

been—he should say so and explain why. If he made mistakes, he should admit them. Bluster and bravado will not suffice. He must put to rest any suspicions that Americans accepted an argument for war that was built on a lie.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY DIRECTED RAIL SERVICE ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Emergency Directed Rail Service Act. We have now reached a point almost exactly one year after Amtrak's last shutdown threat. Only an emergency "loan" under the otherwise crippled Railroad Rehabilitation Finance (RRIF) program and an emergency appropriation prevented Amtrak from shutting down, stranding thousands of commuters on and off the Northeast Corridor, and ending freight service on the Corridor. (The "loan"—supposedly for 90 days—has not been repaid to this day.)

Based on last year's threat, I introduced an earlier version of this bill, to provide a "safety net" of emergency directed service powers under the auspices of the Surface Transportation Board if Amtrak did shut down. Such a threat is still present. Amtrak has pending funding requests far in excess of the President's budget request and has made no significant structural or financial changes in the last year. Thus the nation's commuter railroads and freight service on the Northeast Corridor are still hostages to a new shutdown threat.

This legislation is intended to prepare the nation for the possibility that Amtrak will either repeat its prior threat, or that Amtrak's precarious financial situation will cause an involuntary cessation of service. This bill is part of my effort to make sure the country is as prepared as possible should any such shutdown occur.

I am particularly concerned about the effect on freight movements in the Northeast and on commuter operations around the country and consequently on our national economy. An Amtrak shutdown could adversely affect the economy in the Northeast United States, because considerable freight would not be able to get to its destination—especially plants where the Northeast Corridor is the only rail access. Moreover, commuters in the Northeast and around the country may not be able to get to work, either because the commuter authority operates on Amtrak infrastructure or because the commuter authority uses Amtrak employees to operate or maintain its trains.

Last year, before introducing the predecessor of this bill, I wrote to Linda Morgan, the then Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, and asked whether the Board had the power to direct freight and commuter service that would be adversely affected by an Amtrak shutdown. Ms. Morgan responded that the STB was unclear whether it would have the power to direct freight and commuter service in the event of an Amtrak shutdown and that its emergency powers have "never been test-

ed before in this context . . . and . . . could be challenged in court."

This country needs someone to have the power to address the fallout on freight railroads and commuters if Amtrak shuts down. The legislation I introduce today does just that. It makes it clear that the STB has the authority it needs to act in the event Amtrak ceases service.

In particular, the bill would give the STB the authority to order the continued maintenance, signaling, and dispatching of the Northeast Corridor. It would give the STB the authority to use federal funds to compensate the entity that conducts these services and to indemnify it with respect to any increased liability exposure. It would also authorize the STB to direct service and to provide interim financial assistance to commuter operations around the country affected by an Amtrak shutdown.

Further, current law requires that to the extent possible the Amtrak employees who already perform the work should do the work required by the directed service. The bill I introduce today would not change that requirement.

The nation may have narrowly avoided a rail transportation crisis last year, but there is no guarantee that we will not see a recurrence. Given the precarious financial situation of Amtrak, it would be irresponsible not to put a "safety net" of appropriate emergency powers in place. If Amtrak manages to recover, this legislation will prove to be very inexpensive insurance under which no claim had to be made. But if Amtrak shuts down, having this insurance in place will prove to be the wisest of investments.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2658) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004 and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the very important FY04 Department of Defense appropriations bill. In my opinion, some of the most important provisions in this bill are the pay increases for our men and women in uniform. H.R. 2658 provides an average pay increase of 4.1 percent for military personnel in FY 2004 and provides targeted pay hikes of up to 6.3 percent for a variety of other personnel.

Another issue of great importance also included in this appropriations bill is funding for the BRAC process. From 1995 to 2000 Congress intentionally refused to authorize another round of BRAC. Only in late 2001 did the Senate add the controversial provision to the FY02 Defense Authorization Act, authorizing the fifth BRAC for 2005. The House-passed authorization bill did not include any such BRAC provision, but in December 2001, the House finally approved the Conference

Report to the FY02 Defense Authorization bill with the Senate's BRAC provision included.

The first significant steps in implementing the new 2005 base closure law were formally announced by Secretary Rumsfeld on November 15, 2002. These included development of a force structure plan, conducting a comprehensive inventory of military installations, and establishing criteria for selecting bases for closure or realignment. Secretary Rumsfeld further stated that he felt another round of base closures would be necessary in light of his efforts to undergo a military transformation to a quicker, sleeker fighting force.

Although I have not found much common ground recently with the President and Secretary Rumsfeld, in this case I do. As such, I plan to vote against Mr. HOSTETTLER's amendment to preclude the use of funds provided by this bill to proceed with the BRAC process. In addition, the veto threat issued by the President if this amendment passes should be heeded considering the importance of the funding for the DOD.

With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for Cannon Air Force Base, located in my district. Not only do I strongly support Cannon remaining open through the 2005 round of closings, but I have every confidence that it will, in fact, remain open.

Cannon Air Force Base and the men and women who serve there are an integral part of New Mexico, the Clovis community immediately surrounding it, and an integral component of our national defense. In addition, Cannon's pilots have an excellent training space, the Melrose Bombing Range, very close by. Cannon has no encroachment, and is surrounded by open space.

In the past, I have worked very hard to ensure that Cannon's facilities are worthy of the high-caliber personnel who use them. I have worked with my colleagues in the New Mexico delegation to secure funding through the Military Construction Appropriations bill for several worthy projects at the base. I have every intention of continuing to work to secure funding for the facilities there that are currently substandard to further shield this important component of our national defense from being closed.

Mr. Chairman, for the reasons I have outlined above, I will vote against Mr. HOSTETTLER's amendment. I urge my colleagues to do the same. However, I do support passage of the underlying bill, as it provides important funding for our brave men and women in the Armed Forces.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESPERANZA, INC. AND THEIR 13TH ANNUAL FIESTA OF HOPE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Esperanza, Inc. of

Cleveland, as they celebrate 20 years of educational assistance and support within the Hispanic community of Cleveland. I also stand to recognize Esperanza's celebration of their 13th Annual Fiesta of Hope.

Esperanza, Inc. is the only nonprofit organization in Ohio dedicated to the promotion and advancement of Hispanic education. This organization attracts hundreds of volunteers who tutor, mentor, and provide scholarship assistance to students of all ages.

Since its formation in 1983, Esperanza, Inc. has celebrated its diversity through a yearly "fiesta." Every year, the leaders and members of Esperanza, Inc. awards dozens of scholarships that provide critically needed financial assistance to students. Esperanza, Inc. focuses their resources, time and talents in promoting the most vital component of a productive and healthy individual and a productive and healthy society—educational opportunities for all.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Esperanza, Inc. of Cleveland. For the past 20 years, this significant agency has uplifted the lives of thousands of youth within the Hispanic community, and continues its mission through its dedicated staff, volunteers, and equally dedicated students. Esperanza, Inc. provides financial support, technical resources and career guidance focused on students in the primary grades through college. Moreover, Esperanza, Inc. offers hope and opportunity, and underscores the notion that despite hardships and obstacles—support, encouragement and faith in a child will raise that child far above mediocrity to new heights of personal achievement—to a place where their dreams are realized.

HONORING DR. JAN BILLINGS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the current state of healthcare in this Nation as it relates to the Hispanic community.

Figures released by the Census Bureau last Wednesday placed the Latino population at 38.8 million in July 2002, an increase of nearly 10 percent from the 2000 census.

Unfortunately, over half of all Hispanics in the United States do not have health insurance. This is about 20 percent higher than the national average of approximately 30 percent.

I am especially concerned about the health of many of our Nation's Hispanic seniors. Over 2.2 million Hispanics currently receive Social Security benefits.

Each time that a new tax cut is passed, we put our Social Security trust fund in further danger, thus eliminating future benefits for all Social Security recipients.

Moreover, without Social Security, over 55 percent of Hispanic seniors would be forced to live under the poverty rate.

I hope that those who supported tax cuts for the wealthy can sleep well at night knowing that their misguided policies may force millions of seniors to live in poverty.

TOWN OF DECATUR

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the American people saw on national television this morning, the Indiana flood of 2003 moved forward at a heartbreaking, record-setting pace.

The St. Mary's River in Decatur, IN, crested last night at nearly 28 feet, an all-time historic high for that river and the Wabash River as well.

But, because of the work of local heroes like Decatur Mayor Fred Isch, Fire Chief David Brinneman, State Master Sergeant Roger Popplewell, and National Guard Unit Leader Sergeant Mike Heister, thousands of volunteers filled more than 176,000 sandbags in Decatur, IN alone.

And when the St. Mary's River crested, it did not break the levee. There are so many to be commended, but I remember two in particular—Decatur police officer Mark Cook, who organized the sandbag filling at the Wal-Mart parking lot and even 13-year-old Melanie Vergary who went out and worked and stuffed bags.

The chaplain said today that "unless the Lord watches over the city" and surely, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Lord to watch over this city and all the cities in Indiana affected by the flood of 2003 and all those who labored to protect them.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY J.
CELEBREZZE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr., devoted family man, accomplished public leader, and admired friend and mentor. Mr. Celebrezze's integrity, expertise and deep dedication to the people of Cleveland and the State of Ohio has left an indelible and positive mark within our community and throughout our state.

Mr. Celebrezze was born and raised in Cleveland and chose to remain in Cleveland to raise his family throughout his years in office. In recent years, he relocated to the Columbus area where he pursued his passion of competitive racing. The life of Mr. Celebrezze reflects great accomplishment, focus and achievement—academic and professional. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master's degree from George Washington University, and a Law degree from Cleveland-Marshall Law School.

Instilled with the values of public service from his father, Anthony J. Celebrezze, Sr., who served as a popular Mayor of Cleveland, Mr. Celebrezze sought a life in service to others. He was elected to the State Senate in 1976. In 1980, Mr. Celebrezze was elected to serve as Ohio's Secretary of State. Mr. Celebrezze was elected as Ohio's Attorney General two years later.

Throughout his years dedicated to uplifting the lives of Ohio residents, Mr. Celebrezze

made significant improvements regarding a wide range of environmental and consumer protection issues. Because of Mr. Celebrezze's commitment to Ohio consumers, auto buyers in Ohio are protected by the "lemon law." A staunch protector and advocate of Ohio's natural environment, Mr. Celebrezze worked tirelessly for strict control of waste shipment into Ohio, and clamped down on industrial pollution.

Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.'s steadfast integrity, kindness and humble nature reflected his character and defined his tenure as public servant. His humble nature belied his deep intellect, vision and keen political savvy. Though immensely successful, title and accolades did not hold significance for him—care for his family and service to community did. Anthony J. Celebrezze was a true leader in every sense—a genuine individual whose modesty and strong sense of self cast a rare and steady beacon of light across the shadowy game of politics. He consistently disregarded political pressures and kept focused on improving the lives of his constituents, working tirelessly on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr., an exceptional man and caring leader whose life profoundly impacted the lives of thousands. His passing marks a deep loss for countless who called him friend—including me. Mr. Celebrezze's commitment to others is clearly evidenced within our consumer protection laws and cleaner environment, and will remain so for all time. His radiant legacy of consumer advocacy and environmental protection will be remembered always by the people of Ohio. Moreover, it was the power of his kindness, grace, tenacity and heart that uplifted and enlightened every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Celebrezze's beloved wife, Louisa; his beloved children, Anthony J. III, Charles, David, Catherine and Maria. Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.'s exceptional life will serve as a timeless example of leadership, and service to others—and although he will be deeply missed—his indelible legacy—fueled by the power of kindness, grace and heart, will forever resound throughout our community and throughout the State of Ohio.

HONORING ARTURO MORENO

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arturo Moreno, the new owner of the World Champion Anaheim Angels.

Mr. Moreno's purchase of the World Series champions not only made him the first minority with a controlling stake in a major league team, it made him the first Latino owner in major team sports.

In a league where 28 percent of the players are foreign born, this is an important step in continuing diversity in Major League Baseball.

When Jackie Robinson entered the League in 1947, he broke baseball color barriers. Today, I'm proud to say that Mr. Moreno is