

of Federal support into Alameda County since 1993. These monies have gone to successfully close the bases and spur economic redevelopment on these former military facilities. In this vein, the EBCRC launched a small business development and assistance program to aid former base employees start their own businesses. The Workers to Business Owners National Demonstration Project has generated millions of dollars in economic activity and created hundreds of new jobs.

To further assist small businesses, The EBCRC established the Defense Conversion Revolving Loan Fund to provide access to capital to businesses unable to secure loans from traditional lenders. With \$1 million currently in the fund and expected growth to \$20 million, the fund targets financially disadvantaged businesses and provides pre- and post-loan technical assistance to help its customers. As a result of these efforts, the EBCRC has made loans to eight small businesses totaling \$1,046,000. These eight companies will precipitate \$24 million in business activity, create more than 75 new jobs, and support several hundred direct and indirect jobs.

To date, the EBCRC has introduced new economic activity and jobs to six former military bases in Alameda County. It has reached out to nearly 250 businesses and provided support to more than half of those. Reporting businesses indicated nearly \$9 million in new contracts, millions in lease revenues for the cities of Alameda and Oakland, and nearly \$7 million in Local, State/Federal taxes. Redevelopment at these bases is accelerating and more than 2700 units of new housing is being built, 25 percent of which will be affordable units. Soon, the EBCRC will begin making First Time Home Buyer Home Mortgages to low- and moderate-income-families.

I ask Congress to join me and the constituents of the 9th Congressional District in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the East Bay Conversion and Reinvestment Commission and wishing them many more years of success and affirmative developments.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REVITALIZATION ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today the Distinguished Gentleman from Virginia Mr. J. RANDY FORBES and I reintroduced bi-partisan legislation designed to revitalize an industry that is essential to maintaining this country's economic growth, technological superiority, and military preeminence.

Since Orville and Wilbur Wright pioneering flight almost 100 years ago, aviation technology in the United States has reached a level of success and development unparalleled in world history. According to a recent report on "The National Economic Impact of Civil Aviation," the total economic impact of civil aviation exceeded more than \$900 billion and 11 million jobs to the U.S. economy in the year 2000, roughly 9 percent of the total U.S. gross domestic product. However, despite the historical strength of this industry, it is clear

that the United States is involved in a difficult struggle to maintain our preeminence in the aerospace field, both commercially and militarily.

In January of 2001, the European Union unveiled its plan for gaining dominance in the global aerospace market entitled, "European Aeronautics: A Vision for 2020." This plan lays out an ambitious, \$93 billion, 20-year agenda for winning global leadership in aeronautics and aviation. In stark contrast to the vision set by the Europeans, the U.S. has cut by half its expenditures on aeronautics research & development (R&D) over the past two decades. This downward trend has coincided with a similar trend in the U.S. share of the world aerospace market, which declined from about 70 percent of the global market to less than 50 percent now. In fact, the recently completed report of the Presidential Commission on the Future of the Aerospace Industry echoed these concerns and stated that "The United States must maintain its preeminence in aerospace research and innovation to be a global aerospace leader in the 21st century," and that "government policies and investments in long-term research have not kept pace with the changing world." In fact, the Commission recommended that "the federal government significantly increase its investment in basic aerospace research, which enhances U.S. national security, enables breakthrough capabilities, and fosters an efficient, secure and safe aerospace transportation system".

It was as a result of these negative trends and the importance for the long-term economic and security interest of the United States, that Mr. FORBES and I joined with a bi-partisan group of my colleagues to introduce the Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act of 2003. This bill, which last year received strong support in the other body as well as in the House, establishes a broad-based agenda to reinvigorate America's aeronautics and aviation R&D enterprise and maintain America's competitive leadership in aviation by:

Reversing the trend of declining Federal investments in aeronautics and aviation R&D by doubling funding over five years. Funding is increased to \$900 million in 2006 (approximately the level they were in 1998), and \$1.15 billion in 2008.

Following the recommendations of the FAA's Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee, doubling funding over 5 years to \$550 million in 2008.

Establishing a focal point for aeronautics R&D by re-establishing an Office of Aeronautics reporting directly to the NASA Administrator.

Establishing an R&D initiative to develop technologies within a decade to build commercial no-noise, low-emissions, and be highly-energy efficient.

Establishing an R&D initiative directed at reinvigorating the nation's rotorcraft R&D that will address the nation's civil and military needs for decades to come.

Addressing the need for a long-term Federal R&D effort to develop technologies for an environmentally-friendly, commercially-viable supersonic transport capable of flight over land.

Including independent review mechanisms to ensure that the agency is pursuing technology concepts in a cost-effective manner.

Authorizing the establishment of one or more university-based centers for research in aviation training for flight crews and air

traffic controllers as new technology and procedures are added to the nation's infrastructures.

Establishing a program of scholarships to help replenish the nation's pool of aeronautical engineers.

Tackling the problem of delays in and unreliability of the air transportations system directly by authorizing funds for NASA to work with NOAA on research to improve significantly the reliability of 2 to 6 hour aviation weather forecasts.

Providing a significant funding to allow increased attention to environment and energy-related projects and for research on increasing the capacity, efficiency and safety of the air traffic system.

The basic premise of the legislation is that the U.S. can best meet the R&D challenge mounted by the Europeans and others through focused R&D investments that will enable future aircraft and rotorcraft technologies that are extremely quiet, fuel-efficient, and low in emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides. The development of such aircraft will enable the U.S. aviation industry to dominate anticipated aviation markets, as well as create new markets in cities and regions whose airports have been underutilized because of perceived negative environmental impacts. In addition, the new aviation capabilities could allow innovative approaches to meeting the future demand for travel by the American public, open up new possibilities for the future national air traffic management system, and make aerospace technologies more environmentally friendly.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Ohio's own Wilbur and Orville Wright achieving the world's first successful powered flight, thus leading the way for 100 years of American domination in aviation. But now, facing new and serious challenges, leadership will be required to sustain our aerospace industry to make it as vibrant a symbol of America's might in the 21st century as it was in the 20th. This legislation is an opportunity for the country to signal its commitment to a strong and robust aviation sector and its intent to revitalize it in the face of new global challenges. America has long recognized that its long-term strength and security, and its ability to reach and sustain high levels of economic growth, depends on maintaining its edge in scientific achievement and technological innovation. If we lose our edge in the areas where we are most vibrant, as it is happening now, our economic prospects will be dimmed and our security will be threatened. Aviation was born in America nearly 100 years ago; it is not slipping to number 2 on our watch.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH HANNIGAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to an outstanding Coloradan who has given countless volunteer hours in support of the National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Program. Joseph Hannigan of Norwood, Colorado has consistently contributed his time and efforts to his country by carefully collecting and reporting weather data for his area. It is with great respect that I stand to

honor a man who has dedicated so much of his own time to such a selfless service.

The National Weather Service collects and maintains a database of daily climate reports that is among the best in the world. National Weather Service uses the data from that record to help forecast climate and weather changes and issue weather warnings. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also uses the data to understand and predict climate trends. Estimates suggest that such climate predictions helped prevent up to one billion dollars in damage from the devastating effects of El Nino in California alone.

But such an extensive and accurate database cannot be created overnight. Our country relies on dedicated volunteers like Joseph who take the time to make and report their weather observations as part of the Cooperative Weather Observer program. The roots of the program reach as far back as 1644, when Reverend John Campanius Holm recorded the American Colonies' first known weather observations. Then, in 1891, the Weather Bureau tackled the challenge given them to document climate conditions in the United States. For over one hundred years, the Weather Service has called on volunteers to gather the necessary measurements on weather factors such as temperature and precipitation. With over 11,000 volunteer observers contributing over one million service hours, it is significant to note that the National Weather Service has chosen to recognize Joseph Hannigan with their most prestigious recognition, the John Campanius Holm Award. Considering Joseph's 42 years of consistent service, he is deserving of an award named after the very first volunteer weather observer in the American Colonies. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to praise Joseph Hannigan for his dedicated service to the National Weather Service before this body of Congress and this nation. He stands out as an example of the cooperative spirit that has helped make this country great. From his efforts, combined with the work of countless others, our communities enjoy the economic, recreational, and safety benefits that an accurate and timely weather forecast affords them. I am honored to extend my gratitude to Joseph and the many other volunteers for what they have accomplished. Keep up the good work!

HONORING THE McALLEN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding group of young scholars from my Congressional district. The McAllen Memorial High School Constitution team recently won the Texas state title at the "We The People, The Citizen and the Constitution" annual competition. Remarkably, this is the McAllen team's 10th State win in 13 years. They have also been successful nationally, finishing among the top ten finalists in 4 out of 10 appearances.

I am proud to represent a community that produces students with such a passion for learning the democratic principles and founda-

tion of our government. I congratulate the team members and their parents for this extraordinary achievement. I congratulate the team members and their parents for this extraordinary achievement. The members of the team are thirteen high school seniors; Erika Garcia, Brian Trautman, Victoria Montemayor, Allison Glass, Gregory Goldsmith, Danessa Litam, Gisela Medina, Edwin Monroy, Kelly Monroy, Jeffrey Murray, Steffy Phillip, Sabrina Tully, Brian Van Burkleo. Ms. LeAnna Morse coached the team. I wish these students success when they compete at the national competition in April, here in Washington, DC.

In closing, I would like to share with my colleagues an article that ran in the McAllen Monitor highlighting the accomplishment of these young constitutional scholars.

McALLEN CONSTITUTION TEAM WINS 10TH STATE TITLE

(By Juan Ozuna)

McALLEN.—Hamilton, Madison and Franklin would be impressed with the McAllen Memorial High School Constitution team.

The 13-member team comprised of high school seniors was named state champion in the We The People, The Citizen and the Constitution competition in Austin Jan. 4.

It is the 10th time in 13 years the group has won the competition, sponsored by the State Bar of Texas.

"They really demonstrated an ability to think on their feet," said LeAnna Morse, a government teacher and the team's coach. "I'm really proud of them."

During the competition, each team is divided into groups of three. These trios each face a panel of attorneys, educators and community leaders and make a three-minute presentation on the Constitution. They answer questions asked by the panel of judges and are awarded points for their answers.

"This was a small team, so they had to carry extra weight, and they really rose to the occasion," Morse said.

Teams usually have 15 members. To help train the group, Morse asked some friends and other community people to come in to the class to act as judges for her team.

"We'd have practices and invite attorneys and academics to judge them so they could have the full experience," Morse said. "When you practice, you always try to anticipate what questions you'll be asked in the follow-up."

Mick West, history coordinator for McAllen school district and a sponsor of the team, accompanied the students to the competition, which he said was extremely competitive.

"They did an outstanding job," he said. "It was very close. They have a great reputation."

Team member Erika Garcia said there was a lot of pressure on the students to perform well because of their reputation.

"It's good to know that we fulfilled that tradition one more year," Garcia said. "Our sponsors have prepared us very well."

Teammate Brain Trautman said he also felt the heat of the competition, calling the win "a relief."

"I'm really excited," he said. "I can't wait to go to nationals to compete."

As the winning team, the McAllen Memorial High School students will be sent to Washington, D.C., in April to compete against the top team from each state.

Though Morse's teams have seen top-10 finishes at the national level, the highest they ever placed is fourth.

Though also excited about being able to attend the national Constitution competition, Victoria Montemayor said she would be more focused on the sights.

"I just want to see the actual documents," Montemayor said. "I want to see the monuments, see all the places you see in the books."

Other students on the team include Allison Glass, Gregory Goldsmith, Danessa Litam, Gisela Medina, Edwin Monroy, Kelly Monroy, Jeffrey Murray, Steffy Phillip, Sabrina Tully and Brian van Burkleo.

REINTRODUCTION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing a bill to designate as wilderness most of the lands within the Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado.

This legislation will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding nearly 250,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The bill is essentially identical to one previously introduced by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, and one I introduced in the 107th Congress. Those bills in turn were based on similar measures earlier proposed, including some by former Senator Bill Armstrong and others.

Over a number of years my predecessor and I have worked with the National Park Service and others to refine the boundaries of the areas proposed for wilderness designation and consulted closely with many interested parties in Colorado, including local officials and both the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the St. Vrain & Left Hand Ditch Water Conservancy District. These consultations provided the basis for many of the provisions of the bill I am introducing today, particularly regarding the status of existing water facilities.

Covering some 94 percent of the park, the new wilderness will include Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammelled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of Rocky Mountain National Park are included in the wilderness that would be designated by this bill.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain National Park a true gem in our national parks system also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate.

The wilderness boundaries are carefully located to assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services. In addition, specific provisions are included to assure that there will be no adverse effects on continued use of existing water facilities.

This bill is based on National Park Service recommendations, prepared more than 25 years ago and presented to Congress by President Richard Nixon. It seems to me that, in that time, there has been sufficient study, consideration, and refinement of those recommendations so that Congress can proceed