

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

the population becomes older this will become more important. Fifty-eight percent of people over eighty-years-old suffer from physical impairments. This legislation will allow people to age in place. In 2000 there were 30.5 million people between 65–84 years old. This number will grow to 47 million by 2020. Today over 4.3 million are over 85 by 2020 this number is projected to grow to 6.8 million. Fifty eight percent of people over eighty years old are physically impaired.

Homes that meet visitability standards are essential for people with disabilities, and sensible because 3 out of 10 people will face a disability before they are 67, and practical if you want to invite a friend or a family member over for dinner who is disabled. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation, the Inclusive Home Design Act into law.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES Z.
HERNANDEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the accomplishments, devout commitment, and exceptional service of James Z. Hernandez.

James is a remarkable individual who has devoted his life to helping people throughout his community. His proactive approach and passionate spirit render him a vital resource and beloved community member. His innovative drug and alcohol prevention programs have triggered a domino effect of initiatives that can only be described as pure genius rooted in deep concern for others.

James witnessed the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse that had been plaguing families and communities and understood the magnitude of the problem. Being the passionate spirit that he is, it comes to no surprise that he was a pivotal force in bringing access to culture-specific substance abuse prevention and treatment services to America's Spanish-speaking population. On a crusade to further his cause, James took the issue to the political arena and became involved with legislation affecting Latino youth and adults. He collaborated with government agencies and elected officials to bring much needed attention to drug and alcohol abuse within his Latino community. I had the pleasure of working with James, on groundbreaking legislation while I served in the California State Assembly. AB 1784, The Alcohol and Drug Treatment For Adolescents Act, was the first legislation of its kind to provide assistance to youth with drug problems. The legislation became law and set precedent for other youth rehabilitation programs. James has consistently focused on finding ways to help curb the rapidly growing rate of drug dependent Latinos. His work in this field has been tremendous in paving the way to for a drug-free tomorrow.

In 2001, his credentials and expertise led him to become an appointed member of the Los Angeles County Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission. Throughout his career, James has demonstrated his effectiveness in addressing the problem and finding a solution.

James is now the Executive Director of the California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc.(CHCADA), which maintains over 20 substance abuse prevention and treatment contracts throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, and Solano counties.

It is only appropriate that James receive praise from so many as he approaches 30 years of devoting his life to serving others. His ardent work in the field of drug and substance abuse deserves to be commended. It is because of his relentless persistence and astounding vision that a multitude of preventative services exists. Throughout counties in California, individuals with addiction problems can receive professional assistance in fighting a crippling disease. His life's work means so much to so many people. And, in the words of Jackie Robinson, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

And so Mr. Speaker, I submit this commendation of James Z. Hernandez to be included in the archives of the history of this great nation, for individuals like James are what make this nation great. His life represents hope for countless people across California who have confronted the perils of drug and alcohol abuse and can now be comforted with hope.

HONORING SHERIFF CHARLES C.
PLUMMER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor Alameda County Sheriff, Charles Plummer for 50 years of exemplary law enforcement service.

Sheriff Plummer's law enforcement career began in 1952 as a patrolman for the Berkeley Police Department. He was appointed to Operations Commander during the "People's Park" uprising in 1969 and coordinated the activities of 2,500 National Guardsmen and 750 mutual aid officers. Charles eventually rose through the ranks to become Acting Chief in 1974.

In 1976, Charles Plummer was appointed Chief of Police for the Hayward Police Department. He obtained accreditation for the Hayward Police Department for excellence in police standards and procedures, the first police agency west of the Mississippi to do so and ninth in the nation. As Chief of Police, Charles' dedicated hard work and commitment led to the institution of many successful and worthwhile programs such as the Youth and Family Service Bureau; ComputerAided Dispatch System; Traffic Bureau; Crime Analysis Bureau; Stay-In-School Program; Traffic School; Crime Prevention Program and the Community Access Team.

Charles Plummer was elected and sworn in as Alameda County Sheriff in 1987. Since then, he has run unopposed and has been re-elected four times. Sheriff Plummer's most recent accomplishments include establishing contracting for medical services, the most cost-effective method of delivering first-rate medical care to inmates; developing three

year contracts for security services with AC Transit District, Peralta College District and Oakland Airport; researching, developing, and implementing the Electronic Monitoring Program for minimum security inmates; and opening a state-of-the-art Office of Emergency Services building.

Sheriff Plummer is a graduate of the FBI Academy, the National Executive Institute and the University of San Francisco where he earned his Bachelors Degree in public service.

Sheriff Plummer's leadership and commitment to public service are inspiring to all of us. We ask Congress to join us and the constituents of the Ninth and Thirteenth Congressional Districts as we congratulate Sheriff Plummer on a tremendous 50 year career and wish him another 50 years to come.

HONORING MORRIS COTTINGHAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Morris W. Cottingham for his decades-long commitment to democracy and good citizenship. I want to thank Mr. Cottingham, known affectionately to his many friends as "Morrie", for his many years of service to the Democratic Party and the contributions he has made to so many Coloradans. He reminds us of the importance of citizen participation in the democratic process and of how one person can make a big difference in their local community, their state, and their nation.

Morrie's 70-some years have been involved in politics from the beginning. Although raised in a Republican household, he realized early on that his politics were quite different than those of his parents. In the 1930's, when Franklin Roosevelt rode a train through his parent's farm, Morrie remembers being impressed and inspired by Roosevelt's Democratic message. He will be the first to tell you that one of his most significant and motivating pieces of memorabilia is a Chicago Tribune with a headline that reads, "Dewey defeats Truman." In every election since then, Morrie has poured blood, sweat, and tears into helping Democratic candidates win office.

He is a veritable institution in Boulder County politics, having served in nearly every position from Precinct Committee Person to the Second Congressional District Presidential Elector in 1996 and 2000. For the Party, Morrie has done everything from fundraising at bingo games to playing for the Mighty Dems softball team. He has often said of himself that one would be hard-pressed to find someone to the left of him on political issues. Those who know Boulder County, know that that is quite a statement.

Morrie's presence as a volunteer during campaigns could turn potentially stressful and chaotic events into smoothly functioning and enjoyable experiences. During a 1996 campaign, when over a hundred people needed supplies of yard signs for distribution, Morrie personally delivered thousands of signs to them within two days. He helped set the standard of excellence and volunteerism in the Boulder County Democratic Party, and his dedication is unequalled.