

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING OLYMPIC MEDALIST DANNY KASS

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Danny Kass, a great American Olympian from Hamburg, New Jersey. Danny thrilled America by winning a silver medal in the men's snowboarding halfpipe at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Danny, the youngest member of the 2002 U.S. Olympic Men's Snowboarding Team, began his career on the slopes of Mountain Creek Ski Resort in Vernon, New Jersey, and continues to hold on to his New Jersey roots. He has made all of us so proud.

Danny's outstanding skill at the age of 19 is truly amazing. His talent was showcased for the entire world in Salt Lake this month. And although we may not all understand the intricacies of scoring the halfpipe competition, I think we can all agree that after watching Danny ride on Monday, February 11th, we knew we had seen a medal-winning performance. Sure enough, Danny was awarded the silver medal as he joined his two American teammates on the podium for a rare American sweep.

The exuberance of our American medalists was contagious. The country felt their excitement that day, and had a glimpse of how it feels to be rewarded for excelling at a sport you love. Danny Kass just couldn't stop smiling and the crowd just couldn't stop cheering.

Although this was not Danny's first win in a snowboarding competition, I'm sure it will be a memorable one for him. Since he began snowboarding in Vernon, New Jersey, and competing on the slopes of Vermont, Danny has claimed titles in several impressive events, such as the Overall Men's U.S. Grand Prix Halfpipe, the X-Games Halfpipe and the U.S. Olympic Halfpipe.

This weekend, we congratulate Danny on the New Jersey slopes where he first learned to snowboard. The Mountain Creek Ski Resort in Vernon will host a "Specialty Sport Pro/Am Halfpipe Jam" to honor Danny.

Through his dedication and pure love of the sport of snowboarding, Danny has earned the Olympic silver medal and the respect of his peers and fellow countrymen.

I urge my Colleagues to extend to Danny Kass warm wishes and congratulations. On behalf of our State of New Jersey, I extend to Danny our thanks for representing us so well in Salt Lake.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2002

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002" to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Adoption Opportunities program, the Abandoned Infants Act, and the Family Violence Prevention and Treatment Act (FVPSA).

According to recent statistics, almost 3 million reports of possible child maltreatment were made to child welfare agencies in 1999. Approximately 60 percent of these reports were investigated and 826,000 children were estimated to have been victims of abuse or neglect in 1999.

While the overall number represents a continuation of a downward trend since 1993, the long-term trend in child abuse reporting has been one of substantial growth, with the number of maltreatment reports more than quadrupling since 1976. However, it should be noted that increased reporting of abuse and neglect does not necessarily mean an equivalent increase in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. While the proportion of child maltreatment reports that are substantiated has grown smaller over time, the number of reported child abuse cases is likely higher due to improved surveillance mechanisms. Despite progress made in promoting child abuse awareness and the endless efforts made to prevent child abuse and neglect, much more work is needed.

In addition, family violence continues to be the most common, yet least reported crime in our nation. Approximately 95 percent of family violence victims are women, and it is estimated that every 11 seconds a woman is battered in the United States. It is also estimated that 70 percent of men who abuse their wives also abuse their children, and children from abusive homes are at greater risk of alcohol or drug abuse and juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Speaker, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002 continues to provide important federal resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child abuse and neglect and family violence, and to support effective methods of prevention and treatment. It also continues local projects with demonstrated value in eliminating barriers to permanent adoption and addressing the circumstances that often lead to infant abandonment.

This legislation emphasizes the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family violence before it occurs. It promotes partnerships between child protective services and private and community-based organizations to ensure that services are more effectively provided, and supports public education on child abuse

and neglect by strengthening the public's understanding of the role of child protective services and appropriate methods for public reporting of suspected incidents of child maltreatment.

This legislation also fosters cooperation between parents and child protective services workers by requiring case workers to inform parents of the their rights and the allegations made against them. Further, this legislation is designed to improve the training, recruitment and retention of individuals providing services to children and ensures the appropriate supervision of these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to back this important legislation that supports improved services for children and families.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "INSIDER STOCK SALES EM- PLOYEE NOTIFICATION ACT"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of introducing the "Insider Stock Sales Employee Notification Act," a measure that will require company executives who sell stock to immediately notify the company pension plan officials. The bill would allow all employees to be given early warning in cases where executives begin dumping company stock.

Unfortunately, the Enron and Global Crossing scandals have shown us that employee retirement savings are vulnerable to misconduct and abuse by company officials. In the past few months we have learned that Enron and Global Crossing executives sold millions of dollars worth of company stock while encouraging employees to keep company stock in their retirement accounts, and prohibiting some employees from selling their company matched 401(k) shares.

Employer-sponsor investment rules are rigged against employees. Companies often have one set of rules for executives—which permit windfall profits from sales of stock without restriction—and another for rank-and file employees, whose freedom to rescue their savings by selling company matched stock is often restricted by employers.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal published two shocking stories that further document the inequities that employees endure when companies confront huge losses: loyal employees see their 401(k)'s evaporate while executives continue to pocket vast fortunes. As the Journal reported:

"... [T]op executives at many companies, including Enron, Lucent, Global Crossing, Kmart and WorldCom have seemed intent on preserving their lush compensation even as their companies flounder and their employees lost jobs, severance, medical benefits and retirement savings."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Also, last week the Los Angeles Times reported that "Global Crossing workers lost about \$250 million between 1999 and 2001 when the value of the company stock in "their 401(k) accounts tumbled," and that while the company "cut off severance pay to thousands of laid-off workers when it filed for bankruptcy . . . in the preceding months [it] forgave loans and made \$15 million in lump-sum pension payments to certain executives."

I am inserting complete copies of these articles in the RECORD today.

Pension reform must provide equity to employees. Employees have a right to know when their executives are dumping company stock. They should then be able to make an informed decision as to whether they want to sell any of their own company stock in their retirement accounts. They should be able to receive accurate financial information about their company. They should have a right to have equal representation on the pension administrative committee. They should have the right to sell company-matched stock after only one year. And they should certainly be assured that when company officials breach their trust, the will be held fully accountable for their actions.

I urge the members to join me in sponsoring this new measure, and the Employee Pension Freedom Act (H.R. 3657) that I introduced earlier this year.

[From the LA Times, Feb. 27, 2002]

EX-EMPLOYEES QUESTIONED ON 401(K) PLAN
(By Liz Pulliam Weston)

The Labor Department is questioning former Global Crossing Ltd., workers about the bankrupt company's 401(k) retirement plan, apparently to determine if any pension laws were broken.

Former Global Crossing employees said this week they have been contacted by Labor Department investigators, who asked for copies of documents distributed to workers describing the company's 401(k) plan and its features.

The investigators "said that they were opening an investigation into Global Crossing's 401(k) program and [were] very interested in any additional information that they could glean from any present or former employee," said one former employee, who asked not to be identified.

Global Crossing workers lost about \$250 million between 1999 and 2001 when the value of the company stock in their 401(k) accounts tumbled from a peak of \$64 to 30 cents before the company filed the fifth-largest bankruptcy in U.S. history Jan. 28.

A Global Crossing spokeswoman said the company had been contacted by Labor Department investigators and was cooperating.

"Our [attorneys] will work to provide all necessary information and answer any questions [investigators] may have," said spokeswoman Janis Burenga.

The Labor Department routinely examines the retirement plans of companies that have filed for bankruptcy to make sure employees' retirement money is safe and being properly distributed as companies reorganize, said department spokeswoman Gloria Della. Della would neither confirm nor deny that such an investigation was taking place at Global Crossing.

The telecom giant, which is based in Bermuda and has executive offices in Beverly Hills, is under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the FBI for its accounting methods. In addition, members of Congress have demanded investigations into the company's retirement

plans, and employees have sued over losses in their 401(k) accounts.

Global Crossing employees said labor investigators also questioned them about the company's severance packages. Global Crossing cut off severance pay to thousands of laid-off workers when it filed for bankruptcy, but in the preceding months forgave loans and made \$15 million in lump-sum pension payments to certain executives.

Regulators simply may be making sure employee contributions were deposited into the 401(k) plan, said Los Angeles pension lawyer Alex Brucker. Troubled companies sometimes illegally use 401(k) contributions to pay bills, although such behavior is far more common at small, private companies than at large, publicly traded firms, pension lawyers said.

Global Crossing spokeswoman Tisha Kresler said all employee contributions have been properly deposited in the plan.

Labor investigators also may be probing whether employees were advised of the risks of investing in company stock, which at one point made up more than half the 401(k) plan's assets, pension experts said.

Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez) asked the Labor Department last week to determine whether any of the trustees of Global Crossing's savings plan were aware of the company's financial problems and what steps the trustees took, if any, to protect employees.

Miller also plans to introduce a bill today that would require executives who sell company stock to alert company executives and pension officials within 24 hours.

Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-N.Y.) has requested a congressional inquiry into Global Crossing's decision to freeze workers' 401(k) accounts for a month before the bankruptcy.

This legal but controversial practice, known as a lockdown, was used by both Global Crossing and bankrupt energy trader Enron Corp. when the companies switched plan administrators.

Several lawmakers have introduced bills that would limit how long lockdowns can last.

Global Crossing's stock already had lost 99% of its value by the time its lockdown began Dec. 14. Global Crossing's 401(k) plan was typical for a large firm, offering a range of investment options including stock and bond mutual funds as well as company stock.

Both firms matched their employees' contributions only with shares of company stock, however, and placed restrictions on workers' ability to sell those shares. Consumer and pension rights advocates say such restrictions—also not uncommon among employers—prevented many employees from diversifying their accounts.

In December, Global Crossing lifted restrictions on employees' ability to sell company shares in their 401(k)—long after most of the shares' value had disappeared. Even then, many employees did not sell their shares, saying they were told by executives that the stock price would recover.

Postal Service since 1967, when he began as a part time flexible clerk. After joining the American Postal Union, he held numerous trusted positions in the union. In 1980 he became the president of the Portland Maine Local, and has remained in that position for the last 22 years.

Wayne was born in Portland on March 29, 1943. He was the eldest son of four boys and one girl of John Poland, Jr. and Phyllis Pauline Woods Poland. Wayne grew up Portland, and attended my alma mater, Deering High School.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Wayne during a difficult time for the Portland postal workers, when plans were being discussed for the relocation of the principal mail facility in the region. Thanks in large part to his able leadership, we were able to resolve the issue, ensuring that the hundreds of postal workers working at the facility would not have to relocate or leave their jobs.

Throughout his tenure, Wayne worked hard and effectively to serve the needs of both workers and the Postal Service. He earned the respect of all who worked with him, and he will be sorely missed.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH NAVAS,
PORT AUTHORITY OFFICER

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to one of New Jersey's finest—Joseph Navas of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. A resident of Paramus, New Jersey, Joseph Navas died valiantly trying to save lives during the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Joseph was not only a dedicated veteran police officer for the Port Authority, but also a devoted and loving father and husband. And although he may have been taken early from this life, his children will grow up knowing that their father was a hero to his family, and now a hero to his country. I am proud to pay tribute to this courageous American hero.

As forces of terror tried to extinguish the light of our nation on September 11, the heroes in our midst shined brighter than ever. For some, we know what heroic endeavors were undertaken as we hear stories from cell phones, emails, and survivors. And then there are those whose story was not told, yet we know—because of the people they were—it was a selfless courageous story. We know this because these men and women were heroes before they even entered the World Trade Center Towers to begin their rescue missions. Officer Navas was one of those people.

That Tuesday, his work and courage brought him into the lobbies of the World Trade Center as people flooded onto the streets. He was one of the men and women who ran up the stairs while instructing people to immediately get down those same stairs and outside. He was one who orchestrated safe escapes for those in the towers, while remaining in those very buildings to get people out. His efforts will never be forgotten, especially by those who were saved.

WAYNE R. POLAND HONORED

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, in April, 2002, Wayne R. Poland will retire from the United States Postal Service and from his position as the local president of the Portland Maine Area Local #451 of the American Postal Workers Union. He has served with distinction in the