

students to want to achieve academically. They have shown that when we raise academic standards, we raise academic performance.

These teachers who make a difference everyday and students who excelled way beyond expectations are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book. They are as follow: Carol Leasure, Principal; Earl Bethel, 5th grade teacher; Patrice Masluk Schwartzman, 5th grade teacher; and Amanda Shuler, 5th grade teacher.

Students are: Sophia Abud, Erin Albertson, Matthew Ammon, Darren Ankrom, Philip Antonis, Amal Atiyeh, Peter Badger, Monica Bates, Rachel Bochner, Jaimie Boyd, Lauren Burlew, Christopher Cann, Andrew Cass, Rakesh Chauhan, Dilesh Chudasama, Nicholas D'Angelo, Brittany Dellatore, Gregory DeSarro, Owen Divers, Lance Dolci, Roberta Domyan, Caitlin Donnelly, Brittney Dunnigan, Austin Emmons, Donnarae Farrell, Luke Foley, Shawn Forouraghi, Maria Gentis, Erin Glenn, Alexander Haller, Benjamin Haskins, Andrew Hero, John Hrubenak, Christie Jones, Kayleigh Kalamar, Patrice Kane, Ryan Kassis, Carl Kolepp, Nicole Kyriakopoulos, Gregory Laudenslager, Alaina Loguidice, Kyle Longemecker, John Lule, Kevin McCarthy, Drew Mihalik, Brian Miller, Mark Moyer, Bradley Pendzick, Gregory Pendzick, Lauren Perlman, Matthew Piazza, Ashley Plummer, Alexander Pyiuk, Jason Ricles, Kayleigh Rider, Daniel Rivera, Ethan Saravitz, Robert Sawyer, Matthew Searfoss, Emilie Segretto, Mark Segretto, Paul Segretto, Jared Serman, Christopher Smith, Robert Stauffer, Abigail Tercha, Emily Turner, Steven Walsh, and Rebecca Yaple.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3762, the Pension Security Act of 2002. This legislation is not only a step in addressing areas such as blackout periods and diversification in retirement accounts, it is an important step towards giving workers throughout my state of Kansas, and the rest of America, the peace of mind and security they deserve when planning for retirement.

This bill, based on the President's pension reform proposal, contains new safeguards and options to help workers preserve and enhance their retirement security, and demands greater accountability from companies and senior corporate executives during so-called "blackout periods" when workers are not allowed to make changes to investments in their retirement accounts.

The Pension Security Act would have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of Enron employees and investors if these measures had existed at the time of the company's collapse. For example, under this bill, diversification and sound investment advice would have been readily available because investment advisors would have been made more accessible and employers would have been forced to take responsibility for anything that

happened to employee retirement savings during blackout periods. Companies would have also been required to provide 30-day advance notice of a blackout period.

Mr. Speaker, I believe Congress has a responsibility to fully protect workers and give them the ability to enhance their retirement savings. Enron workers may well be the victims of criminal wrongdoing, but they were definitely the victims of outdated federal pensions laws. Let's prevent this from happening again. Pass the Pension Security Act.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Israel's Independence Day. Fifty-four years as the sole democracy in the Middle East is a huge accomplishment. As a member of Congress, and a friend of Israel, I know that she will have 54 more, and counting! This is only a beginning.

Israel has faced many tough times since 1948, like the one now. Over the past 18 months, Israel has continued to battle hatred on a daily basis. This hatred is terrorism. It is murder. Israel has every right to defend herself against terrorism. When innocent civilians are murdered, over and over again, Israel has no choice but to take action.

I don't think it is unreasonable for Israel to root out terrorists. I think it's natural, and expected, and it must be done just like America's efforts in Afghanistan. But for the past couple of weeks, Israel has been criticized by many for her military action against terrorism, and lack of compassion for Palestinians. But what other choice does Israel have?

Is Israel supposed to wave suicide bombers through the checkpoints, allow wanted terrorists to go without arrest? Are we to expect Israel to sit by and watch her country crumble, and her people be murdered in groups of 20 while they sip coffee at cafes? No.

I firmly believe that difficult decisions will be made in order to achieve a permanent peace. I also think one of the decisions was Israel's resistance to international pressure to end the military operation. Israel entered towns in the West Bank with a plan: to root out terrorism. Obviously, there was an exit strategy to be used once the terrorists were caught.

Recently, Israel announced her upcoming withdrawal from almost all of the towns she entered. I commend Israel's decision to withdraw only after the operation is complete. So does the upcoming withdrawal of troops bring Israel back to where she was? Can we expect Israel to compromise should daily suicide bombings begin again? No.

Terrorism is not something you can compromise with, it is not something to reward. What I know is this. Israel will survive this crisis. Israel will continue to do what is necessary to rid the country of terrorists. If terrorist attacks end, military action will end, and more difficult decisions in the name of peace will be made. What those decisions are, I can't tell you. No one can.

But last Sunday, I joined 3,000 of my constituents in a pro-Israel rally on Long Island. Many of those constituents were Jewish; oth-

ers, like myself, were Christian. These same people participated the weekend before at a rally in New York City. They also traveled with over 100,000 other Americans to the Capitol on Monday for a national rally. Regardless of their religion, they are standing up for their beliefs.

Terrorism must be destroyed. Not only here, but in Israel, and in many other countries. The US firmly believes in this, and I know Israel will continue to enjoy broad support as she eliminates terrorist threats from her borders. Israel will always have a friend and ally in the US government.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DENNIS MAYS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the impeccable motor carrier safety record of Mr. Dennis Mays of Blue Springs, Missouri. Mr. Mays is a professional motor carrier operator for Roadway Express, Inc.

According to the most recent information from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, large trucks drove 7 percent of all vehicle miles traveled. In motor vehicle crashes, large trucks represented 9 percent of vehicles in fatal crashes, 3 percent of vehicles in injury crashes, and 5 percent of vehicles in property-damage-only crashes.

Mr. Mays reached a safety milestone when he recently surpassed one million miles driven without a preventable accident. This outstanding achievement, obtained by few drivers, demonstrates Mr. Mays' commitment to safety. To put this accomplishment in perspective, the average car driver would have to travel around the world forty times to equal this milestone.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Dennis Mays for reaching this noteworthy milestone. I am proud to have a constituent as dedicated to highway safety as he is, and I wish him continued safe driving in the future.

PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3762. This important legislation makes significant improvements in protecting the retirement accounts of America's working men and women. H.R. 3762 takes a sensible approach in ensuring that employees have the best access to their retirement accounts possible, and are able to make informed investment decisions in those accounts.

In particular, I'd like to congratulate the sponsors of this legislation for a provision in the bill dealing with restricting insiders from selling their shares during periods when their employees don't have the same freedom. When the facts of the Enron bankruptcy became known, all of us were horrified to learn

that at the same time Enron's hard working employees were helplessly watching their retirement dreams disappear, Enron insiders were reaping millions of dollars in profits from selling their shares.

No employee should be forced to sit idly by while his or her retirement account plummets. Although it is understood that at times these accounts must be serviced in such a way that there must be temporary restrictions on transactions, it is only fair that corporate insiders face these same restrictions when these lockdowns happen by surprise.

H.R. 3762 is primarily about giving employees greater freedom in preparing for their retirement. When this freedom is unexpectedly taken away, corporate officers and directors have a duty, indeed a moral obligation, to share that burden. H.R. 3762's provisions on retirement account lockdowns are a sensible way to ensure that insiders are held accountable.

Mr. Chairman, section 108 of the bill contains language which falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services. Our own legislation, H.R. 3763, contains similar language. I am including for the record an exchange of letters between myself and the other gentleman from Ohio, Mr. BOEHNER, indicating that we have no objection to the consideration of this language in this bill.

I congratulate Chairman BOEHNER, Chairman THOMAS, Mr. PORTMAN, and all the Members who have worked so hard to protect America's workers. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for these much needed reforms, and I thank the Leadership for bringing H.R. 3762 to the floor today.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2002.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the
Workforce, Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOEHNER: I am writing regarding H.R. 3762, the Pension Security Act of 2002. As you know, section 107 of the bill reported by your Committee contains a provision addressing the sale of stock by the directors and officers of public companies during 401(k) blackout periods. Clause 1(g) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Financial Services jurisdiction over securities and exchanges and the Committee was given an additional referral of this bill upon its introduction.

Because of your willingness to consult with the Committee on Financial Services on this matter, and the need to move this legislation expeditiously, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Financial Services Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Financial Services Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 3762. In addition, the Committee on Financial Services reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within the Financial Services Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Financial Services for conferees on H.R. 3762 or related legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD pertaining to consideration of this legislation. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 9, 2002.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn
HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: This letter is to confirm our agreement regarding H.R. 3762, "Pension Security Act of 2002," which was also referred to the Committee on Financial Services. The Committee on Education and the Workforce considered this bill on March 20, 2002. I thank you for working with me on Sec. 107, "Insider Trades During Pension Plan Suspension Periods Prohibited," which is within the sole jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services.

I appreciate your willingness to expedite consideration of H.R. 3762 without the need for further consideration by the Committee on Financial Services. I agree that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the jurisdictional interest and prerogatives of the Committee on Financial Services on these provisions or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to your Committee in the future.

Again, I thank you for your consideration in this matter. Your letter and this response will be included in the Congressional Record during floor debate on this bill. If you have questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

JOHN BOEHNER,
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RALPH E.
BIGGER SR., ON HIS INDUCTION
INTO THE U.P. LABOR HALL OF
FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the late Ralph E. Bigger Sr., a resident of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, who during his lifetime was a strong advocate on behalf of working men and women.

Ralph was born in 1907 and grew up in the small town of Big Bay, on the shore of Lake Superior. Mr. Speaker, you and other members may remember Big Bay as one of the settings for the famous James Stewart movie, "Anatomy of a Murder." Picturesque it may have been, but this remote area demanded hard work for a family to survive. Because his parents both suffered physical disabilities, young Ralph, the oldest of six children, quit school in the seventh grade to take a job in a local sawmill. In the mid-1920s he moved to nearby Marquette to work at another sawmill, and at the age of 24 he took a job with Cliff-Dow Chemical, where he would work for the next 37 years until his death in 1968.

Throughout his career, Ralph was a strong advocate of the labor movement. He served as a business representative of Local 179 of the International Chemical Workers Union. He fought hard for decent wages and he fought for medical insurance, which, when we consider his own personal history, was probably his most important issue.

Ralph was also very active in politics, including campaign work for Congressman Ben-

nett and the late Michigan State Rep. Dominic Jacobetti, himself a legend in Michigan politics and state government. Ralph also traveled to union conventions around the country and was elected president of the Marquette Central Labor Union in 1949. Ralph also served as Marquette Township Constable.

During his employment with Cliff-Dow, Ralph founded his own logging business and later got into brick supply with his sons. His company's contributions can be seen in many of the prominent buildings in Marquette County, including most of the structures on the campus of Northern Michigan University.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph Bigger will be honored on Saturday, April 20, with his induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame at a banquet at the university. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in giving long-overdue recognition to the efforts of this spokesman for the working men and women of northern Michigan.

FAMILY FARM AND RANCH
INNOVATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to help ensure that our Nation's family farms and ranches continue to produce the agricultural products that have made us the breadbasket of the world.

Small family farms and ranches helped build the foundation of America. Thomas Jefferson once wrote in a letter to George Washington, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Today many small farms and ranches have disappeared. This is in part because the smaller farms and ranches have not been able to change to more profitable means of production. To continue as a viable business in agriculture farmers and ranchers need to be able to use modern techniques that increase profitability, and do it in a manner that is environmentally sound.

As a friend of mine, W.R. Stealey reminded me when I was first elected to the Colorado Legislature, "If you eat, you are in agriculture."

The Family Farm and Ranch Innovation Act (FFRIA) would provide necessary tools for small agriculture businesses to modernize and become more competitive in today's market, access to credit and a plan to turn the credit into increased revenue.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Commission on Small Farms report titled A Time to Act found, "The underlying trend toward small farm decline reflects fundamental technological and market changes. Simply put, conventional agriculture adds less and less value to food and fiber on the farm and more and more in the input and post-harvest sectors. We spend more on capital and inputs to enable fewer people to produce the Nation's food and look primarily to off-farm processing to produce higher value products. Sustainable agriculture strives to change this trend by developing knowledge and strategies by which farmers can capture a large share of the agricultural dollar by using management skills to cut input costs—so a large share of