

Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services, Steven was recently a of a Department of Employment study for job retention in the food industry in New York City. He is also a trustee for Local 348S Food and Commercial Workers Union and the Director of the Koni Arts Foundation. In addition, he has worked on environmental issues, including water, power, and food waste, with both the city and the state.

From the 1980's until recently, Steven has worked for Blue Ridge Farms as the Government Community and Public Relations Director, as well as the Personnel Director. He was instrumental in providing donations to the community, including aiding at Ground Zero. Furthermore, he helped the company save over 500 jobs. He has also worked in food banks, homeless shelters, block associations, local police councils, youth groups, and senior centers. He currently is working with Aviation Systems of New York to develop technology to prevent explosions in airplanes, and is a consultant to World Vision, Inc. a music management and entertainment corporation.

Mr. Speaker, Steven Kaplansky has spent his life working tirelessly on behalf of his community. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

HONORING NATIONAL SMALL CITIES DAY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Friday, June 14, 2002, marks the first "National Small Cities Day" in honor of smaller communities of our country. I would like to help make our colleagues aware of this event and the significant role that small cities play in making up our great Nation.

An overwhelming majority of Americans live in cities with populations under 25,000. These small cities form the backbone of our Nation and contribute enormously to the character of all Americans. It is in these cities that we find the spirit of America in which we take so much pride and give so much to protect.

Living in a small city affords Americans the ability to involve themselves in the building of a community through involvement with local schools, government, and the daily activities which go into raising their community's children to be responsible, virtuous citizens.

Small cities across America will be joining each other today to recognize the contributions to our way of life made by their communities and those who live in them and help them thrive. We should all join them in recognizing and thanking our citizens who comprise these communities for all that they have done and continue to do every day.

RECOGNITION OF KEEPING THE PROMISE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere appreciation for

those men and women currently serving in our armed forces, in particular those who are engaged in the war against terrorism.

My home state of Oregon welcomed ships from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and the Canadian Fleet during our annual Rose Festival held this past week. I would like to thank Captain Terry Bragg, Commodore Destroyer Squadron One, his staff and crew aboard the USS *Paul F. Foster*. The *Paul F. Foster* and crew will soon be deployed in support of Enduring Freedom.

Also I would like to thank Rear Admiral Erroll M. Brown, District Commander of the 13th Coast Guard District, the Men and Women aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Hamilton* for their appearance at this event.

I can assure you that the leadership, morale, and dedication of all the officers aboard these ships were of the highest caliber as well as those men and women who serve aboard these ships. I can truly, say, the defense of our nation is in good hands when we have such professionals as those aboard the ships that visited Oregon this past weekend. All serve our country with pride and all Americans should be proud of them.

When we ask people to put their lives on the line to protect our country, we have a profound obligation to honor our promises to those whose service has kept our nation free. The men and women who have served our country so honorably know best that freedom is never free, that it is only won and defended with great sacrifices.

Once again I want to extend my gratitude and pride to all the men and women who serve our country, in the armed forces.

You make us all proud.

CONDEMNING THE PRIVATIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF OUR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague, Mr. BLUMENAUER and the others, in condemning the executive order issued late last week which will allow our air traffic control system to be commercialized and privatized.

We in Congress passed legislation strengthening our public transportation systems to help insure greater safety and the prevention of terrorism. We have recently federalized airport security and baggage inspection. Are we, at the same time, turning over absolutely essential air traffic control to the private sector, which utterly failed in airport security? How is this going to increase public confidence in air travel?

It is outrageous to propose actually privatizing a government service as essential as assuring the safe and orderly operation of the thousands of airline flights daily. When the private sector cannot perform an important and vital service adequately, it becomes essential that the government assure that it is performed to public expectations. That has become the case with air travel. It flies in the face of logic that any steps be taken toward dismantling the air traffic control system and turning functions over to the private sector.

I have been working with and debating officials in the Administration on the merits of privatizing government functions. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have been deeply concerned about the outsourcing of military jobs for many months. Clearly, this is another attempt to bring the private sector in to perform duties carried out by the civil service and other professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I am not against the private sector nor making a profit. But there are instances where making profits should be a totally secondary consideration. Profit must not be the bottom line in assuring public air travel safety.

Perhaps privatizing OMB would be a good next step. It might bring some level of common sense to the Administration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to officially state for the record that I incorrectly recorded my vote on rollcall No. 225 as a "yea" vote. I intended to vote "no" against passage of the Tax Limitation Amendment to the Constitution, H. J. Res. 96.

WEST GENESEE WILDCATS, 2002 NEW YORK STATE LACROSSE CHAMPIONS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a victorious day for West Genesee High School as both the men's and women's lacrosse teams captured the New York State Lacrosse Division 1, Class A Championship titles. It was a memorable day that will go down in history for the Wildcats, as both teams soared triumphantly to the top.

The day began as the women's team traveled to Cortland, New York to defend their state title, and this is exactly what they accomplished. The team ended their undefeated season with a 15-11 win. Later that afternoon at Hofstra University, the men's lacrosse team regained the State title with an exciting 10-9 victory. As Coach Mike Messere stated "It was one of the most exciting games I've seen."

West Genesee Lacrosse has always had the reputation for a stellar program, and as displayed this past weekend, the program continues to generate gifted athletes. These students work year-round to master the sport, and because of their relentless hard work, dedication, and passion for the game, they came out true champions.

I am proud of these devoted athletes, and I commend the coaching staff, parents, and entourage of supporters who traveled this long road with them. This type of outcome does not happen overnight, nor is it a result of just one season. It takes years of dedication to get such results, and this entire team should be proud of their accomplishments.

I would like to acknowledge the athletes and coaching staff who brilliantly represented their school, county, and state this past weekend:

For the women: Chrissy Zaika, Eileen Gagnon, Vanessa Bain, Shannon Burke, Meghan Burgoon, Katie Donovan, Lindsey Moore, Jackie Griffin, Kendall Tupper, Lindsey Shirtz, Kelly Fitzgerald, Colleen O'Hara, Nicole Motondo, Katherine Kenneally, Juilie Fabrizio, Kelly Kuss, Katherine DelPrato, Beth Elmer, Lindsey Hamann, Meghan O'Connell, Katie Kozloski, Keelin Hollenbeck, Eileen Flynn, Head Coach Bob Elmer, and Assistant Coach Erica Gerber.

And for the men: Mike Malfitano, Dean Mancini, Jake Bebee, Zack Forward, Jeff Murphy, Jed Bebee, Alex Cost, Kevin Hennigan, Matt O'Connell, Andrew Hanover, Rob Lemos, Mike Conklin, Cheney Raymond, Mark Conklin, Pat McCormack, Chad Clark, Drew Dabrowski, Devin Burgoon, Kiel Moore, Mike Solamon, Jim Mullaley, Andrew Sugar, Bill Gleason, Casey Rotelia, Chris Bulawa, Brian Cummings, Matt Woolsbiager, Brian Calabrese, Bob Toms, Mike Malone, Andy Zysk, Matt Cassalia, P.J. Burns, Head Coach Mike Messere, Assistant Coach Bob Deegan, and Scorekeepers Melissa McCarthy, Shadia Nesheiwat, Monica Macro, Kim Fischmann, Danielle Wood, and Jessica Lebduška.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND SOLOMON YOUNG-MIN KIM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Reverend Solomon Young-Min Kim, a well-respected leader in both the Brooklyn and Queens communities.

Rev. Kim was born in Pusan, Korea. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgy from Korea University and has studied at the New York Theological Seminary, the Korea New Church Seminary, and the Swedenborg School of Religion.

Rev. Kim is the pastor of The Mirral Church in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. He has helped solve ethnic issues between the Korean businessmen and the Black community, by getting the Korean businessmen to employ more residents from the Black community. He has also fostered relationships between the Korean community and the Caribbean-American, Haitian, and Italian communities. Rev. Kim's work with Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, as well as with the Brookdale Hospital Schulman Institute Nursing Home, has allowed him to spend time visiting the sick and the shut-in. He has also worked with the New York City Department of Correction by providing spiritual guidance and hope for a renewed life after prison to the population. Additionally, Rev. Kim helped organize the Census 2000 effort in the Korean communities of Bensonhurst, Bayridge, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Flushing and Queens, as well as in New Jersey.

Rev. Kim's activism is also evident in his attitude towards education. He formally supports an after-school program for Korean students in Bayridge and Bensonhurst who are having a tough time academically. But Rev. Kim's commitment to education extends to people of all ages. In addition to the Korean Youth Festival, he has established senior/youth intergenerational programs, aimed at initiating ongoing

dialogue, participation and education, as a team in the Korean community.

Rev. Kim's efforts have earned him numerous accolades and awards, such as the Asian American Heritage Award from the Borough President of Brooklyn, the Distinguished Ecumenical Award from the Wesley McDonald Holder Regular Democratic Club Women's Caucus, and the Community Service Award from Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr.

In closing, I would like to personally thank Rev. Solomon Young-Min Kim for his steadfast devotion to Brooklyn's Korean community and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly dedicated spiritual leader.

INTRODUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced an important bill, the "Administrative Law Process Enhancement Act of 2002," that reforms the organization of the administrative judiciary within the Social Security Administration ("SSA") by establishing an Office of Administrative Law Judges (the "Office") within SSA that is administered by a Chief Administrative Law Judge ("Chief Judge") who reports directly to the SSA Commissioner.

The national ALJ hearings function and hearings field operation that presently is within the SSA Office of Hearings and Appeals ("OHA") would be transferred to the office by the proposed legislation. The Chief Judge would be in charge of the office, be appointed by the Commissioner for a term of six years that is renewable once, and be subject to removal only upon a showing of an enumerated cause. The Associate Commissioner of OHA would continue to administer the Appeals Council. The changes proposed in the bill provide for a reorganization of the SSA that will not result in any additional costs to SSA or the government.

Currently, the SSA is without a functioning Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge. The functions for both the adjudication of administrative claims by SSA administrative law judges ("ALJs") and the appellate process for the review of ALJ decisions by the Appeals Council are located within the OHA. The ALJ portion of the OHA is under the dual leadership of a Chief Judge and an Associate Commissioner of OHA. The position description of the Chief Judge places the Chief Judge in charge of the national ALJ hearings function and hearings field operation of OHA. The Associate Commissioner of OHA is placed in charge of the national ALJ hearing function and the Appeals Council, and has major policy-making and policy-implementation responsibilities for OHA. The Chief Judge reports to the Associate Commissioner of OHA, who in turn reports to the Deputy Commissioner for the office of Disability and Income Security Programs ("ODISP"), who in turn reports to the SSA Commissioner.

In the current organization of SSA, the OHA and the ALJ function are submerged in the bureaucracy and are far removed from the Commissioner. The Social Security Advisory Board

recently prepared a report on the Social Security disability system that expresses concern about the OHA functions being buried too low in the agency, the need to elevate these functions to direct oversight by the agency leadership, and the need for greater ALJ function independence. Charting the Future of Social Security's Disability Programs: The Need for Fundamental Change, January 2001, p. 19. The current structure prevents the Commissioner from having effective oversight of the ALJ hearing process. The ALJ adjudication function should not be treated as a staff responsibility in SSA. The ALJ adjudication function is a major program of the agency with every individual in this Nation being a potential claimant within the SSA system. The SSA ALJ hearing system protects a constitutional right of our citizens and provides a constitutionally protected due process hearing to members of the American public. This vital process should have direct oversight from the Commissioner and the Chief Judge should have direct interaction with the Commissioner.

Another major defect in the current OHA is created by the dual leadership responsibilities of the Chief Judge and the Associate Commissioner. Frequently, these two leaders are competing for power to control the administrative and/or policy decisions for the ALJ hearing component of SSA that has deprived OHA of strong, effective leadership. Several years ago, the Associate Commissioner attempted to reorganize the responsibilities of the Chief Judge and divest the Chief Judge of most of the powers of that office, leaving the Chief Judge with some minor duties relating to judicial education and staff support for the Associate Commissioner. The Associate Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of ODISP also tried to compel the Chief Judge to resign because he resisted the inappropriate diminution of his duties. This scheme was thwarted by the efforts of interested individuals and organizations together with the oversight action of the Congress.

The lack of effective leadership and direction of the OHA and reduction of the Chief Judge function also has resulted in an organization that has been deteriorating in its efficiency. For over 10 years, several reforms have been imposed on the SSA hearing process. Each attempt has resulted in failure. Subsequent to the latest reform, the HPI reorganization in the hearing office process that was implemented in January 2000, the number of case depositions have dropped while the case processing time and the case backlog have increased. The result has been poorer service for the American public.

Better service for the American public by increasing case dispositions, reducing processing times, reducing case backlogs, and improving decision quality will result from the proposed legislation, which will ensure effective leadership of the ALJ hearings component of SSA. The ALJ hearings component of SSA will be treated as an organization that is responsible for administering a major agency program. It no longer will be organized as a staff function within SSA. The Commissioner will have direct oversight of the ALJ hearings component of SSA, which is necessary to effectively administer this important program that provides constitutional due process hearings for the American public. The ALJ hearing component of SSA will have one individual responsible for administrative operations and policy