

but a few. Using his influence with his colleagues, Tom helped pass a resolution allowing the Bay City staff and elected officials the opportunity of attending a team building training meeting. He sponsored a resolution which allowed the city charter to be placed on the ballot in order that it be revised and modernized. He was heavily involved in the middlegrounds landfill clean-up, and the eastside riverfront clean-up. Privately, he was responsible for a fund-raising effort to modernize the Bay City Fire Department, by purchasing equipment which makes it easier to find individuals during a fire.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Tom's contributions to our community are many and are not limited to only one sphere of accomplishment. Tom volunteered for the Navy because he wanted to serve our country. He was involved in our schools because of his concern for our children. Tom was involved in city government because he wanted to make our home, Bay City, a place to be proud of. And, Mr. Speaker, I can say with all confidence that the residents of Bay City are proud and grateful to Tom.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that in Tom's retirement he intends to spend much time with his wife, Lois, and their three children—Marcie, and her husband Bernie LaBerge and their three children Jessica, Brandon, and Danielle; Cindy-Sue Hernden and her two children Alyssa and Ryan; and Tammi-Rae, and her husband Tom Stein and their child Brittney. It is also my understanding that he will continue his long list of public service by serving on the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Tom Lock for his many contributions to our community. He truly is an example of exemplary civic duty, and as such, serves as a model to all of those in our country who desire to help others in their communities. Please join me in congratulating Tom, and in wishing him many productive years with his family and his many activities in our community.

TRIBUTE TO AL AND EILEEN FLORES

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two exemplary citizens in my district who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on October 31.

Al and Eileen Flores have shared many years and experiences as they traveled around the world and throughout our nation. Since meeting in England in 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Flores have demonstrated their patriotism by their connection to our armed forces, their refreshing commitment to family values as they raised six daughters, and a continuous and active participation in grassroots community organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Flores have fourteen grandchildren, and when asked who his hero is Mr. Flores answers, "My wife Eileen."

Not only do Mr. and Mrs. Flores embody the endless potential available to each American citizen, but also the wondrous result of a

happy and fruitful life. Forty years of marriage is an accomplishment worthy of our respect and honor. Al and Eileen Flores, thank you for your example to our community, and happy 40th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF REV. RALPH A. BODZIONY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Ralph A. Bodziony for his contributions to Saint John Cantius of Cleveland, Ohio. Father Ralph has spent thirty years at St. John Cantius and is retiring after forty years of priesthood. His family and friends will honor his years of service with a celebration on November 28, 1999.

In his thirty years of service to St. John Cantius, Father Ralph has gone to great lengths to help the parish grow and revitalize. Years ago, when it was not economically feasible to maintain the parish's old convent, Father Ralph helped turn it into The Malt Talbot Inn, an alcoholic rehabilitation center and halfway house. He also was heavily involved in the old elementary school being used for the Positive Education Program. In 1984, under Father Ralph, the parish held its first Polish Heritage Festival. It proved to be a very popular event and is now an annual celebration for parishioners and friends from all over to come and enjoy themselves.

Father Ralph has also led the church to a major facelift recently. In 1992, a beautiful Gothic altar was installed in the sanctuary; in 1994, the church organ was refurbished; and in 1997, the church was painted in anticipation of the one hundredth anniversary. St. John Cantius has come a long way in its one hundred years and, through projects like these, Father Ralph has been able to revitalize the parish alongside the redevelopment of the Tremont area.

St. John Cantius, through the leadership of pastors such as Father Ralph, has served the community for one hundred years. The parishioners, who value their ethnicity and beliefs, have developed new traditions while passing on their Polish ancestry to each new generation in the parish. Father Ralph's leadership and commitment to the parish has helped contribute to its rich and colorful history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the beloved Rev. Ralph Bodziony for his dedication to the church and his extraordinary works in the Tremont area. His life and efforts towards a better community have inspired us all.

HONORING JOAN AND RAY CONN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEN
YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CINCINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents, Joan and Ray Conn,

who will be recognized at a gala dinner and pageant on Saturday, October 30, 1999 for their leadership as one of the founding families of the prestigious Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy (CHCA) located in Mason, Ohio.

CHCA is one of the fastest-growing schools in the country and has earned a reputation for excellent academics, competitive sports and extracurricular activities. In 1997, I had the privilege of presenting the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Award to CHCA Elementary. CHCA's goal is to nurture and support each student toward individual growth. The school embraces students, parents and faculty within the care of a Christian community.

Joan and Ray Conn worked together on many important initiatives for CHCA, including helping to form the vision for the school and spearheading fund raising efforts. They have three children, all of whom have attended CHCA.

Ray was a member of the founding Board of Trustees and provided strong leadership in the school's early years by drafting CHCA's constitution, serving as chair for the first Education Committee and working on the Advancement Committee.

Joan chaired the school's first silent auction, was enrollment chair for the Advancement Committee and served as a consultant on interior design decisions for all three CHCA buildings. Before the school opened, Joan came up with the idea to hold home parties to spread the word about CHCA and helped to interview prospective faculty. She has been very involved with the tennis program and the Joan Davis Conn Tennis Complex was dedicated last Spring.

Joan and Ray Conn are to be commended for their tireless devotion to the community as a whole and for the important role they played in making the dream of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy a reality.

THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE FINANCING ACT OF 1999

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Representatives BOEHNER, SHAW, HERGER, BAKER, RAMSTAD, SUNUNU, BACHUS, LATOURETTE, OXLEY, COLLINS, PORTMAN, WATKINS, HAYWORTH, MCINNIS, LEWIS, PRYCE, TRAFICANT, SESSIONS, CHAMBLISS, DICKEY, CUBIN, and HANSEN, to introduce the Employment Security Administrative Financing Act of 1999.

As you know, the employment security system, established as a federal-state partnership more than 60 years ago, is the system employers use to provide unemployment insurance and a public labor exchange for workers. Since its inception, major structural changes to our country's economy have taken place as a result of rapid technological advances and the growth of globalized trade and investment. Adjusting to meet the demands of our changing economy, our nation's labor market has fundamentally changed as well. Therefore, the employment security system should be reformed to meet the demands of the changing

labor market and to ensure that states are able to provide the services necessary for employment and re-employment services aimed at matching employers and qualified job-seekers.

Mr. Speaker, a major focus of reform should be to improve the efficiency of the current administrative financing mechanism and to reduce the tax burden imposed on employers. Administration of the employment security system is financed by employers through the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) payroll tax. Currently collected by the IRS, FUTA revenue is returned to the states through an annual appropriation allocated by the Department of Labor. Unfortunately, states aren't receiving a proportionate return on the FUTA dollars contributed by their employers. Since 1990, less than 59 cents of every FUTA dollar has been sent back to the states for the purpose of administering their unemployment system, and the percentage is shrinking. Now less than 52 cents is returned. As a result, states are being forced to either make up for the shortfall from their own general funds, impose new payroll taxes, or cut back on services provided to workers.

Mr. Speaker, the Employment Security Administrative Financing Act is designed to address the problems that the current system continues to impose on the states and the FUTA taxpayers, while preserving and strengthening protections for workers. Specifically, the bill would: reduce the tax burden on large and small businesses by repealing the unnecessary, "temporary" 0.2% FUTA surtax imposed in the 1970's; eliminate inefficiencies experienced by employers by transferring responsibility for collection of the FUTA tax to the states; strengthen administration of the system by ensuring that states get a greater

return on their employers' FUTA tax dollars and ensure greater accountability for the use of these funds; improve employment services with an emphasis on re-employing dislocated workers; combat fraud and abuse in the present system; and, increase state flexibility to administer their unemployment insurance and employment services programs to serve local needs.

Mr. Speaker, without these reforms, the current system will continue to overtax and overburden employers, shortchange states, and, most importantly, underserve those who need it most—the involuntarily unemployed and those striving to move up the career ladder.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue that Congress should consider. I look forward to working with others to bring about these much-needed, common sense reforms to the current system that will bring our employment security system into the 21st Century.

AMERICA NEEDS A PERMANENT
AGRICULTURE TRADE REP-
RESENTATIVE

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proudly introducing legislation to establish a permanent position of Chief Agricultural Negotiator within the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). I do so with my colleagues, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. HULSHOF, and the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON.

Since 1997, this position has been designated as "Special Trade Ambassador for Agriculture." Our legislation will create a permanent office at USTR to negotiate on behalf of America's farmers, ranchers and other agricultural interests. Unfortunately, the news from rural America is not good. Farm families are tired and frustrated with the level of attention that has been paid to their livelihood by our government. Additionally, global economic recessions have led to decreased exports by our producers, thus leaving them with a negative impression of what international trade has done for them.

American agriculture is at a crossroads and if we continue to ignore it, farm life as we know it will become extinct. The best way for America to sustain our agricultural backbone is by opening and accessing a new global marketplace. That marketplace can best be reached if we have someone in a permanent role, who has an agricultural background, working on behalf of our farmers and ranchers.

Finally, in one month representatives from all of the world's trading partners will attend the World Trade Organization Ministerial in Seattle to designate the parameters for the upcoming round of global trade talks and negotiations. Many people, including a large portion of the Congress, believe agriculture should be the number one priority for our negotiating team. However, as we host the trade world here in the United States, we do not have a permanent, designated negotiator for agricultural interests.

I urge all of my colleagues to lend their support to this legislation by cosponsoring this important and timely legislation.