

million jobs since 1993 and produced an industry unemployment rate of 1.4 percent. In California alone, this technology explosion has made the Golden State number one in high-tech employment by creating 784,151 jobs and making up 61 percent of California's exports. As a result, our nation's economy has surged and the American people are enjoying the highest standard of living in history.

While our economy is strong, we must recognize that if cutting edge technology companies do not have access to growing numbers of highly skilled personnel, it will threaten our nation's ability to maintain robust economic growth and expanding opportunities. For the second year in a row, robust growth in technology in technology industries have placed significant strains on the H-1B visa program. Last year, these visas were increased to ensure that the scarcity of skilled workers not undermine the ability of the economy to grow. Unfortunately, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reached the visa cap in June leaving 42,000 visas outstanding. Additionally, there are currently over 340,000 unfilled positions in the high-tech industry, and the Department of Labor projects that this deficit will increase by 1 million workers in the next decade.

I believe that highly-skilled, temporary foreign workers are critical to filling a limited number of positions for which no qualified Americans are available. That is why I introduced the New Workers for Economic Growth Act of 1999 as the House companion for S. 1440 introduced by Senator PHIL GRAMM. This legislation increases the level of H-1B visas available for highly-skilled scientists and engineers to 200,000 for the years 2000-2002.

It is clear that education reform and worker training are essential to ensure that American citizens are able to take advantage of these positions. The fact is, half of the student graduating from American universities with doctorates in science, math and computer programming are foreign-born students. The lack of investment in educating Americans in these subject areas is a serious long-term problem that must be addressed. In the short-term, however, I believe a temporary increase in H1B admissions is warranted. I commend Chairman SMITH for exploring the current situation so that a workforce shortage does not threaten our vibrant economy.

WORKPLACE PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 987) to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a study or guideline on ergonomics:

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Workplace Preservation Act and in support of American small business. All we're asking is for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to delay implementation of a new workplace ergonomics rule until the National Academy of Science finishes

a study of the effects of workplace ergonomics.

The rule that OSHA wants to implement is conservatively estimated to cost Americans \$3.5 billion a year. As a small business owner, I am very concerned about how federal regulations affect people and their jobs. Too often the people who suffer are not only the small business owners, but also their employees. And the regulation being discussed by OSHA is indeed large. It could have harmful effects on the economies of the small towns that dot my district where there are not many choices of where to work. Often in Central, Southern, and Eastern Oregon, if you lose your job at the local tire store or construction company, there are no other employment choices.

The federal government has already played a role in driving the unemployment rate in Grant County to almost 17% in April of this year by halting access to the federal lands that dominate the landscape of Oregon. Now it wants to micro-manage small business? I believe that before the federal government implements a drastic increase in its interference in America's small businesses, it needs all the information it can get on ergonomics. It is not too much to ask OSHA to wait to implement its rule until we have a chance to examine the ergonomics study being performed by NAS at the request of Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I join the small business owners of America in thanking my friend from Missouri, Mr. Blunt, for his leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support this reasonable and pro small-business bill.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ROSLYN MCGRUDER CLARK

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Roslyn McGruder Clark, a native of Miami who passed away Saturday of a brain aneurysm at the age of 48.

Roslyn Clark was a precious asset to our community. Her enthusiasm for her work, her compassion for other people, and her dedication to public service speak to the very best tradition of police service.

Roslyn was simply an outstanding law enforcement officer. She worked hard, and she worked smart. Education was extremely important to her. She was a graduate of Miami's Jackson Senior High School. She held a Master of Science degree from Biscayne College, and had completed graduate course work at Florida Atlantic University and at the University of Miami.

Roslyn Clark's tremendous abilities were recognized by her superiors. She attained the rank of major and was the highest-ranked African-American female police officer in the Miami-Dade Police Department. Her task was to head the Northside Police Station in the Liberty City area of Miami, considered by many to be the most violent area in Dade County.

Roslyn Clark did not shrink from this challenge; she welcomed it. For she had grown up in this area. She knew the people, and she

knew the problems. Even more important, she was a talented leader who knew how to make the police force work for the community. She used every tool available to her—personnel, training, community groups, educators. She forged relationships with residents and young people. Because of her work and under her direction, the neighborhood began to improve. This is an important part of her legacy.

Major Roslyn McGruder Clark is survived by her husband, Edgar Clark, her son Keenan, her stepson Edgar Clark, Jr., and by her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Helen Ward. I extend to them, on behalf of our entire community, my heartfelt sympathy at their loss, which is our loss.

From this day forward, whenever men and women of determination and good will talk about those in our community who made a positive contribution, they will remember Roslyn Clark.

TWENTY-FIRST AMENDMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2031) to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor:

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns about the impact of H.R. 2031 on small family-owned vintners and wine producers in my district.

This issue before us is much more complex than it seems on the surface. Of course, teens should not be able to order a case of beer from their home computers. Nor should they be able to mail order shipments of alcohol to their front door. Because of this, I will support this bill.

But we are voting on much more than this.

This bill basically states that federal courts might get involved when an adult visits a small family owned winery in person and purchases wine for their own consumption, then has that wine shipped home.

I see no reason why this transaction—which could still be prosecuted in a state court if it violated a state law—should be pushed into the federal courts.

We do not have the resources to use the federal courts to chase such violations of state law.

I hope to introduce stand alone legislation that would address my concerns and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Such an effort would be pro-small business, pro-tourism, and pro-family farmer.

JUDITH TAYLOR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Judith Taylor.

Judith Taylor teaches mathematics at Inez Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in my district. Recently, she received the National Science Foundation 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award honors 208 teachers from around the country whose work makes them role models for other educators to emulate.

Ms. Taylor's unique philosophy and creative approach to teaching math has touched the lives of many students and impressed the judges of the contest. She believes most students' fears about math manifest themselves early because students are uncomfortable with common teaching methods. Rather than forcing her students to memorize rules, Taylor teaches them to look for patterns in mathematics.

I am certain most adults can remember a teacher from their school days who was a positive influence not only in their school work, but also in their lives. I thank her for being a positive influence to the students in the first district.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we recognize and thank Judith Taylor for her hard work and dedication in teaching mathematics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the evening of Thursday, July 29, 1999, and the morning of Friday, July 30, 1999, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote No. 355 (Motion to Instruct Conferees on S. 900), rollcall vote No. 354 (Motion to instruct Conferees on H.R. 1501), rollcall vote No. 353 (the Pitts amendment to H.R. 2606), rollcall vote No. 352 (the Moakley amendment to H.R. 2606) and rollcall vote No. 351 (the Campbell amendment to H.R. 2606).

I want the RECORD to show that if I had been able to be present in this chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 355, rollcall vote 354, and rollcall vote 352. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 353 and rollcall vote 351.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PAYMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Construction Contractors Payment Protection Act of 1999, H.R. 1219. This legislation has been carefully crafted to balance the rights and interests of the parties on projects covered by the Miller Act. The Miller Act requires a performance bond to protect the government for completion of the project and payment bonds to protect certain persons providing labor and materials since these persons are not afforded the protection of mechanics liens on federal projects. Legis-

lation previously proposed did not adequately balance these considerations. I am pleased that twenty-three construction industry groups including the Associated General Contractors of America, the Surety Association of America, American Insurance Association and National Association of Surety Bond Producers were able to agree upon provisions enhancing the current Miller Act.

Bonding is a very important benchmark in the construction industry. This bill preserves that benchmark. Bond capacity represents a company's financial and capacity to complete a project. Bonded contractors expose their companies to rigorous financial and operational evaluation and their officers often pledge corporate and personal financial assets as collateral to the bond.

The Miller Act was designed to protect subcontractors and the government to ensure the timely completion of a construction project. Government contractors have proven to be very reliable. Hundreds of thousands of contracts are entered into annually. The government purchases billions of dollars of construction services.

I commend the gentleman from Virginia, Representative DAVIS and the gentlelady from New York, Representative MALONEY, and the Chairman of the subcommittee, Representative HORN for their extraordinary efforts to reach a consensus agreement by so many in the construction industry.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH REGARD TO SHUTTLE MISSION STS-93, COMMANDED BY COLONEL EILEEN COLLINS, FIRST FEMALE SPACE SHUTTLE COMMANDER

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Air Force Colonel Eileen Marie Collins as the first female space shuttle commander. Col. Collins represents the best in America's space program and I congratulate her and the crew for the successful deployment of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory during the STS-93 Mission aboard the Shuttle *Columbia*. With three missions under her belt, Col. Collins has certainly become one of our most experienced astronauts.

I look forward to seeing the results of the time and resources invested in making the Chandra X-Ray Observatory a reality. The telescope will give scientists an important tool to study phenomena like exploding stars, quasars and black holes.

Chandra and other major projects like Hubble and Landsat are the results of a team effort of NASA scientists, engineers, contractors, educational institutions and the highly trained astronauts who place these satellites and observatories into orbit. While we commend the efforts of this mission and NASA's many previous accomplishments, I am deeply concerned by the \$1 billion cut in NASA's overall budget of \$13.6 billion and the impact this will have on future programs like Hubble's successor, the Next Generation Space Telescope.

Goddard Space Flight Center is one of NASA's premier research and program management facilities and the facility that will be most impacted by the cuts. The \$1 billion dollar cut would adversely impact NASA's Space and Earth Science Programs based at Goddard. These are serious cuts and I am deeply concerned with the impact this will have on the almost 12,000 employees that work either directly as employees or indirectly as contractors.

So as we recognize the success of STS-93 and Col. Collins' tremendous achievement, let us also keep in mind that future programs like Discovery and the Next Generation Space Telescope—programs that will utilize the shuttle program—face an uncertain and unnecessary fate, as a result of these cuts.

JAMAICA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable island nation which will be celebrating its 37th year of Independence on Friday, August 6, 1999. This is the island nation of Jamaica. But although independent Jamaica will be celebrating its 37th birthday this Friday, the nation of Jamaica is much older than its 37 years. In fact, this nation was born in 1655, 344 years ago, when the former African slaves established free Maroon settlements after the Spanish colonial power had departed the island. It came to adolescence on August 1, 1834, when slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. Independence is the culmination of a long period of gestation, growth, and maturity in the life of this nation.

Jamaica has bequeathed a glorious legacy of resistance to human oppression. The Maroon rebellion, led by its freedom fighters, inflicted heavy losses on the British and forced them to recognize the autonomy of the Maroon communities. Among its pantheon of freedom fighters are Cudjoe, Nanny, Johnny, and Accompong.

Jamaica provided leadership during the labor disturbances of 1938, when harsh social conditions forced the working class to take serious industrial action. Among the leaders of the labor revolt were Allen George Coombs, the old Garveyite warrior St. William Grant, and the incomparable William Alexander Bustamante.

Jamaican contribution has not been confined to the island of Jamaica. Jamaicans have contributed to the struggle for human rights in the U.S.A. Among the outstanding Jamaicans who have contributed to our history are John Brown Russwurm, the author of the first black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, Robert Brown Elliot, who served in this Congress from the great State of South Carolina, during the Reconstruction period, Claude McKay, one of the outstanding authors during the Harlem Renaissance, and Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the prophet of Pan African nationalism.

Jamaica has produced more musical genres than any country in the world, except the U.S. Its traditional African rhythms as reflected in