

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH M.
CARKENORD OF THE L'ANSE
CREUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Joseph Carkenord as he retires from nearly 50 years of service to the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. Mr. Carkenord has been a teacher, administrator, and Board of Education Member in the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools for nearly 50 years, and today marks the end of an era of dedication to the school district.

Raised in Indiana, Mr. Carkenord attended Ball State University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in 1950. It was then that his teaching career began. Soon thereafter, Mr. Carkenord accepted a position at South River Elementary School in the L'Anse Creuse School District. This began a remarkable career of devotion to education and public service in Michigan. By 1955, Mr. Carkenord had earned a Master's degree and was appointed Principal of the elementary school.

In 1959, while still Principal at South River Elementary, Mr. Carkenord became the Director for Special Education in the district until 1969. At the same time, he served as Director of the L'Anse Creuse Summer Program. He also served as Principal of the Neil E. Reid Elementary School.

During his tenure, Mr. Carkenord has had the pleasure of serving as President of the Macomb County Elementary Principals' Association, on the Michigan Principals' Board of Directors, and on the L'Anse Creuse Board of Education, as President and Treasurer. Although Mr. Carkenord has exhibited tireless support for public education, his commitment is just as strong. He and his wife Joann have resided in the L'Anse Creuse community for over 35 years. Their daughter and son, Barbara and Dr. David Carkenord are graduates of L'Anse Creuse High School North. We all expect his retirement not to diminish in way his continued commitment to the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and its school board on which he serves.

It has been a privilege to our community to have Mr. Carkenord demonstrate leadership and commitment to public education and the L'Anse Creuse School District. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Mr. Carkenord's retirement after nearly 50 years of public service to his community.

**BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION
AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001**

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the President submitted to Congress his legislative agenda for international trade. I believe this agenda benefits America's consumers, farmers, and workers. Beyond that, I believe it will successfully advance a strategy for pro-

moting freedom, economic development and increased living standards abroad. The keystone of the President's agenda is Trade Promotion Authority or "TPA". TPA provides the President with a powerful tool to promote U.S. agriculture and manufactured goods abroad.

As I travel through Iowa, farmers have expressed to me their support for opening world markets for U.S. farm goods. According to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, the President's primary trade negotiator, agriculture will be a primary factor in future trade negotiations. Indeed, agriculture currently accounts for more than 30% of all U.S. exports. On a national level, agricultural exports create 750,000 jobs, both on and off the farm.

Expanded trade opportunities very clearly benefit Iowa farms and the commodities that are raised on them. In my home district, approximately 35% of farm products are sold abroad. One in every five rows of corn are exported. This includes not just the unprocessed corn but value-added goods that create jobs including: meat, dairy and poultry products, corn feed, biodegradable plastics, and corn syrup. Soybean producers benefit from free and open trade as well. In the year 2000, U.S. exports of soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean oil totaled more than \$7 billion. Farmers want to earn a living from the land and with the free market without dependence on the government for financial assistance. TPA is essential to reach that goal. Congress is currently in the process of creating a new Farm Bill. However, any farm program devised would be fruitless without opening markets for farmers to sell their goods.

Agriculture is not the only business in my district that would benefit from opening international markets. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, 217 manufacturers in northeast Iowa export goods on a regular basis. The track record for business exports in Dubuque and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been impressive to say the least. Since 1993, when NAFTA was signed into law, Dubuque has seen a 75% increase in export sales. Waterloo and Cedar Falls together have posted an impressive 95% increase in export sales during that time period!

Deere & Company, a Quad Cities-based company, has several facilities throughout Iowa, including facilities in both Dubuque and Waterloo. This company's stake in opening foreign markets is very high. Deere exported \$1.8 billion in U.S.-made products in 2000. This reflects 16% of its total sales and 35,000 jobs that are export dependent. Deere has a stated mission of increasing its sales overseas. This mission is of great benefit to Iowa's working families. Deere's Waterloo Works is the company's largest exporting plant. One in four of the green tractors produced in Waterloo is headed overseas. TPA is important to companies like Deere because it will help stabilize our domestic farm economy, and gives the President more latitude in negotiating tariffs with countries that are seeking to modernize their agricultural development.

Waterloo Industries is much smaller than Deere, but also has a very large stake in the global marketplace. Approximately 10% of its products are sold abroad. Waterloo Industries produces high quality tool boxes and cabinets for both home and industrial use. On average, this company ships 3 semi-truckloads of these products abroad every day. This reflects

\$105,000 per day in sales and 1450 export dependent jobs, 10% of the company's workforce. Currently a third of Waterloo Industry's products to Canada. The remaining two-thirds are sold, among other places, in Europe, Australia, and Japan. It is my understanding that Waterloo Industries would like to expand its market in Asia and the Pacific. Tariffs for toolboxes in some Pacific rim countries are as high as 30%. I am hopeful that TPA can aid the President in negotiating a decrease of these high tariffs.

For some 60 years, Presidents have used a TPA-like system to open markets abroad. Congress allowed trade negotiating authority for the President to lapse in 1995. While our economy has continued to grow and our exports have increased since that time, we can and should still do more. The European Union currently has 27 preferential agreements with other countries, Japan has 130, and the United States is a party to only three of them.

This summer House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Thomas worked extensively with pro-trade Democrats to forge legislation to grant TPA while allowing Congress to retain its right to oversee the process. H.R. 3005 establishes a special trade oversight committee in Congress to consider environmental, labor, and human rights aspects of trade negotiations, and mandates the U.S. trade Representative to consult this committee on a regular basis. In addition, this legislation complies with rules established by the World Trade Organization and our other trading partners.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin the 21st Century, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the world is becoming a smaller place. More efficient means of transportation and communication have connected countries and regions of the world in ways that were unimaginable just a decade ago. Given these unprecedented changes and the United States' role in the world economy, it is critical that the United States be able to negotiate fair trade agreements with overseas nations. TPA offers the tools we need to face the challenges of our changing world economy. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the H.R. 3005.

**NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR
REMEMBRANCE DAY**

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This day allows Americans of all ages to honor and remember those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Early on the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched a brutal and unprovoked attack on the U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps bases at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Over 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,200 wounded on that fateful day—the day that President Roosevelt said "will live in infamy."

It was not until after World War II ended that the American people were fully apprised of what a severe, crippling blow the attack on Pearl Harbor inflicted on our defenses. The best of our Navy and our Army in the Pacific

was virtually wiped out in a single devastating blow. But the Japanese empire did not count on the galvanizing effect that this dastardly attack would have on the American people. In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, we have once again witnessed how this powerful effect unites our country against evil.

Prior to December 7, 1941, the role of the United States in world affairs was the topic of intense debate. That debate ended as the bombs fell on Pearl Harbor. All Americans became united in the effort for victory with a vigor and determination unknown in any American conflict, before or since, perhaps with the exception of the resolve demonstrated by the American people since September 11th. The ultimate tragedy of Pearl Harbor was the fact that it could have been predicted and prevented. Candidates for graduation at the Japanese military academies had been asked to plan an attack on Pearl Harbor as part of their final examinations each year since 1931. The Japanese secret code had been broken, and the State Department was aware that an attack was imminent. However, the location was not known, and so our commanders were not notified in a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, this does not mean, however, that our 3,600 casualties were killed or wounded in vain. The heroism demonstrated that fateful Sunday morning did much to inspire millions of Americans to greater sacrifice and heroism which was necessary for our ultimate victory. This year will mark the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor and our thoughts and prayers will be those survivors and their families as well as the families who have lost sons and daughters in the war that followed.

RETIREMENT OF JOSEPH
THOMPSON

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in particular, is losing a remarkable leader. Joseph Thompson, former Under Secretary for Benefits, is retiring after 26 years of service to veterans.

I met Joe at the start of my tenure as chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I had a lot of detail to learn about the VA's claims process, and Joe's knowledge of the VBA was vast. A Vietnam veteran, Joe began his career with VA as a claims examiner in 1975, and through the years he worked in the Education Service, VA's Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia as Assistant Director, and spent seven years as the Director of the Regional Office in New York. It was in this position that Joe reengineered the regional office's business processes and former Vice President Gore awarded the first "Hammer Award" for reinventing government to the New York Regional Office. Joe asked his coworkers personally to accept the award from the Vice President, which they did in Joe's presence. It was only natural that Joe Thompson would take the helm of the VBA. While managing almost 13,000 equally dedicated employees, Joe was responsible for administering the service-related disability compensation pro-

grams, needs-based pension programs, home loan guarantees, GI Bill education assistance, vocational rehabilitation and job placement services, and life insurance programs—and he rose to the task.

Joe Thompson is indeed a visionary person. Under his direction, VBA developed the Roadmap to Excellence in an effort to improve service delivery, the Balanced Scorecard, which measured performance by each regional office, and established a system to improve the integrity of performance data in order to greatly reduce false or erroneous reporting of outcome measures. These were seen at the time by some as unorthodox ideas, but veterans and VA's stakeholders are better off today because Joe challenged the status quo. Joe laid the bench mark for future VBA employees, and he set the bar rather high, in my opinion. He is one of the most creative and innovative public servants I have known. And the well-spring of growth and change that Joe inspired is Joe's legacy to his fellow veterans.

I have enjoyed a strong working relationship with Joe Thompson and consider him a friend. He is the epitome of the federal employee who reports to work each day because he wants to make a difference, especially for disabled veterans. And I can say without reservation that Joseph Thompson has met the challenge of leadership in public service. I wish Joe and his family all the best following retirement. I am sure Joe's family is proud of him; I know I am.