

A SALUTE TO MAYOR KYLE R. HASTINGS AND THE RESIDENTS OF ORLAND HILLS, ILLINOIS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, JUNE 24–26, 2011

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Village of Orland Hills, Illinois. Orland Hills is nestled in the southwest corner of Cook County in the 1st Congressional District. Its growth speaks to the dynamic and dedicated leaders who have built Orland Hills with an eye towards the connectedness that is the true definition of community. At a time when social networking via technology has increasingly replaced face to face interaction, the real life network that exists among the residents of Orland Hills should be seen as a model for us all.

Originally founded on June 30, 1961 as the Village of Westhaven, residents held their first Village Board Meeting on August 3, 1961. A president, Raymond Pecor, was elected. Shortly afterwards, the village annexed 10 acres at the southeast corner of 167th Street and 94th Avenue. A Zoning Commission was formed and a Planning Commission was appointed to prepare a zoning ordinance and a zoning district map. Over the years, as the village's population continued to grow, annexations of adjacent land took Westhaven south to 171st Street. In 1970, the U.S. Census Bureau set the population at 470. Today the name is Orland Hills and the population is more than 7,000 and growing. During difficult economic times, village leaders found a way to build roads, schools, churches, shopping centers and beautiful homes. Racial and ethnic diversity occurred on its own as people found themselves feeling welcomed, accepted and at home with others who shared the American dream of building community through determination and hard work.

As the village continued to grow its reputation as a family friendly community with modest to low property taxes also grew. The village began to celebrate itself. In 1993 the first

Orland Hills Jamboree became a success. That same year, it's fair to say another very important event took place. A man who, over the years has grown to be a very dear friend of mine, Kyle R. Hastings, was elected to serve as the Mayor of Orland Hills.

As history would have it, 1993 was also the year I was first sworn in as the U.S. Representative for Illinois' First Congressional District. And, while there are many things I could say to describe the leadership that Mayor Hastings has brought to this thriving community his own words best describe his dedication to public service. In an interview he gave to the Chicago Tribune in May 2004 Mayor Hastings said "I'm like the DePaul Basketball Coach Ray Meyer of mayors. If someone needs something, I'm there to help 'em, and we're always winning."

In that same story, the newspaper reported that under Mayor Hastings' leadership, the village had balanced its budget for 10 consecutive years. It built lighted ballfields, greatly expanded its recreational programs and resurfaced about half its streets. Orland Hills also spent more than \$4.5 million building a village government complex, a public works facility and a recreation/senior center without issuing bonds or increasing property taxes. The report also noted Hastings' ability to attract a Wal-Mart and other small businesses to a strip mall, a decision that, today, continues to bring tax revenue and jobs into the Orland Hills community.

Mr. Speaker, I must also take a moment to highlight the Village's Administrator, John A. Daly, whose effective leadership played a decisive role in securing a \$6,000 Local Tourism Grant from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons and more, it is my sincere honor to enter into the Congressional Record this heartfelt tribute to the residents of Orland Hills, their Honorable Mayor Kyle R. Hastings, the trustees and appointed leadership of Administrator John A. Daly, and the Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee, an Orland Hills Trustee and the Mayor's son, Kyle R. Hastings II. I also want to pay tribute to the thousands of Orland Hills residents who spend significant social capital every day to make their village a true social network . . . a real place to live and work and raise families.

At a time when so much of our nation is beset with tough budgets or less than stellar policy and political leaders, the Village of Orland Hills has much to celebrate. I am deeply proud to serve the interests of this thriving community and I pray for the good health and prosperity of its citizens—and good weather this weekend—as thousand assemble to take part in a festive atmosphere of family, food and fun from June 24 through 26, at Kelly Park at 16675 S. Haven Avenue in Orland Hills. It will be a true American celebration, not of bricks and mortar but of the power of people and the spirit of sharing that makes our nation great and makes Orland Hills a place of pride for us all.

May God continue to bless and keep this community, the state of Illinois and our nation. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS TO HELP
THE UNEMPLOYED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation to help the increasing number of Americans who, because of the Government-created recession, have lost their jobs. The first piece of legislation, the Unemployed Tax Relief, makes a laid-off worker's last paycheck tax free.

The second bill, the Unemployment Assistance Act, allows the unemployed to make penalty-free withdrawals from accounts such as Roth IRAs or 401(k)s, to cover routine living expenses, health care expenses, or to help pay for education and job training. Those who make these penalty-free withdrawals while unemployed will be able to replenish their accounts once they have started a new job.

Mr. Speaker, while we may disagree on the best solutions to the economic crisis gripping the Nation, I hope my colleagues will at least agree on these common-sense measures and cosponsor the Unemployed Tax Relief Act and the Unemployment Assistance Act.