisis. According to Transportation for America, there are 69,223 bridges that have been classified as “structurally deficient” by the Federal Highway Administration. Leaving these bridges in their current state of disrepair poses a grave threat not only to our safety, but also to our economy. As the President noted just a few months ago, “Our aging transportation infrastructure costs American businesses and families about \$130 billion a year . . . And if we don’t act now, it could cost America hundreds of billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs by the end of the decade.” Additionally, studies have shown that our crumbling infrastructure threatens our competitive edge in the world economy. As the Washington Post reported this past summer, if nothing is done to improve our infrastructure, “U.S. businesses would pay an added \$430 billion in transportation costs, household incomes would fall by more than \$7,000, and U.S. exports will fall by \$28 billion.” Mr. Speaker, we can’t afford to wait until the end of the decade; we need action now.

Alleviating both of these crises is not a mutually exclusive endeavor. That’s why I’ve introduced the “Bridge to Jobs Act,” a much-needed “win-win” for the American economy and public safety. The act provides states with grants to put Americans back to work by repairing crumbling bridges. Not only will this legislation put Americans back to work and bolster our ailing economy, it will also ensure the safety of the millions who use these bridges each and every day. I urge my colleagues to support this crucial investment in our workforce, our economy, and our safety.

HONORING CHIEF RICKY WATSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are sacred obligations all citizens have to their community: to participate, to serve, and to leave their home a more prosperous place than they found it. From time to time, it is my distinct privilege to acknowledge outstanding citizens who have made it their life’s work to fulfill their sacred obligations. I rise today to honor Chief Ricky Watson as he retires from 25 years of service to the Brentwood community, the Memphis community, and the greater Tennessee family.

Chief Watson began his career in public service by joining the Memphis Police Department in 1978 where he worked in various precincts as well as in the Criminal Investigations Division. A veteran of the United States Air Force, it was no surprise that Chief Watson would join the Tennessee National Guard and earn the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Coming to Brentwood in 1986, he served as Captain of Administrative Services and Captain of Police Services until 2000 when he was appointed as Chief of Police.

A storied legacy of service, Chief Watson embodies at that we in this chamber hold sacred. A member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, American Legion, and Leadership Brentwood, Chief Watson has spent his career giving to the noble ideals of freedom, service, and sacrifice. I thank him for his service and his example, and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ricky Watson for his lasting devotion to a higher calling.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY S. TRYSLA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an icon of the Eastern Nebraska business community, Henry Trysla. I was saddened to learn this week he had passed away at the age of 82. Henry’s life was linked with Nebraska newspapers for more than 50 years. Beginning as a young reporter and columnist at the South Sioux City Star, he rose through the ranks to become the paper’s editor and then a contributing writer after his retirement.

Henry served as president of the Nebraska Press Association which bestowed on him its highest honor, Master Editor-Publisher. A Nebraska Press Association Hall of Fame inductee, Henry led the South Sioux City Star to nine community service awards.

Henry’s accomplishments did not stop with his professional life. He was also a devoted family man and community leader. He and Margaret, his wife of 52 years, raised five children and have twelve grandchildren. Henry was active in the South Sioux City community, holding a variety of offices in service organizations and receiving numerous awards, including the Optimist Club Service to Youth Award. He was also a founding member of the board of directors of Dakota County State Bank, and he was instrumental in creating a park along the Missouri River.

Henry lived life to its fullest and is an example to us all. He leaves behind a loving family, a grateful community, and a lasting journalistic legacy. Henry was a very special Nebraskan who will be truly missed. May his memory be a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN

EDWARD J. DERWINSKI

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the accomplishments of

former Congressman Edward J. Derwinski, who passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2012, after a long and distinguished career of service to our country.

Ed Derwinski led a fascinating and extraordinary life. An Army veteran, he served in the Pacific during World War II and the postwar occupation. He returned home following his Army service to earn a degree at Loyola University in 1951. After a single term in the Illinois House of Representatives, he was elected to Congress, where he represented Illinois’s Fourth District for 24 years.

The congressman’s fearlessness was a hallmark of his career, as was most clearly evident in his policy toward the USSR. He was of Polish descent and sympathized strongly with Poland’s plight under Soviet rule. To this end, President Reagan appointed him to the State Department, ultimately tapping him as Under Secretary for Security Assistance in 1987. The capstone of his long career of public service was his appointment as the first Cabinet-level Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

As Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, I am proud to note that Ed Derwinski was one of our founding members. Heritage Foundation President Ed Feulner has written that Congressman Derwinski was “the only senior member who was willing to have the group meet in his office in those early days,” as other members “did not want to be viewed as party mavericks by the Republican leadership in the House.” I am grateful for the solid foundation he and his colleagues built nearly four decades ago.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Derwinski is now fittingly buried in Arlington National Cemetery. On behalf of the Republican Study Committee, I offer his family my condolences as we all continue to celebrate the life of such a tireless defender of freedom both at home and abroad.

RECOGNIZING REP. GABRIELLE
GIFFORDS**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a thankful heart that I rise to recognize a dedicated public servant and truly exceptional Member of Congress—Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

In her time as a Member of Congress, and before that—as a Member of the Arizona State Legislature, Gabby has been a shining example of what a public servant can be.

From supporting our veterans, to working to bring greater fiscal stability and championing home-grown energy—her accomplishments have been many.

But perhaps even more amazing is what Gabby has shown all of us about perseverance and the strength of the human spirit.

We all remember the horrible attack that took place on January 8, 2011, and the impact it had on every single one of our communities and families.

We also remember the bravery of the heroes and first responders, who saved lives on that day.

Gabby’s courage, strength, and resilience remind all of us that the human ties of family, and friendship that connect us are much more important than the ideological and political differences that can divide us.