

Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program which finances transit new starts projects.

Transportation is a key issue in the First Congressional District of the State of Colorado. I am proud that Denver's light rail and multi-modal corridors are a growing local success story and that the efforts of the Colorado delegation to win support for these projects have been fruitful. The SW Corridor project will be completed in the coming months with this year's appropriation of the final federal installment of its full funding grant agreement. The new SE Corridor multi-modal project, combining highway and light rail elements, is anticipated to complete all the steps necessary to receive a full funding grant agreement as early as this year.

I have supported a robust FY 2001 appropriation of \$63,000,000 for the SE Corridor project. As I mentioned, the bill before us contains just \$3,000,000 for the new corridor, which I hope will grow as the bill progresses through the many steps of the congressional appropriations process. This request, while large, is amply justified because Denver residents have voted overwhelmingly—66 percent supported the initiative—on last year's ballot issue to approve local funding for this multi-modal approach to improving Denver's transportation system. Their support has been strong because our needs are strong.

The rapidly growing transit needs in the Denver region are clear. The Regional Transportation District (RTD) provides public transit service to over 2 million residents of the six counties and 41 municipalities in its 2,400 square mile district—one of the nation's largest transit districts. RTD's fleet of 933 buses and 17 light rail vehicles carried over 74 million passengers in 1999, its thirteenth consecutive year of increased ridership.

The RTD has continued its progress in developing rapid transit by extending construction of light rail from the successful Central Corridor light rail line to the SW Corridor. The 8.7 mile SW Corridor light rail extension will serve three major activity centers: the Denver central business district, a regional retail and commercial center in Englewood, and the Littleton Central Business District.

Not only has Denver RTD demonstrated a strong commitment to keep the SW Corridor project on schedule by advancing its own local funds, but it also has a proven record of building light rail projects. Through its efficient handling of the construction of its existing Central Corridor line, and now the SW Corridor line, RTD has demonstrated its ability to successfully manage light rail projects. Building on this experience, RTD together with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are now poised to implement the SE multi-modal project. This project will include 19 miles of light rail line which will run alongside Interstate 25 (for 15 miles) from Broadway in Denver to Lincoln Avenue in Douglas County and within the median of I-255 (for miles) from I-25 to Parker Road.

The SE Corridor connects the two largest employment centers in the region—the Denver Central Business District and the SE business district, together these two employment centers account for 18 percent of the metro region's employment. The SE Corridor project is a joint effort of four agencies (for which inter-agency agreements are already in place): The Federal Transit Administration; the Federal

Highway Administration; the CDOT; and the RTD. These agencies working together in a "One Dot" approach will insure the efficient delivery of this project.

In conclusion, completion of our SW Corridor light rail project is vital to our region's ability to meet the challenges of rapid growth responsibly. Moving ahead quickly with the multi-modal SE Corridor will demonstrate the federal government's support for communities that are willing to invest in cost-effective transportation solutions to traffic congestion.

Mr. Chairman, I support this bill and I thank the Committee for the critical funding it contains for transportation needs in my district.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of the FY01 Transportation Appropriations bill, and in strong support of the funds allocated for Washington State's Sound Transit Program. The funding provided in this legislation will help Sound Transit deliver a regional high-capacity transit system to the citizens of urban King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

As anyone who has traveled to my home state knows, bad traffic is the one thing that can make even the beautiful Puget Sound area seem less inviting. In fact, the Central Puget Sound Region has the 4th worst traffic in the country. It is estimated that bottlenecks on both the highways and on the train tracks costs our local economy billions of dollars every year. That's why this investment in our infrastructure is so crucial. The Sound Transit system—which employs a combination of commuter rail, electric light rail, HOV Expressways, and regional express bus service—will go a long way toward relieving congestion and, importantly, improving quality of life for citizens throughout the Puget Sound.

On behalf of the citizens of my district, I also want to thank the Chair, the Ranking Member and the Members of the committee for their support of Sound Transit. This program will truly be one of the crown jewels of America's public system and I'm proud to stand in support of this program.

MAY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named W. Tresper Clarke Middle School in Westbury as the School of the

Month in the Fourth Congressional District for May 2000. It was one of 34 middle schools and 32 high schools to be named a National Service-Learning Leader School, and will be honored by the White House in June.

I want to congratulate the Clarke Middle School community on receiving this national honor. Nassau has noticed the difference Clarke students make in our community as a result of their education. They deserve recognition on a national level, not just on a local one.

Ivy Diton is the Principal of Clarke, and Dr. Robert Dillon is the Superintendent of Schools in the East Meadow School District. The school teaches children in grades six through eight.

The educational initiative of service-learning is on the rise in the United States. More and more schools are beginning to incorporate community service into standard subjects. Clarke Middle School was recently recognized as one of 34 middle schools in the nation who have shown excellence in service-learning. Clarke was the only school selected from the Long Island-New York City geographical area.

The pre-teen and teen years are crucial for our kids. We know how capable they are, and Clarke Middle School has used this to teach their students the importance of giving back to our community. They are sending future generations of Long Islanders into their adult world as better citizens.

Service-learning is the term Clarke and other schools use to describe their way of teaching. It involves a healthy combination of academics and community service, and is based on the joint efforts of teachers and students to make a difference. Students benefit from this approach because standard course material is supported by lessons of civic responsibility. By teaching teens the importance of volunteering and helping others, they learn invaluable lessons that will strengthen our communities.

One hundred percent of Clarke's student body and faculty participate in service-learning. Ten subjects, including English, science, math, social studies, music, and art, feature a blend of community service and normal academics.

Clarke teachers have noticed a significant increase in their students' discipline, academic performance, and level of responsibility. They have become more involved in the Long Island community by mentoring elementary school students, reading to preschool children, and teaching senior citizens about computers.

There are so many opportunities for our teens to get involved in the community. Everyone can use some help now and then. Whoever Clarke students are helping, they are giving something back to Long Island, to the people that have helped them before or need help now.

SHOVALS HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to my very good friends, Susan and Judd Shoval, from my district in Pennsylvania.

The Shovals will be honored at the prestigious S.J. Strauss Lodge of the B'nai B'rith Lincoln Day Dinner on May 24 as this year's recipients for the distinguished Community Service Award. I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Judd and Susan Shoval are among the most entrepreneurial and community-minded business leaders in my district. As partners in the Guard Insurance Company, specializing in workers' compensation insurance, the Shovals have expanded the company from its founding in the early 1980s to a sophisticated insuring organization with more than 20,000 customers in 16 states, with three subsidiaries. Just last fall, the couple opened Guard Security Bank, which uses electronic banking procedures, offering select financial products to both individuals and business.

Susan is a native of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She graduated magna cum laude from Cornell University and graduated with highest honors from the College of Insurance in New York City. In 1993, she was honored as the recipient of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Athena Award and was named among Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business in 1997. She is a member of the Committee of 200, a select group of women who head successful firms.

Susan has served the community on the United Way Board and local university boards, but I am especially appreciative of the tremendous amount of time and leadership Susan provided as a director on the board of the Earth Conservancy, a non-profit organization dedicated to reclaiming 16,000 acres of former coal mine land. Among the couple's proudest accomplishments are their four children, Ben, Deborah, Karyn and Rebecca.

Judd Shoval is Susan's life partner and business partner, serving also as chief executive officer and a director of Guard Insurance, its subsidiaries and the Guard Security Bank. He is a past chairperson of Associated Risk Managers International and has been a member of the Young Presidents Organization, comprised of presidents and chief executive officers of medium- to large-sized companies.

He is also very involved in the community, serving on boards of the local universities, the Jewish Community Center and United Jewish Campaign. Born in Austria, Judd was raised in Israel and received his law degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He came to the United States in the early 1970s, finally settling in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the Shovals are dedicated professionals and community leaders. I applaud the S.J. Strauss Lodge's choice of this year's recipients for the distinguished Community Service Award. I am pleased and proud to join with the Lodge and the community in congratulating them and sending my sincere best wishes for continued success.

HONORING MR. JOSEPH
BALCHUNAS AS FLORIDA'S
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a phenomenal teacher,

Mr. Joseph Balchunas, recently named Florida's Teacher of the Year. A teacher who realizes the sky is the limit, who understands that knowledge is power, and who enriches the lives of those around him distinguishes Mr. Balchunas. Mr. B, as his friends and family call him, insist that his students raise their ideals, broaden their horizons, but most importantly learn to demand more of themselves. His students regularly test above average standards, a testimony to his tireless efforts and commitment to education. This is the first time in twelve years that a teacher from Broward County has been honored with this achievement.

Joseph Balchunas inspires his students to dream, and not to let anyone get in the way of those dreams. In his five years as a teacher, Mr. B has proven that teaching is not only a job, but a personal commitment, and expects his students to make the same commitment to their future. He is loved by many, but most fortunate are those who have the pleasure of being one of his students. His devotion encourages his students to imagine and create.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Joseph Balchunas for being named Florida's Teacher of the Year. He is truly a great educator, one that all of us should be proud to commend.

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of United States Merchant Mariners who have courageously served our country during times of peace and war. Congress established National Maritime Day in 1933 to recognize the vital contributions of all American seamen throughout our nation's rich maritime history. This day would soon come to hold special meaning in honor of those merchant mariners who served in defense of American freedoms during WWII. On behalf of Kansas City resident Marshall Garry, I feel privileged to honor their accomplishments today.

As legendary Navy Admiral Chester A. Nimitz wrote following the Allied victory in 1945, "Not one of us who fought in the late war can forget—nor should any citizen be allowed to forget—that the national resource which enabled us to carry the war to the enemy and fight in his territory and not our own was our Merchant Marine." The Merchant Marine played a vital role in our nation's greatest victory, indeed almost 7,000 mariners—or one in 32 personnel—would make the ultimate sacrifice in honor of our country.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join with me in commemorating the extraordinary, yet often forgotten, accomplishments of these brave individuals. Our nation is forever indebted to their service and I honor them today on this, America's 67th celebration of National Maritime Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House floor when a vote was taken on amendment number 204 regarding the School of the Americas. I have always voted in support of any amendment to eliminate and/or drastically change the way this school functions and had I been present in this Chamber when this vote was cast, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING JENNIE SLEGGERS ON
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Jennie Slegers of Artesia, California, who celebrates her 100th birthday later this week.

Mrs. Slegers was born May 26, 1900, in the Netherlands and came to the United States in 1922. Celebrating this occasion with her are her five children, 20 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. By my count that is 66 Americans—many of them my constituents—who are living, working, playing, learning, paying taxes, contributing to our economy, helping build our communities—all because Jennie Slegers decided long ago that she wanted to be an American.

Mr. Speaker, this remarkable woman now enjoys life at the Artesia Christian Home, where she spends her spare time in knitting and what she called "socializing." And, she remains very involved in doing all she can to help fellow residents of the home. I join her family and many friends in wishing Mrs. Slegers a happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, I missed rollcall vote 193 (H.R. 4205) because I was conducting a Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing in the absence of the Chairman. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL
MERGER REFORM AND CUS-
TOMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Rail Merger Reform and Customer Protection Act. This legislation would