

unable to vote on an Obey motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3289 (rollcall 567). Had I been present, I would have voted "no." Further, I was unable to vote on final passage of H.J. Res. 73, making further continuing appropriations for FY04 (rollcall 568). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on July 14, 2003 and missed rollcall vote No. 357, the Ackerman-LaTourette amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill which would require that the USDA expend no funds to approve meat from downed animals—animals that are too sick to walk or stand—for food. I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY OF BURBANK'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Family Service Agency of Burbank for its 50 years of dedicated service to the Burbank community.

The Family Service Agency of Burbank was established as a non-profit, community based organization in 1953 to provide counseling and educational services for children and their families. These services are extremely pertinent to the health and well being of the community as a whole. The agency's exceptional support system is comprised of generous individuals, small businesses, corporations, the United Way, service clubs, community foundations, and the city of Burbank itself.

Since its creation, Burbank's leading citizens have faithfully served on the agency's board of directors to assure professional services be available. All these services are affordable and genuinely attempt to meet the needs of the Burbank community. Currently, individual and group counseling, specialized youth services, parenting classes, and anger management resources for victims of domestic violence and their families have been incorporated. The Family Service Agency of Burbank has successfully collaborated with the Burbank Unified School District, the faith community, and the City of Burbank to deliver life-changing services to those in dire need of them. Their determination and innumerable achievements have provided the residents of the City of Burbank with a valuable resource to address common societal problems.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the Family Service Agency of Burbank for 50 years of unwavering service to the Burbank community.

EMPLOYMENT DOWNFALL IN OHIO

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the dramatic downfall in Ohio employment since this current administration took office in January of 2001. This downfall is being felt by middle-class workers throughout Cleveland, throughout Ohio and throughout our Nation.

In January of 2001, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that Cleveland benefited from 1,147,700 jobs. By January 2003, that number plunged by 55,000 jobs. After two additional years of fiscally reckless policies from this administration, current preliminary estimates state less than 1,113,100 jobs now exist in the City of Cleveland.

In September of 2001, Cleveland had 183,100 manufacturing jobs. The current number of manufacturing jobs has dipped to 165,700. The amount of job losses in manufacturing for the State of Ohio since August 2001 now total 86,700.

A great many of these unemployed manufacturing employees are dependent on benefits provided under the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program. The total number of unemployed workers in Ohio who have exhausted these benefits amounts to 126,000.

Ohioans must have the means necessary to aid them through these troubling economic times. I would urge this administration to focus on initiatives to boost employment—not just tax cuts.

Ohioans deserve a resolution to this unemployment spell. The facts show that too many are still out of work. Ohioans deserve to know why.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL JACK JACOBS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jack Jacobs for his years service and dedication to his country. Colonel Jacobs will be honored by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States at the Testimonial Dinner on Thursday, October 30, 2003, at the Newark Liberty Airport Wyndham in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Colonel Jack Jacobs is a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving two tours of duty courageously. His heroism is exemplified by his numerous commendations, including two Purple Heart Medals, three Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars, and the Medal of Honor, the United States highest combat decoration. Colonel Jacobs risked his life and overcame personal injury to save the lives of 13 allied soldiers and one United States advisor. Colonel Jacobs retired from the United States Army in 1987.

Colonel Jack Jacobs serves on several boards of directors on numerous companies, and is the secretary of the Board of Directors for the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. Colonel Jacobs is a regular fixture on

CNBC and MSNBC as a military and foreign affairs analyst.

Colonel Jack Jacobs received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. During his military service, Colonel Jacobs served as a faculty member at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and the National War College in Washington, DC.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Jack Jacobs for his outstanding leadership and courage, his 21 years of military service, and his commitment to his fellow man.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, this legislation ensures the federal government's deep commitment to a highly-trained and diverse workforce. But we should go even further. In order to best maximize federal government resources, we should consider allowing competition within other aspects of the student loan program, including consolidation loans.

In order to ensure that we instill such competition, we should safeguard and improve existing loan consolidation opportunities. The 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act has allowed Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) student loan borrowers who hold loans from more than one underlying lender to select from those lenders when consolidating their loans. This change has enabled many recent college graduates to refinance their loans at a lower fixed-interest rate. However, student loan borrowers who hold loans through a single lender must consolidate loans through their current lender. This rule, known as the "Single Holder Rule," fosters a situation analogous to requiring homeowners to refinance their mortgages only through their current mortgage holders. We should consider repealing the single holder rule during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

As we progress through this reauthorization, I am hopeful that we will preserve the existing loan consolidation provisions and also improve this important program. Allowing competition in loan consolidation encourages student loan borrowers to consolidate their loans and to further reduce their debt burden by taking advantage of historically-low, fixed-interest rates, just as other borrowers are able to do every day.

HONORING MICHAEL BERRY ON THE DEDICATION OF THE MICHAEL BERRY AMPHITHEATER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor my dear friend, Michael Berry on the occasion of the dedication of the Michael Berry Amphitheater at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan.

The son of Lebanese immigrants, Michael Berry came of age in Depression Era South

Dearborn. Transcending life's circumstances, Mr. Berry graduated in Fordson Junior College's (now Henry Ford Community College) inaugural class of 1940. He went on to earn a Bachelor's degree and ultimately a Juris Doctorate, becoming the first Muslim attorney in the state of Michigan in 1949.

With his law degree in hand, Mr. Berry embarked on a distinguished career in law, government and public service that continues to this day. Among his many significant accomplishments, Michael Berry served twenty years as the legal counsel to the United Auto Workers Local 600 (the UAW Local born out of the Hunger March and Battle of the Overpass, and which, at its zenith had more than 100,000 members and retirees).

Mr. Berry was also a longtime member of the Wayne County Road Commission, serving as Chairman for a period of ten years. During his tenure as Chairman, Michael Berry oversaw the completion of numerous infrastructure projects, not the least of which were substantial improvements to Detroit-Wayne County's Metropolitan Airport. Mr. Berry's contributions in this regard positioned the airport to become the national and international hub that it is today and resulted in the dedication of the Michael Berry International Terminal in 1974.

Given Mr. Berry's personal and professional accomplishments, you can understand why I consider myself extremely fortunate to have him as a close personal friend and to have benefited from his advice and insight over the years. I worked especially closely with Mr. Berry during the eight years he served as Chairman of the 16th District Democratic Party—a time that I recall fondly as being a particularly constructive and productive one.

The privilege of knowing people who are as decent and accomplished as Michael Berry is an aspect of public service that I enjoy greatly. The "Michael Berry Amphitheater" will inspire students for generations to pursue their full potential and ambitions. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognizing the lifetime achievements of Michael Berry, one of Dearborn's native sons.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE "GREEN STAR" PROGRAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability for bringing the "Green Star" program to Vail, Colorado, and Eagle County.

In an effort to educate and encourage local residents and businesses to develop environmentally sound practices, the Green Star program is improving air and water quality, reducing energy use and waste streams and providing environmental benefits to area communities. Vail's Green Star Chapter is the tenth program initiated nationwide and the first of its kind in Colorado. It is this progressive environmental leadership that I wish to highlight today.

On October 7, The Alliance was honored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and

Environment with its Environmental Achievement Award through the Environmental Leadership Program.

Founded in 1990, the Alaska-based Green Star Program encourages business owners and private residents to reduce waste, conserve energy and prevent pollution.

Through education, technical assistance and a nationally recognized award program, Green Star helps citizens become more environmentally sensitive without jeopardizing their budgets. Green Star standards demonstrate that waste reduction is not only environmentally responsible, but can also save money and help businesses attract customers.

Green Star Awards are given when organizations meet at least 12 of the 18 standards. Awards are given for general waste reduction, air quality improvement and reduction of air pollution. Businesses participate by educating employees, improving purchasing methods, controlling litter, reducing toxic usage, promoting water conservation and monitoring utility usage.

The Air Quality Award is Green Star's newest award, unveiled in 1999, focusing on outdoor air quality improvement activities. The standard encourages the reduction of air emissions through technical improvements, behavioral changes, and outreach and education activities. Through the improvement of equipment, better vehicle maintenance, supporting alternative transportation modes and education, air standards improve for all residents in a community.

Schools can also participate in the Green Star program. Through education on pollution prevention, recycling, composting, energy efficiency, and waste reduction and prevention, students can promote programs that protect our environment. Free trainings, workshops, and onsite consultations from Green Star experts help schools set standards in their area.

Events can earn Green Star recognition by reducing waste and recycling. With a goal of reducing the overall waste stream, efficiency is increased and a wide range of materials can be recycled. Green Star loans free bins for the length of events, encouraging reuse of cans, bottles, cardboard and paper.

Green Star's eco-friendly program was launched in the town of Vail, Eagle County and in partnership with the Environmental Committee for the Vail '99 World Championships in 1998.

Eagle County residents are actively working to have their residences certified as Green Star homes. Through a \$2.50 monthly purchase of wind power, homeowners can keep thousands of pounds of pollutants from entering the atmosphere each year.

As Colorado works to preserve and protect its pristine mountain ranges, treasured forests and spectacular wilderness areas, we applaud the residents of Vail and Eagle County for setting the standard in environmental education and conservation. I have enclosed an article from the Vail Daily newspaper about this effort.

[From the Vail Daily, Oct. 18, 2003]

Local Environmental Green Star Program
Recognized by State
(By Matt Zalaznick)

Patsy Batchelder says making your home environmentally friendly isn't very hard at all—you can recycle (just about anything), buy some wind power and not drive as often, among other things.

Batchelder's home in Vail's Potato Patch neighborhood has been certified by a local conservation group as one of the most environmentally friendly homes in the valley. And those certifications, called the "Green Star" program, have now been recognized by the state health department.

"I think it's something any household can achieve easily," Batchelder says. "I would definitely like to encourage others to do it."

The "Green Star" program is spearheaded by the Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability, which has been awarded an Environmental Achievement Award by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Environmental Leadership Program. The organization received the award at a ceremony Oct. 7 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

"Every year, I look forward to learning about these exciting and innovative projects undertaken by businesses and organizations throughout Colorado," said Douglas Benevento, executive director of the Health Department. "It is a privilege to recognize them for their commitment to business practices that improve air and water quality, reduce energy use and waste streams, and provide benefit for dozens of communities."

The local Green Star program is a points-based program that encourages Eagle County homeowners to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency at home on a points basis, says Adam Palmer, of the Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability.

Enrollees must meet 12 of 17 requirements and they receive technical assistance, an energy audit, a video tape of a walkthrough with an infra-red camera that pinpoints heat loss areas in the home, a certificate and decals for a \$50 enrollment fee. The goal of the program is for homeowners to become more aware of the how their homes and lifestyles affect environment—and also save money, Palmer says.

"In the households we've certified so far, we've found some unexpected sources of energy loss," Palmer says. "It provides a foundation on which to guide future conservation actions, rather than wasting time and money on something that may not provide a significant return."

Matt Scherr, who owns a home in Minturn, says he joined the program because he was frequently angered by the lax environmental policies of governments and large businesses. "I first have to commit myself to things I'm wanting from others," says Scherr, whose home is going through the certification process.

The Green Star program runs the gamut from installing better insulation and windows to re-using plastic bags.

"We're avid Ziploc bag washers," Scherr says. "We also re-use plastic water bottles. I bought a case and have been using the bottles for the last year."

Scherr says he is installing additional insulation in his attic and putting in double-paned windows. He also closes off rooms he doesn't use very often and only turns on heat in those rooms when he is going to use them.

One of the Green Star program requirements is that the home gets part of its energy needs from renewable sources. Residents can take part in the Wind Power Pioneers program available from Holy Cross Energy to meet the requirement, Palmer says.

"For as little as \$2.50 per month, you can get part of your energy from the wind and keep thousands of pounds of pollution out of the air each year," says Palmer.

Eagle resident John Gitchell, who is a member of the Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability's board, is also getting his home Green Star certified.

"The practical piece of it is we're going to improve our energy efficiency this year,"