

offset some of the costs of child care, provide after-school music or athletic lessons, and could be put away to provide for education.

Pay Equity is something we need to work on everyday, not just on Equal Pay Day. We need to enact the Paycheck Fairness Act to provide solutions for women who are not earning equal wages for equal work. It's been 30 years since the passage of the Equal Pay Act, yet working women still suffer. I am committed to continuing the fight for equal pay until the gap no longer exists. This is an issue of equality, economic security and civil rights. We cannot rest until women are being paid what they deserve.

THE ALAMEDA CORRIDOR: A MODEL FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to one of the most successful public works projects in our nation's recent history. A \$2.4 billion engineering masterpiece that will greatly bolster U.S. trade with Asia and Latin America and benefit our economy well into the future. The project, which covers a large portion of my district in Long Beach, California, is a 33-foot deep, 50-foot wide trench that allows freight trains to travel underground to and from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to downtown Los Angeles.

The 20-mile long corridor eliminated more than 200 railroad crossings and erected 30 new bridges. It will provide residents and travelers throughout southern California with much needed relief from traffic congestion and air and noise pollution. The corridor also reduces travel time for trains by more than half—allowing for increased trade goods to flow in and out of the ports.

The Alameda Corridor celebrated its grand opening on April 12th. I joined with my congressional colleagues, Reps. DAVID DREIER and JUANITA MILLENDER McDONALD, as well as my good friend Secretary Norman Mineta and many other public officials who contributed significantly to the project's completion on schedule and within budget.

Since planning for this project began in the eighties and continued throughout the early nineties, many hands contributed to its progress. But few were as instrumental in giving this project its wings. One of them was my predecessor, former congressman Glenn Anderson. He was chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Public Works. He gave excellent support to the Alameda Corridor when he was in good health. Former Congressman, and now Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta followed him as chairman and continued with strong support. And Gil Hicks, without question, is the visionary who started the ball rolling with the planning group.

I also want to mention another one of Norm Mineta's colleagues . . . Federico Pena, the former Secretary of Transportation. Without his judgement on putting up the money, nothing would have happened throughout the nineties. Other strong supporters were then Speaker Newt Gingrich, then Senate Majority

Leader Bob Dole, and then Governor Pete Wilson. Every one of them was very helpful. And particularly the Congressional delegation from Los Angeles County. We had all sorts of things going at that time. The County was experiencing deep unemployment at the time. With the end of the Cold War, the major airplane manufacturing firms, and hundreds of suppliers closing their doors. The C-17 was the only airplane under production. But Mayor Riordan of Los Angeles and Mayor O'Neill of Long Beach persevered. They both came to Washington on numerous occasions. They were always successful in garnering support from the White House. With these people oiling the wheels, a lot was accomplished by a lot of people. And the winds of trade from Asia and Latin America are moving up that corridor and democracy is thriving. I want to thank all these fine people for what they have done. This project would not have happened without their hard work. The Alameda Corridor will serve as a model for congested cities across the country for years to come.

BUSINESS INTEREST CHECKING FREEDOM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1009 contains a provision, Section 7, entitled Rule of Construction, regarding certain real estate escrow accounts. This provision is substantially the same as Section 7 of H.R. 974, the Small Business Interest Checking Act of 2001, which passed the House last year. The provision makes clear that the current treatment of certain services and benefits provided by banks in lieu of interest in connection with escrow accounts for real estate closing transactions remains the same. There are some minor technical changes to this section from H.R. 974. These changes make the provision more straightforward, and clarify the specific banking statutes to which this provision applies. This provision does not alter the current legal definition of interest or the legal treatment of real estate closing escrow transactions. It is my understanding that current Federal legal standards, including regulatory interpretations, regarding the definition of interest on deposits will continue to stand.

Currently, the Federal Reserve's Regulation Q provides that services and benefits can be given by banks in lieu of interest to depositors. The Regulation also specifically provides that the provision or the receipt of such services and benefits does not constitute interest. Such services and benefits include for example, free printed checks, safe deposit and night depository facilities, low-interest loans, and armored car services. In Texas, numerous small title agencies, underwriters, and attorneys benefit from these services. The average title agency in Texas is a small, locally based family businesses, usually employing no more than six or seven employees. These agencies are mainstays within their communities and provide service to individual customers who are purchasing homes. Maintaining the current regulatory interpretation of interest is important to the health of many of these businesses. In our

nation's highly developed financial system, Federal banking law and regulations have operated to facilitate the smooth and efficient flow of real estate transactions and promoted American homeownership. I am optimistic that these services will continue to be provided in the current efficient manner when H.R. 1009 becomes law.

REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF DUTY SUSPENSION BILLS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce 13 bills to suspend the duty on the importation of products used by a manufacturer in my home state of Rhode Island. Several of these products are organic colorants used in manufacturing processes requiring unique characteristics beyond the mere addition of color. For example, some of the products are used in the manufacture of plastics; they combine the characteristics of stability in high heat as well as maintaining the color of the plastic for long periods of time. Others are used for automotive coatings, and they replace older colorants based on metals such as lead, chromium, molybdenum, cadmium and mercury.

Also among the products for which I am seeking temporary duty relief are colorants that can maintain their exact shade even when used in manufacturing processes exceeding 200 degrees centigrade. Other products are intermediate chemicals used in the manufacture of pigments.

The temporary suspension of duty on products imported into the United States is sound public policy so long as there is no domestic producer of the same products or directly competitive products. I have been assured there are no domestic producers of the 13 products for which I am seeking duty relief. Eliminating the duty on these products will allow the Rhode Island manufacturer to maintain its competitiveness in the international market. The products for which I am seeking duty suspension are manufactured overseas by the sister companies of the Rhode Island manufacturer. In addition, I was pleased to learn that the Rhode Island company invested several million dollars to expand domestic manufacturing capacity in Rhode Island for a product that formerly received a suspension of duty.

IN TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW AND MICHAEL FLOCCO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a son and his father who exemplify what is best about the United States of America. Matthew Flocco who died on September 11, 2001 in service to his country at the Pentagon, and his father, Michael Flocco, who has set an example for all Americans who love their family and their country.

On the reconstruction site at the Pentagon, Michael Flocco wears a hard hat displaying stickers that read "Pentagon Renovation Program" and "Proud to be a Union sheet metal worker." Known to his fellow sheet-metal workers as a gregarious character, Michael is part of a one thousand person team of faithful Americans working to reconstruct the Pentagon in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

But the events that led Michael to assignment at the Pentagon set him apart from the workers around him. In fact, for Michael Flocco, installing duct-work for the heating and air conditioning systems in the Pentagon is not just work, it is part of a healing process and a wonderful tribute to his son Matthew.

Michael and Sheila Flocco raised Matthew, their only child, in Newark, Delaware. Matthew, a quiet and reflective young man, was liked and respected by all who knew him. Matthew joined the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1998.

Fully committed to serving his country, Matthew rose to the top of his Navy class in meteorology and was quickly spotted by an admiral who gave him an important assignment at the Pentagon. As an Aerographer's Mate Second Class, Matthew performed important duties at the National Ice Center for the Departments of Defense and Transportation. He used his expertise as a weather analyst to safeguard ships traveling in ice-covered waters.

But in a tragic twist of fate, this young American's bright future was cut short on September 11th, 2001, during the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Matthew was only 21 years old.

When the news of their only son's death reached Sheila and Michael Flocco, they were devastated.

But Michael, a third generation sheet metal worker, knew exactly what he had to do. Working on the construction of the new courthouse in Wilmington, Michael approached his superiors and requested a transfer to the Pentagon rebuilding project.

In January 2002, Michael pulled his 24-foot recreational vehicle into a Maryland R.V. park. Now, the man who lost his son less than ten months ago rises at 4:00 a.m. every day, throws on his brown jacket with "Floc," his nickname, scrawled in permanent marker on the back, and heads to work with one thing in mind. Michael Flocco is determined to, as he says, "fill that hole in the wall and fill that hole in my heart."

Michael plans to continue working on the rebuilding project through September 11th, 2002, a date that marks the one year anniversary of his son's death, as well as a formal reopening ceremony of the Pentagon. Michael Flocco's response to his son's death is an inspiration to every American.

Today we are here to pay tribute to a son and his father; We are here to recognize an outstanding example of dedication to the United States of America; We are here to honor the best character of Americans—refusal to be defeated in the face of tremendous adversity.

We are here today to dedicate this field, which forever will be a symbol of Matthew's love for baseball and love for America.

THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY'S 27TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, more than 1.2 million Americans will hear the words "You have cancer." More than 500,000 Americans will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Oncology nurses are on the front lines in the battle against cancer. Every day, they see the pain and suffering caused by cancer. They understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that cancer patients face throughout their life.

The Oncology Nursing Society is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world with more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. There are three chapters of the ONS in my home state of Mississippi located in Brandon, Ocean Springs, and Tupelo. These chapters provide important benefits and services to oncology nurses throughout Mississippi.

This week more than 5,000 oncology nurses from around the country have traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the Oncology Nursing Society's 27th Annual Congress. This year's theme is aptly titled "The Many Faces of Oncology Nursing." The attendees will increase their knowledge of the newest cancer treatments, learn the latest developments in cancer nursing research, and enhance their clinical skills. In addition, approximately 550 of these nurses, representing 49 states, will come to Capitol Hill to discuss issues of concern to oncology nurses. I encourage my colleagues to meet with these nurses and to listen to the expert advice of these expert health care professionals.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 27 years and I thank the Society's members for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of care for all cancer patients and their families.

IN COMMEMORATION OF SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of Smithfield, North Carolina. On April 23, 2002 Smithfield will celebrate its 225th Birthday. Smithfield is located in the heart of Johnston County in the 2nd Congressional District of North Carolina. Established on the banks of the Neuse River as the seat of Johnston County Government in 1777, it is one of the oldest towns in the United States.

Though Smithfield is a town with just over 11,000 residents, the residents carry themselves with a pride representative of the entire state of North Carolina. It is a community that supports traditional family values, southern hospitality and that offers a high quality of life. Into this inviting environment has come a myriad of large and small businesses, drawn by a dedication to hard work. The pride of the community is shown in the excellence of its school

system—in its facilities, educators and students. An example of this excellence is Johnston Community College housed in Smithfield.

Smithfield is known worldwide for its ham and yams, and each year the town celebrates during the Ham & Yam Festival. The festival is held the first weekend in May each year, and features arts, crafts, commercial vendors, a carnival, dancing and youth activities. Smithfield's heritage is rich in Civil War and agricultural history.

The strong work ethic and dedication of the people of Smithfield has made Johnston County the number two county in the nation in growing flue-cured tobacco. Not only does Smithfield raise great crops but also great individuals. Among Smithfield's finest is Actress Ava Gardner. Ava Gardner grew up near Smithfield and is buried in Sunset Memorial Park. Today she is honored in a local museum celebrating her Hollywood career with more than 100,000 items.

Mr. Speaker in closing I will like to send my best wishes and gratitude to the people of Smithfield, North Carolina in wishing them a Very Happy Birthday! I know that our nation is stronger today because of their contributions.

MARY HILAND HONORED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements of Mary Hiland, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance For Community Care of Santa Clara County. We would like to recognize Ms. Hiland's extraordinary and tireless efforts to the people of Santa Clara County and thank her for her 25 years of service in the nonprofit mental health field.

Mary Hiland served as President/CEO for the Alliance For Community Care from January 1977 to March 2002. One of the largest nonprofit mental health agencies in Silicon Valley, ALLIANCE was formed on January 1, 1997, through the merger of four nonprofit agencies. Under Ms. Hiland's leadership, the resulting new organization grew significantly. Today, ALLIANCE serves over 4,000 youth, adults and older adults affected by mental illness through a comprehensive array of in-home, crisis residential, vocational, outpatient treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Ms. Hiland's career in the nonprofit mental health field began after she graduated from San Jose State University with both a Masters degree in Social Work and Public Administration. In 1986, she joined the faculty of SISU College of Social Work part-time and taught courses in public policy and management. Her community service includes serving on several Boards of Directors, task forces, and participation in numerous committees. Ms. Hiland is past president both of the Association of Mental Health Contract Agencies and the Association of United Way Agencies. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the California Council of community Mental Health