

Let me address directly some arguments sometimes offered up by the domestic shippers in defense of the Jones Act: that it contains important labor and environmental protections that would be lost upon repeal. Of course, the exact terms of repeal are up to this Congress and administration, and all three of these bills propose to retain these important protections. Specifically, these bills provide that all foreign shippers operating under Jones Act exemptions must comply with the same labor, environmental, tax, documentation, U.S. locus and other laws as are applicable to non-U.S. flag ships and shippers transiting U.S. waters today.

Mr. Speaker, these long-overdue bills are of the utmost importance to the localities which have long borne the brunt of the Jones Act. Sometimes it is difficult to pierce the veil of longstanding custom and understanding to see what should instead be, but clearly the time for these measures is overdue. I urge their passage.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT THOMAS M. BOURGEOIS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Supervisory Special Agent Thomas M. Bourgeois for his nearly twenty-two years of service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For the past two decades, SSA Bourgeois has selflessly put his own well-being in jeopardy to serve and protect the American people.

Thomas M. Bourgeois reported for duty on October 5, 1981 and was first assigned to the Milwaukee Division of the FBI. He worked in both the Milwaukee and Myrtle Beach offices investigating fugitives, bank robbery, and kidnaping cases before being transferred to the Chicago Division to investigate narcotics and organized crime. During his tenure in Chicago, Tom was responsible for the apprehension of some of America's most dangerous criminals, including the Calabrese Street crew, Anthony Centracchio, and John Serpico. From 1986 until 1997, Tom served as a member of Chicago Division's enhanced SWAT Team. While serving on the SWAT Team, Tom was deployed on several assignments, including the Unibomber case, Hurricane Marilyn in the Virgin Islands, and the Republican National Convention in 1996.

SSA Thomas M. Bourgeois is the recipient of numerous honors for his work at the FBI. He received letters of commendation from FBI director William Webster in May of 1982 and again in March of 1986. Mr. Bourgeois also received the Chicago Crime Commission's Star of Distinction Award in both 2001 and 2003 for his role in the Anthony Centracchio investigation and for his role in thwarting a scheme by Cicero, Illinois public officials to defraud the town of nearly \$13 million.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my best personal regards to SSA Thomas M. Bourgeois on his recent retirement from the FBI and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him on behalf of the American people for his service and dedication to our collective security.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COBRA COVERAGE ACT OF 2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the COBRA Coverage Act of 2003. As you may know, our Nation's faltering economy has resulted in staggering unemployment, unemployment that has risen from 5.7 percent in January of this year to 6.4 percent in June, leaving millions of Americans out of work. The loss of one's job is often accompanied by the loss of employer-based health coverage and the ability to afford individual health insurance. In this time of economic hardship, we must act to make health care more accessible to the working and middle-class families of America.

In an attempt to reduce the growing population of those without health coverage, Title X of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) provided access to group health insurance for workers who had lost their employer-sponsored coverage. COBRA requires employers who offer health insurance to continue coverage for their employees under circumstances such as a change in their employment status. However, this law allows the employer to charge up to 102 percent of the premium for the covered beneficiary and up to 150 percent for disabled individuals who qualify for an additional 11 months of coverage.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that in 2002 health care premiums increased by 12.7 percent, making the average cost for self-only coverage \$3,060 while the average cost for the family coverage reached \$7,954. These high costs make retaining health coverage extremely difficult for individuals without work, without an income. As a result many people and their families choose to go without health insurance until they find another job. This is unacceptable.

Not only do these prohibitive costs prevent people from maintaining their health coverage, they can also drive up the group costs of employers who offer COBRA coverage. Because health care premiums are so high, those who have costly, preexisting health problems are more likely to enroll in extended coverage than those who are healthy. These costs are often passed onto the employer and onto the others covered by the group insurance.

We can alleviate this problem by making COBRA health coverage more accessible and more affordable. With the COBRA Coverage Act of 2003, laid-off workers would be provided with a 50 percent tax credit toward the cost of COBRA coverage, up to a maximum of \$110 for an individual and \$290 for a family per month. This credit is entirely refundable, which means one can receive it regardless of one's tax liability, and it is advanceable, meaning that it's available to the recipient immediately. This is possible because the tax credit would be administered through the employer.

While we work diligently to improve our economy, we must not sit idle and turn our backs on the millions of uninsured Americans. We must assist those who are suffering by ensuring they retain access to affordable health insurance for themselves and for their families.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE ROLOFSON

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Dr. George Rolofson—"Dr. George" as I call him—has been a good friend of mine for many years and has worked with me on a number of issues relating to the U.S. agrichemical industry. Soon he will be retiring as Senior Vice President of legislative and regulatory affairs from CropLife America, where he has been a tireless champion of the agriculture and chemical industries. As Dr. George prepares to retire, I want to take the opportunity to thank him for these efforts and for his many contributions to the industry and to let him know that he will be greatly missed by all those with whom he has come in contact over the years.

George spent his entire adult life devoted to the study and improvement of the field of agricultural science, specifically as it regarded the use of important agrichemicals. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in entomology from the University of Nebraska and later went on to receive a Doctorate from Virginia Tech in entomology and toxicology. He then applied those degrees to practical use with the former Ciba Geigy Company in their agricultural division, now known as Syngenta Crop Protection. George worked in product development, toxicology, environmental sciences, and most recently in government relations for CropLife America here in Washington, D.C.

Our nation was largely built upon the back of the agriculture industry. Even here in our Capitol building, we see numerous artistic references to this critical industry and its importance in our nation. I would like to ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking my friend, Dr. George, for the devotion he has demonstrated to such an important part of our nation. George, you have left a legacy of pride and commitment to the American farming industry and we are most appreciative for your dedication and contributions. Best wishes in the next phase of your life.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DAVID L. HANSEN, COMMANDER OF THE NORFOLK ENGINEER DISTRICT, NORFOLK CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VIRGINIA FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel David L. Hansen, Commander and Norfolk District Engineer, for his loyal service to the United States Corps of Engineers and to the development and progress of numerous projects in Virginia's Fourth District.

Colonel Hansen's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our district and the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole is to be commended. He has played an instrumental role in overseeing the growth and preservation

of numerous projects along the river basins in Virginia since he assumed command in July 2001.

Since first enrolling in the U.S. Army nearly 30 years ago, Colonel Hansen's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. Following four years of Army enlisted service, he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers through the Officer Candidate School program, Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1978. He has served on numerous assignments both in the United States and overseas. His military education is extensive and includes the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Army's Command and General Staff College, Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Combined Arms and Services Staff School. Colonel Hansen also holds a Bachelor of Science degree, and two master degrees.

Colonel Hansen's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver and two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, and Good Conduct Medal.

Colonel Hansen has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to his country. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel David L. Hansen.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MADONNA OF THE TRAIL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Madonna of the Trail. One of these historic statues stands in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri, where the pioneer mother monument was presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1928. The pioneer mother looks west, up the Missouri River, on area that was settled by American pioneers more than 160 years ago.

In the early 1900's, the Daughters of the American Revolution suggested marking the national Old Trails Road with a series of small markers placed at frequent intervals along the route. This road began with Braddock's Road in 1755. Lt. George Washington surveyed the road, which was cut through the Allegheny Mountains by British soldiers. The road was later continued as the Columbia Pike; the Great Valley Road; the Wilderness Road (cut by Daniel Boone across the Cumberland Gap); the Cumberland Road (also known as the National Road); Boone's Lick Road; and, finally, as the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.

In 1924, Missouri State Regent, Mrs. John Trigg Moss of St. Louis, a member of the Cornelia Green Chapter, envisioned the idea of placing an identical statue in each of the twelve states crossed by the National Old Trails Road instead of small markers.

The twelve statues, designed by St. Louis sculptor August Leimbach, are made of algonite stone, a poured mass, of which the Missouri granite is used as the main aggre-

gate, thus giving the monument a warm, pink shade. They stand ten-feet tall on a six-foot base with a five-foot foundation (two-feet showing) below.

The Madonna of the Trail is a pioneer woman clasping her baby with her young son clinging to her skirt. The face of the mother, strong in character, beauty, and gentleness, is the face of a mother who realizes her responsibilities and trust in God. It has a feeling of solidarity—a monument that will stand through the ages.

Marking the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington during the Civil War and facing ever Westward, the Pioneer Mother statue was dedicated on September 17, 1928. The presentation of the American Legion Memorial Flag and Flag pole was made by Ike Skelton III. The keynote speaker was Judge Harry S. Truman, President of the National Old Trails Association.

Mr. Speaker, the Daughters of the American Revolution can be proud of the Madonna of the Trail statue and the 75 years it has graced the City of Lexington. I know the Members of the House will join me in saluting the Daughters of the American Revolution for their contributions to preserving American history.

A VOICE OF CUBA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 16, 2003 Mrs. Celia Cruz passed away, however, her legacy will be eternal. Celia Cruz was a musical genius and an extraordinary human being, dedicated to improving the lives of all, to the most admirable humanitarian causes, and with a profound love for Cuba and her people. Celia Cruz's exceptional life is a model and inspiration to all people. Her blessed voice combined with her gentle soul brought comfort and happiness to every corner of the planet.

Mrs. Cruz was not only the Ambassador of free Cuba's music, she represented the finest qualities of Cuban-Americans and Cuban exiles, and was a constant voice for freedom on the oppressed island nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cruz died longing to return to a free and democratic Cuba, but as Reverend Martin Añorga so eloquently stated during her funeral mass, "Celia did not leave Cuba because she took Cuba with her when she left."

Hundreds of thousands of people of all nationalities paid their respects and tribute to the "Queen of Latin Music" in Miami and New York. Even at the moment of her death Mrs. Cruz made certain that her physical passing would be a celebration of the happiness she embodied.

The passing of Celia Cruz is cause for deep pain. I send my deepest condolences to her husband, another great Cuban, Pedro Knight.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record an editorial by The Washington Post which appropriately honors the life and legacy of Celia Cruz.

A VOICE OF CUBA

Sugar is a symbol of Cuba, not only a core industry but a key ingredient of its history and heritage and a timeless reminder of both

sweeter and grittier times for the island's people. And in Spanish, "Azucar!" was also the signature trill of Celia Cruz, whose voice has embodied the sound of Cuba for decades.

Ms. Cruz, who died Wednesday of brain cancer, was the voice of a generation, and the one after, and the one after that. She started out singing lullabies to her nieces and until the end continued to shake what her mama gave her. Young couples in the 1950s swayed to her rhythms as part of the band La Sonora Matancera; those same couples' grandchildren got down to her single "La Negra Tiene Tumbao," whose album won a Latin Grammy in 2002.

When Ms. Cruz defected from Cuba in 1960, her songs were banned in her home country, though in recent years Cuban aficionados could listen to her hits by tuning into Miami radio stations. At first, the sensation who left behind stardom in Cuba and sought liberty in the United States had no easy time; her efforts for the next decade stumbled. But like so many immigrants seeking the American dream, she eventually made it: That clear, operatic voice could not be denied.

Hers was a talent that reached far beyond her own culture. In concert, she charmed audiences throughout Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia, and Ms. Cruz's more than 70 records became a clarion call for music lovers worldwide. She moved, effortlessly between the Afro-Cuban rhythms of her youth to the salsa she defined and redefined; later in her career she embraced hip-hop style and transformed it into eye-popping music videos. For her, it was all part of the same music and a shared experience.

Unlike so many celebrities of the modern era, Ms. Cruz knew firsthand of the atrocities of communism in Cuba, and she spoke frankly of her time and challenges there. Ms. Cruz's voice instantly fills a room with the feel of swaying palm fronds and cigar smoke, bringing back memories of a Cuba before Fidel Castro's dictatorship. But her art transcended any political agenda. Ms. Cruz always remained a lady, coy about her age and decked out in extravagant outfits even in her last public appearances—accompanied nearly always by her husband of 40 years, Pedro Knight.

For thousands of Cuban exiles, listening to her music will remain a time machine, a connection to a homeland that in many ways no longer exists. She, like so many others of her generation, was never able to return to the free Cuba for which she longed. But her message was also one of hope, inspiring fans of all nationalities with her indomitable voice, ringing at once with grace and perseverance every time she cried out, "Azucar!"

HARRISBURG SESQUICENTENNIAL
RECOGNITION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the City of Harrisburg, Illinois, as she celebrates her sesquicentennial. Established in 1853, the people of Harrisburg have prospered while giving so much to this great nation.

The City of Harrisburg was founded as an administrative center for the newly-created Saline County. Since that time, many people have been blessed to call Harrisburg home. Harrisburg boasts of a quality educational system, the unrivaled natural beauty of the Shawnee National Forest and one of Illinois' top