

H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO L. GEORGE YAP AND
LEASA INDUSTRIES CO., INC.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor George Yap, the President and Chief Executive Officer of LEASA Industries, Inc., which is located in the heart of one of the poorest neighborhoods in my 17th Congressional District.

George Yap is a special man, and a truly gifted businessman. He has demonstrated beyond all doubt that businesses can operate successfully and profitably in poor communities, relying on neighborhood workers to produce their products, if management has a sound business plan and the commitment to make it work.

George Yap is responsible for nothing less than an economic transformation of an area in my district that had few economic opportunities.

George has reached out to the people in his neighboring community in a way that no one else has. LEASA currently employs 70 full and part-time workers, the majority of whom are residents of public housing who include single mothers, school drop outs and even ex-convicts. Many of his workers have been with the company for more than 10 years and have moved up to supervisory positions.

He has been unselfish in extending his help to people who reside in public housing—people who other businesses, even government leaders, considered unemployable. He recognized and fostered in them the personal pride, desire for achievement, ability to learn, loyalty and commitment that any successful business needs from its employees.

In so doing, George Yap proved to be more than just an employer, and his workers received more than just wages. He has been the biggest motivator and supporter of his employees, helping to keep families together, encouraging them to improve their skills and learn new ones, and improving their quality of life by providing day care for their children and insuring that they receive the health services they need. George also provides mentoring services to new entrepreneurs. Under his guidance, LEASA Industries has won national awards from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, Inc. Magazine and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

This Saturday, January 26, LEASA Industries will break ground on a new \$4.6 million production facility in the Poinciana Industrial Park. I was happy to assist in this effort by legislatively directing almost \$2 million in federal Economic Development funds to this project, which is truly a wise public investment.

I know that my colleagues join with me in offering congratulations to George, his wife Einez, and their three children Andrew, Sean, and Allison for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF BLAKE HASELTON

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Blake Haselton. Mr. Haselton is the Superintendent of Oldham County Schools, a district which lies in Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District.

Last month, Mr. Haselton was named Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents. Next month, he could be named National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.

Since he began in Oldham County in 1973, Mr. Haselton has served as a high school biology teacher, athletic director, director of guidance services, and principal. He also served as the district's director of pupil personnel before being named superintendent in 1991.

His colleagues praise him as an education leader who "stays on top of both the academic and financial elements of operating a school system," and "makes his decisions on what's best for kids." The Oldham County Teachers Association says Mr. Haselton is everything teachers want in a superintendent: child-centered, focused on teachers' needs, and an aggressive planner. The chair of the Oldham County Board of Education says Mr. Haselton is a "leader amongst leaders . . . a master teacher" who "inspires the best in others."

Mr. Haselton also serves his community by doing volunteer work for several recreational, civic, and scouting organizations.

I rise today to congratulate Blake Haselton on being named Kentucky Superintendent of the Year, and to wish him well as he vies for the national title next month. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Haselton for his nearly three decades of outstanding service to the people of Oldham County, KY.

IN HONOR OF JIM ARMSTRONG

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a true leader of the city of Torrance and dear friend.

I met Jim Armstrong when I first ran for Congress. As a teacher of government and former mayor, he shared with me his great insight into the community. Indeed, in the years since, I came to value him as an advisor and friend. He helped me in every campaign and served as a member of my advisory committee on public education. He called himself a "Harman man," and I was clearly an "Armstrong woman."

It is hard to do justice to the true extent of Jim's reputation, influence, and impact. As teacher, councilman, mayor, and citizen, he exemplified the highest standard of community leadership and public service. During his six years on the Torrance City Council and eight more as Mayor, Jim fought for more parkland, for the Cultural Arts Center, for a new police station, and oversaw Torrance's renaissance

into a beautiful and modern city. Even in retirement, Jim remained an active leader in the community, serving in leadership roles in the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, Torrance Education Foundation, and Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

While Jim's work can be seen in buildings and parks across Torrance, his true legacy lies in the generation of students he inspired as a teacher. Countless students he taught have since pursued careers in which they too serve the community. I am proud to count myself among his students of politics, and am proud to be a part of establishing a college scholarship in Jim Armstrong's honor. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who exemplifies Jim's outstanding community leadership and scholastic aptitude.

No one was more committed to Torrance, to service, or to education than Jim Armstrong. I will miss his counsel, his sense of humor, and his generosity, but mostly, my family and I will miss Jim.

THE QUONSET AIR MUSEUM'S AC-
QUISITION OF AN F-14 AIRCRAFT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce a very important achievement by the Quonset Air Museum in North Kingston, Rhode Island. Thanks to the coordinated effort of the Hasbro Corporation, the Rhode Island Air National Guard, the Rhode Island delegation and the Quonset Air Museum, an all-volunteer organization, the museum has been selected as the new home for the US Navy F-14 Tomcat, tail number A162591.

The mission to bring an F-14 to the museum began over 3 years ago. Thanks to countless letters and phone calls over the years and the diligence of many dedicated civilians and members of the services, today we are rewarded with the acquisition of a military treasure. This aircraft will join 30 other military and civilian aircraft and 5,000 smaller artifacts that are on display in the Quonset Air Museum. This plane was recently given a noble warrior's retirement from Fallon Naval Air Station in Nevada, the new home of the Navy's Top Gun competition. And it was even featured in the movie, Top Gun. But perhaps, most important of all, the F-14 has served the military for over 25 years. It was used in the Persian Gulf War and is now leading our effort in Afghanistan.

Today Rhode Island celebrates these accomplishments at an appropriate time in our nation's history. This aircraft has trained and prepared some of the Navy's top fighter pilots. It exemplifies the strength and vigilance of our country's armed forces and it demonstrates the honor attached to the service to one's country. This occasion reminds me of the importance of patriotism and of my love of this country.

I am proud to be an American, and I am proud to be a Rhode Islander. I hope that current and future generations visiting the Quonset Air Museum share my appreciation for the hard work of the museum in bringing this living legend to our community and for the

tremendous debt owed to the F-14s and their pilots who have fought over the years to ensure America's freedom.

GENEROSITY OF HAROLD L. AND
DELORES K. BRAKE OF SAINT
THOMAS, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the generosity of Harold L. and Delores K. Brake of Saint Thomas, Pennsylvania, who gave \$500,000 to help build the Rhonda Brake Schreiner Women's Center, an affiliate of Summit Health. The center honors the memory of their daughter, Rhonda Brake Schreiner, who passed away April 7, 1999, after suffering from pancreatic cancer. During their daughter's struggle with the fatal illness, Harold and Delores realized the need for a medical center which concentrated on women's health issues.

The center offers diagnostic and support services to help women maintain good health. Mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, bone density, ultrasound, and cardiology studies are provided through physician's referral. The center also houses a resource center, staffed by a clinically trained women's health coordinator, equipped with decision support tools, internet access, and educational materials to allow women to take an active role in preserving or restoring their health.

The Brakes made the pledge for the funding in September of 2000. They graciously fulfilled their commitment and were honored in January of 2001, when the Rhonda Brake Schreiner Women's Center opened. In the front hall of the center hangs a plaque honoring the Brake family which states, "The Rhonda Brake Schreiner Women's Center has been established in her memory through a gift from her parents, Harold and Delores Brake, and her brother, Randy. Through it, they want to encourage women to seek early detection and treatment necessary for a long, fulfilling life."

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEXT STEP IN REFORMING WELFARE ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, our work in helping people move from welfare to employment, and from poverty to a better way of life, is far from done. We must continue the progress States have made in promoting employment among welfare recipients, while also increasing our focus on job advancement and poverty reduction. To achieve these goals, I am introducing the Next Step in Reforming Welfare Act to reauthorize and improve the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and to enhance several related programs. I am proud to be joined by my Democratic colleagues on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, Rep-

resentatives STARK, LEVIN, McDERMOTT and DOGGETT, in sponsoring this important legislation.

As we approach the reauthorization of TANF, it is important to acknowledge the progress our Nation has made over the last six or seven years in reducing poverty and other critical social problems. For example, the percentage of children living in poverty in the United States has dropped to its lowest level since 1979. Unfortunately, even with that improvement, one out of every six children still lives in poverty.

Three developments are primarily responsible for these positive changes in the poverty rate. First, until recently, we have seen nearly unprecedented economic growth. Second, the work supports put in place by Congress, particularly the 1993 increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit, are now paying important dividends. And third, welfare reform has encouraged more low-income mothers to enter the workforce.

As impressive as these poverty reductions have been over the last few years, they pale in comparison to the decline in the welfare rolls over the same time period. This raises some troubling issues, not the least of which is the fact that many families are *not* leaving poverty when they leave welfare for work. Additionally, some families at the very bottom of the income scale may have lost ground over the last 5 years because of a reduction in various forms of public assistance.

This should raise a basic question for every Member of this body: is caseload reduction a goal unto itself, or is it a means to an end? I believe it must be the latter. In other words, we want people to leave welfare so they can lift their families out of poverty. To achieve that objective, we must continue the expectation that welfare recipients move toward employment. But at the same time, we must do more to help them escape poverty and move up the economic ladder. Both of these goals will undoubtedly be made more difficult by a slowing economy that is now shedding more jobs than it is creating. In fact, the current recession raises the stakes on our efforts since many recent welfare leavers may lose ground in their fight to escape poverty and current welfare recipients may find it even harder to leave the rolls for work unless we make some necessary improvements to TANF.

At its core, the Next Step in Reforming Welfare Act is driven by a philosophy that we should help people escape poverty through hard work. The TANF program is not, nor should it be, our only weapon to achieve this goal, but it must be an important part of our arsenal. Here are the eight steps our legislation would pursue to improve TANF and several other important poverty-related programs.

First, the legislation would maintain our financial commitment to the TANF program by increasing the current annual \$16.5 billion allocation by an inflation adjustment in coming years. Such an increase is necessary to stop the continual erosion in the real value of the States' TANF grants (which will be worth 22 percent less in FY 2007 compared to FY 1997 unless adjustments are made). Of course, some may suggest we should cut funding because of declines in TANF's cash caseload. However, three facts are in conflict with such a suggestion: (1) there are still many unmet needs that demand significant resources; (2) an increasing amount of TANF funds are

spent on work supports, rather than on direct cash assistance; and (3) the current recession will present new challenges to our welfare system. In addition to prospectively increasing the TANF grant for inflation, the bill would improve and extend the current supplemental grants for States with low Federal funding per poor child, the annual work-based performance bonuses and the contingency fund, which would be redesigned to provide real assistance to State TANF programs during economic downturns.

Second, the bill would include poverty reduction as an explicit goal in the welfare reform law, and States should be given financial bonuses if they reduce child poverty. Broadening the goals of TANF and providing financial bonuses would encourage States to consider developing new approaches and providing additional assistance to help struggling families. Furthermore, under the bill, a conciliation process would be required before a TANF recipient's benefit can be sanctioned, funding for the Social Services Block Grant would be restored to \$2.8 billion a year, and the current caseload reduction credit would be replaced with an employment credit, which would reward States for moving people from welfare to work, rather than for people simply exiting welfare.

Third, the current requirement that TANF recipients be working or enrolled in related employment activities would be continued. However, additional incentives and rewards for work would be established, including not counting TANF payments to recipients' with earnings towards the five-year time limit (such payments would be considered wage subsidies). The legislation also would make a dramatic new investment in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (an additional \$11.25 billion over 5 years) to ensure that both welfare leavers and the working poor have access to quality and affordable day care.

Fourth, State TANF plans would have to include goals for improving earnings for TANF recipients and leavers, and new demonstration projects (\$150 million per year) would be established to increase wages for low-wage workers and to improve employment outcomes for welfare recipients with multiple barriers. Additionally, to promote the skills needed for employment advancement, the legislation would eliminate the current cap on the number of TANF recipients who can be enrolled in vocational education and still count towards the participation requirement.

Fifth, the bill would take a series of steps to encourage family formation and responsible parenting. For example, the measure would create a new fund (\$100 million a year) to promote the best practices on promoting the formation of two-parent families, reducing teenage pregnancy, and helping low-income, non-custodial parents support their children. Furthermore, the legislation would encourage States to pass through more child support to families, rather than retaining those collections to recoup past welfare costs.

Sixth, the legislation would revise the harsh immigrant provisions in the 1996 law by restoring TANF and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility to non-citizens who are legally residing in the country (with a requirement that their sponsor's income be deemed available to them for a certain period of time).