

graduated from his alma mater, St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and was at the beginning of my own career. His was in full swing, a career that includes not only politics, but also teaching and providing home health services. We are fortunate that Frank Madla has dedicated so much of his life and heart to us.

Frank Madla has distinguished himself greatly these past 30 years as a leader in many areas. He has served on numerous committees, been honored by scores of organizations as "legislator of the year," and has distinguished himself as a dedicated servant of his constituents. Senator Madla has been an outspoken advocate of improving access to quality health care services, working especially hard to make sure that children have access to the care they need. He is proud of his efforts to simplify Medicaid so that more people can enroll, create incentives to encourage more health care providers to move into underserved areas, and improve the care provided in Texas' nursing homes.

Along with health care, Senator Madla has made improving education for Texas' children a top priority. With the determination for which he is known, Senator Madla successfully led the charge to bring a four-year university to the Southside of San Antonio. In the next few years, I look forward to the grand opening of the Texas A&M campus in San Antonio, making the dream of higher education available to his neighbors and constituents. Whether helping at-risk students stay in school or improving the incentives for retaining high quality teachers, Senator Madla has been there for us.

Greatness can be measured in many ways. Frank Madla has demonstrated greatness in his steadfast dedication to the people he represents, placing the future of our children at the forefront of his agenda. I look forward to many more years of working together with Senator Madla as he tackles the challenges that confront our state.

MISS AMERICA 2003 ERICKA
HAROLD

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce and congratulate Miss America 2003, Erika Harold. Raised in Urbana, Illinois, Erika has succeeded in every stage of her life and as a personal friend of her family, I know she has the support and determination to succeed in everything she puts her mind to. As the National Spokesperson for the Teen Victims Project of the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Spokesperson for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a member of the National Board of Directors for the Center of Youth as Resources, and a member of the Advisory Board for Peace Games, Erika's leadership and determination have proven invaluable in her ambition to end crime and violence against children. The amount of pride our community and I feel right now is immense in knowing that Erika has been crowned Miss America 2003 and I cannot think of a more deserving person to carry this honor and be a role model for every citizen; female and male, young and old. Erika has

most recently attended the University of Illinois where she was named Phi Beta Kappa and a Truman Scholarship finalist. Her ambition of pursuing a career in the fields of Public Interest Law and Public Policy was given a huge boost when she was recently accepted into the Harvard School of Law. However, as a result of her new endeavor as Miss America, Erika will place her education on hold for a year and pursue her duties as Miss America and her goal to "Empower Youth Against Violence". Erika recently wrote in a letter to USA Today, "As Miss America 2003, I am issuing a national call to action, challenging every segment of American society to take a proactive, comprehensive approach to eradicating this culture of degradation and indifference". I not only ask for you, my colleagues, to take this time to congratulate Erika, but I call you to stand hand in hand with her, supporting her, working with her, and finding inspiration in her, as we continue to move this country forward until our nation is truly and completely one of hope, peace, and unity. Let us take heed in the lessons we can learn from her and so many other of our citizens; that we should live our daily lives with a strong will, a loving heart, and a fearlessness to change that which we know is wrong.

INTRODUCING AIRLINE WORKER RELIEF ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I and 28 of my colleagues from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have introduced the "Airline Worker Relief Act," legislation to deal with inequities in our treatment of companies in the aviation industry, on the one hand, and their employees on the other. While we have given \$15 billion of financial assistance to the aviation industry to help them recover from the impact of September 11, we have not given any relief to industry workers who lost their jobs as a result of September 11. Now legislation is being developed to help the aviation industry to weather the difficulties it will face if there is a war with Iraq. Regrettably, the bills which have been developed do not include relief for displaced aviation industry workers. My bill will establish a framework for providing this relief.

Although the events of September 11 had effects throughout our economy, the effects on the aviation industry were direct and far-reaching. The airlines were totally grounded for several days and realized no revenues while incurring hundreds of millions of dollars in expenses. Even after the industry resumed flying, passenger traffic was slow to recover because of public anxiety over security. The events of 9/11 have also added to the industry's expenses, including a billion dollars a year in increased insurance costs, and loss of substantial revenues because of security limitations on the carriage of freight and mail. A coming war with Iraq is also likely to have a significant impact on the industry, including increased fuel costs, loss of revenue from the reluctance of passengers to fly, and from need of our military to use the airlines' aircraft to carry troops and equipment to the war zone.

Shortly after September 11, Congress responded to the aviation industry's financial problems by passing a \$15 billion package of direct assistance and loans. More recently, legislation has been reported by the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to provide airlines with low cost war risk insurance from the federal government, enhanced opportunities to carry freight and mail, and loan guarantees to assist the carriers in coping with any major increases in fuel costs resulting from a war with Iraq.

While I have supported these efforts to aid the industry for the problems created by terrorism and war, I and many of my colleagues are deeply disappointed that there has not been the same fair treatment of aviation industry employees who have also suffered from terrorism and war.

Aviation industry workers, including employees of airlines, aircraft manufacturers and suppliers, and airports, have suffered unprecedented job loss and economic uncertainty. Some 100,000 airline employees are out of work or facing imminent lay-off. Another 30,000 Boeing workers have been laid-off, along with 51,000 additional aerospace employees. And with bankruptcies looming large, the staggering job losses may grow.

The issue of aiding aviation employees is not new. When we passed the \$15 billion assistance bill soon after September 11, I, and many of my colleagues, insisted that if the airline companies were to be afforded relief, so should employees who had lost their jobs. The Republican leadership told us that there was no time to develop a consensus proposal on employee relief, but on the House floor, Speaker HASTERT promised prompt consideration of employee relief, including financial assistance, ability to retain health insurance, and training for new careers. Regrettably, the leadership has not followed through, and the House has never considered assistance for displaced airline employees.

Mr. Speaker, if the airline industry is entitled to special relief because it has suffered disproportionately from terrorism and war, its displaced workers are equally deserving of relief. My bill will help to redress the imbalance, and help the industry's employees cope with difficulties arising from events outside their control.

My bill provides unemployment benefits, training, job search assistance, and healthcare assistance for airline workers displaced from their jobs as a result of reductions service by air carriers and closures of airports caused by the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, security measures taken in response to the attacks, or a military conflict with Iraq authorized by the Congress. Benefits would be extended to employees of airlines, airports, commercial aircraft manufacturers and airline suppliers.

To summarize the benefits in greater detail: *Unemployment Benefits:* This bill would extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of March 2002 and provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits for eligible aviation workers who have already exhausted their initial 13 weeks of benefits.

Training: In the present economy, many laid off aviation workers will be unable to return to the industry in which they are employed. Under my bill, individuals who would not be expected to return to their jobs within the aviation industry would be eligible for retraining

benefits and adjustment allowances. Individuals who would not be expected to return to their jobs, but who may find some alternative job within the various sectors of the aviation industry, would also be eligible for training.

Health Care: COBRA coverage, which continues health insurance for displaced workers, is prohibitively expensive and beyond the ability of many workers to pay. My bill requires the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, to establish a program under which 75% of the premium for COBRA continuation coverage shall be provided for a displaced aviation employee. Payment of such premium assistance may be made through appropriate direct payment arrangements with a group health plan or health insurance issuer. Individuals who do not qualify for COBRA and are otherwise uninsured might be able to benefit from a state option to provide temporary Medicaid coverage. Furthermore, a state could provide temporary coverage under Medicaid for the unsubsidized portion of COBRA continuation premiums.

Hiring Preferences for Laid Off Workers: Thousands of federal security screener jobs remain unfilled at the Transportation Security Administration. Title III of my bill establishes a preference for displaced airline workers for TSA airport security screening jobs. Additionally, the Under Secretary of Transportation Security is directed to develop a program of performance incentive awards to Federal Security Managers, to encourage the hiring of eligible airline employees for TSA positions.

Mr. Speaker, my bill is designed to furnish assistance to aviation industry workers who have suffered severe economic damage from the terrorist attacks of September 11, and those who may suffer as a result of a war with Iraq. This assistance can tide them over the initial period of economic distress, and help them find new jobs, just as we found it appropriate to recognize the plight of our airlines as economic victims of a terrorist attack on our entire nation, we should also recognize the plight of that industry's employees.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important and equitable legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG ISLAND CITY YMCA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the The Long Island City YMCA on the occasion of their Third Annual Frank J. Tempone Service to Youth Dinner Dance. For their unwavering commitment and many charitable endeavors, Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin, Al Samilenko,, and Joseph Previte will be honored this evening.

The LIC YMCA opened its first full-service facility on March 1, 1999. This multi-service family center, the first in the area, represents a major commitment to the families, residents, businesses, and employees of Western Queens.

Since his election to the Legislature in 1992, Assemblyman McLaughlin has been an outstanding representative for Queens, focusing on criminal justice reform, renovating aging in-

frastructure to promote economic development and job growth, consumer protection, housing, and programs and services for older adults. An effective legislator, Assemblyman McLaughlin has authored more than a dozen state laws, including measures toughening crime laws and improving health care in the community. For his unyielding commitment to community service, numerous organizations have honored Assemblyman McLaughlin, including the East Flushing Civic Association, the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, and the Flushing Hospital Medical Center. Assemblyman McLaughlin has also been a community activist in Queens and a leading figure in New York City's labor movement for more than two decades. He currently serves as the President of the New York City Central Labor Council, which represents more than 1.5 million working men and women.

In 1958, while attending Rutgers University, Albert J. Samilenko started his own company, Garden State Electric. He subsequently was employed in managerial positions in prominent electrical construction firms, where he honed his project management skills and engineering abilities. In 1993, Mr. Samilenko purchased Fred Geller Electrical, expanding the firm so that it is engaged in all aspects of electrical construction and engineering. In addition, Mr. Samilenko currently serves as President of the Association of Electrical Contractors of New York City, an organization that represents 140 companies in the New York Metropolitan Area. Always committed to the advancement of youth, Mr. Samilenko has been actively involved in a wide range of organizations, including Friends of Saint Dominic's, The Boy Scouts of America, and Covenant House.

Joseph Previte has been a member of the Queens County Bar Association for 30 years, a member of the Columbian Lawyers Association for 12 years, and a past Vice Chairman and member of the Long Island City YMCA for 22 years. Mr. Previte has devoted his free time to public service, working as the Director of the Queens Library Foundation, participating in the Queens District Attorney's Business Advisory Council, and serving on the Judiciary Advisory Council Unified Court System of New York State. In addition, he was Commissioner and President of the New York City Board of Elections for 11 years, a past member of the Board of Directors of the Queens Botanical Gardens, and a past Vice President of the Queens Museum of Art. Mr. Previte is presently counsel to the law firm of Pennisi, Daniels and Norelli, LLC, and Former Senior Partner of the law firm of Previte, Farber, and Rosen, P.C.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the selfless efforts of Assemblyman McLaughlin, Al Samilenko, and Joseph Previte, and Long Island City YMCA's outstanding contributions to the community, and wishing them a wonderful evening at this Third Annual Frank J. Tempone Service to Youth Dinner Dance.

SUNBEAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Sunbeam Elementary School

in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Deborah Ward and Principal Hollis Munoz for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Sunbeam Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include creating a safe, nurturing environment for students; improving academic and/or functional living skills of all students; and implementing a middle school program within a K-8 structure. Recent accomplishments from last year include relocating the media center to a larger space; offering onsite social services; and 60 percent of sixth graders passing the reading portion of the Ohio Proficiency exam.

I commend the Sunbeam Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

THE INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today I introduced the Inclusive Home Design Act. This legislation will greatly increase the number of homes that are accessible to people with disabilities. The legislation requires all newly-built single family homes receiving federal funds to meet three specific accessibility standards: an accessible route, or "zero step," into the home, 32" clearance doorways on the main level, and one wheel chair accessible bathroom.

It defies logic to build new homes that block people out when it's so easy and cheap to build new homes that let people in. Many states and localities have already incorporated visitability standards. This list includes Naperville, Bollingbrook, and Champagne, Illinois, Atlanta, Vermont, Texas, Kansas, Arizona and others. Also the United Kingdom passed a law in March 1998 mandating that every new home become accessible. A federal law will build on the momentum that has already been created.

The proposed legislation is based on the concept of Visitability, an affordable, sustainable and inclusive design approach for integrating basic accessibility features into all newly built homes and housing. While serving as a member of the Illinois State House I introduced similar legislation.

When homes are accessible, it benefits not only today's disability community, but also all of us who are friends and family members of people with disabilities. Often, the prohibitive cost of making an existing home accessible deprives seniors of their independence and pushes them into nursing homes. It can cost several thousand dollars for someone to retrofit their home. However, on average it only costs \$300 to add visitability features into a new home.

By making new homes accessible, we guarantee that many seniors can age at home. As