

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PERNA AND
SAGINAW HABITAT FOR HUMAN-
ITY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outgoing director of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, John Perna. Mr. Perna is leaving his position as director of the organization after six years in that post. He will be honored at a dinner on March 8th in Saginaw, Michigan.

John Perna's background as a student of theology at the University of Notre Dame and his work in church music ministry helped him to expand the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity. He started working for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity in 1996. At that time he was the only paid staff person. Four houses were built that year by the organization. Today, the staff includes seven full time employees, one part time employee and three Americorps members. The group anticipates completing sixteen houses in the Saginaw community this year including the Blitz 2003 when eight houses will be built in two weeks.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity holds the principles of being an ecumenical, Christian housing ministry foremost in all its endeavors. Committed to eliminating substandard shelter and homelessness from the area, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has partnered with several area churches and organizations to make affordable, respectable housing available to all. Reflecting on the teachings of Jesus Christ, the members, volunteers and staff of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity have put their faith into action. A cornerstone of this action is the "economics of Jesus," or volunteers responding to those in need. Together the homeowners, the construction volunteers, partner organizations like the Home Builders Association, the Michigan Prison Build Program, the Michigan National Guard and area High School building trades students contributed the sweat equity that made the dream of a new home a reality for several families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating John Perna and Saginaw Habitat for Humanity for the work they have accomplished thus far. I wish Mr. Perna the best as he starts a new phase of his life, and I wish the best for the incoming director, Paul Warriner, along with the entire Saginaw Habitat for Humanity organization. May they continue in their work until every person has a decent place to live.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WEEK

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for this week's campaign, "Uniting Our Voices: Speaking Together to Speak Out," against domestic violence sponsored by Lifetime Television and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in coordination with the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

I would like to commend these organizations for their hard work and continued efforts to raise awareness of domestic violence issues.

Domestic violence is a serious problem in this country. Nearly one third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.

In my home state of California, it is reported that almost 6 percent of California's women suffer physical injuries as a result of domestic violence every year. In 2001, there were more than 52,000 domestic violence arrests, and law enforcement received 198,000 domestic violence calls.

Although domestic violence has traditionally been considered a problem primarily afflicting women, it does not just affect women and is not just a "women's issue." It affects men, women and children; it affects American families and our communities.

Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence in their homes, and statistics provided by the Department of Justice show that a child's exposure to domestic violence is one of the strongest factors in transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next, increasing the likelihood of that that child will commit a violent act, continuing the cycle of violence.

Domestic violence is a problem that Americans must confront head-on in order to stop the cycle of violence occurring within our communities and throughout our country.

I support the Violence Against Women Act, it is an important bill whose effects have been far-reaching in all aspects of helping victims of domestic violence, but there is still much more to be done. We must continue to provide funding to domestic violence programs and work to close the loopholes in existing legislation.

VAWA and this week's campaign against domestic violence are just the first of many steps that must be taken in order to end domestic violence. I encourage my colleagues to work with me to further address issues of domestic violence so that we may work towards developing solutions, both locally and nationally, to end the cycle of violence in our communities and to put a stop to the problem of domestic violence.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago this month President Teddy Roosevelt set forth a vision and created a program to preserve unique and endangered species and the critical habitat they needed to survive. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was the first of what are now 540 refuges and thousands of small prairie wetlands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. From that first refuge, there are now more than 95 million acres of protected habitat across the United States.

Looking back over the past 100 years, much has changed. The United States has transformed from an agrarian to a predominately

urban, and now suburban society. Today, many of these refuges have become islands surrounded by human development and infrastructure. The wildlife they preserve, the species they protect have truly become refugees from an outside world, dominated by human interaction and presence.

Will they survive the next 100 years? I would like to think so. As we move forward, we are developing a stronger appreciation of what we have already lost and what more we must preserve. The Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, which was once in my congressional district, is relatively new. It was established in response to the near extinction of America's most prized symbol of freedom and independence, the American bald eagle. The return of the bald eagles and their subsequent recovery is a great success.

I am proud of my support for the National Wildlife Refuge system and particularly proud of the collaborative efforts I and my colleagues in Congress and at the local level made to protect more than 800 acres of environmentally sensitive land at Meadowood Farms that is adjacent to Mason Neck Refuge from development.

We are still at the early stages of learning how conservation and preservation must work over the long term to ensure a species survival. Conservation measures must be practiced not just on the refuges but outside the refuges as well. Biological corridors linking protected areas and critical habitat must be expanded; environmental hazards controlled; and a better understanding of how human interaction affects wildlife must be appreciated.

As time marches forward, I am optimistic that this same ethic that led to the creation of the first refuge multiplies with each new generation to ensure that the refuges of tomorrow and the year 2103 succeed at preserving what we hold dear today.

THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, Yesterday marked the one year anniversary of President Bush's historic stand against unfair steel imports. The President's decision to implement safeguard relief for steel products exemplifies the perfect case in which this type of trade law remedy was created for. Implementing a safeguard action on steel products was necessary, appropriate and permissible under both domestic law and our obligations within the World Trade Organization context.

The American steel industry was seriously injured as a result of repeated surges of low-priced steel imports that suppressed domestic steel prices to unsustainable 20 year lows. The impact of these import surges includes 35 American steel companies entering bankruptcy and the elimination of over 50,000 American steelworker jobs.

And yet, the bold safeguard action taken by the Bush Administration alone can not rectify the underlying practices leading to the import surges which placed the American steel industry in such peril. Make no mistake, the domestic steel industry is still very much threatened by enormous global market distortions. Massive foreign steel overcapacity continues to

disrupt the global steel trading system—foreign excess raw steelmaking capacity has averaged more than twice the level of average domestic steel consumption. Foreign governments and steel manufacturers have shown little interest in implementing meaningful capacity reduction programs. And the inefficient excess foreign steel capacity will continue to impose serious pricing pressures in the U.S. market as foreign producers attempt to unload their excess capacity whenever an opportunity presents itself.

This is precisely why I applaud President Bush for having the vision to implement such a broad and ambitious agenda for correcting the distortions in the steel marketplace which have made this threat as cyclical as the seasons themselves. Further, I applaud the Administration for actively implementing its three-part steel program and engaging all steel producing nations at the negotiating table. Specifically, the President's three-part plan will: seek the near-term elimination of inefficient excess capacity in the steel industry worldwide; eliminate the underlying market-distorting subsidies that led to the current conditions in the first place; and implementing the safeguard action for three years to allow for domestic steel industry restructuring and recovery.

All parts of the President's plan must be implemented in order to place our domestic steel producers on a level playing field. The domestic steel industry is a national asset and is inseparable from our nation's economic, political and military development. But while no one disagrees that the American steel industry is an integral component of our nation's economic base and critical to our national security, only a few voices speak loudly to decry the remedy as unfair to steel consumers. Mr. Speaker, I emphatically disagree.

The tariffs implemented under section 201 resulted from a thorough investigation of the facts. The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) conducted the most exhaustive investigation of its type in history. Foreign steel producers employed over thirty-four law firms and participated in more than three weeks of public hearings, submitting over 85 feet of legal briefs and arguments. Foreign and domestic interest groups, including domestic steel consumers, who were opposed to any form of relief for the domestic steel industry were given every possible opportunity to participate—and they did.

After this exhaustive investigation, the ITC unanimously found that the American steel industry had been seriously injured as a result of high levels of low-priced steel imports. Following the unanimous decision of injury by the ITC, the President reviewed the Commission's findings, considered if a safeguard action would have a greater positive effect on the economy than it would negative, and then imposed a reasonable set of tariff and tariff-rate-quota measures.

Mr. Speaker, up to this point I have detailed two separate mechanisms which facilitate the specific input of domestic steel consumers. It is evident that the facts in this case provide the merit for the President's safeguard action, that all interested parties had ample opportunity to participate in the investigation, and that, as part of a broader plan to reform trade distorting practices in this sector, the safeguard action is working without serious negative consequences to downstream industries.

Since the safeguard action was implemented one year ago, there has been a modest price recovery on steel products. Keep in mind, however, that the price of steel was at unsustainable levels prior to and had absolutely no where else to go but up. In fact, even after one year with the tariffs in place hot rolled steel prices are still below the twenty year average.

Steel supplies have also been robust since the safeguard action has been in place. Contrary to predictions, there is no evidence that the safeguard measure has unduly hampered import supply. Indeed, imports of flat-rolled steel increased substantially after the imposition of section 201 measures in 2002, as compared to the same period in 2001.

One goal of the safeguard statute is to achieve a period of breathing room from unfairly traded imports which allows the affected industry time to restructure. Since the safeguard action was implemented, domestic producers have enjoyed improvements in revenues, operating income, and capacity utilization. A number of companies have returned to profitability, while other companies have shown significant improvements even though they have not yet become profitable. The industry has made significant progress toward restructuring and consolidation. While recovery and restructuring will take time, the President's plan has allowed the industry to make a real start.

The crisis in steel is not yet over. It is not enough for Congress to look back on the actions already taken by the ITC and the President. Instead, Congress must continue to take an active roll, along with the President, and look toward completing the initiatives we have already begun. The safeguard action was put in place by President Bush for three years, declining each year it is in effect. The safeguard action must not be cut short and must run its full course. Further, great strides must be taken to facilitate a comprehensive and meaningful conclusion to the OECD high-level talks on steel.

Finally, the United States must also maintain and utilize strong trade laws which encourage free and fair trade. Over the long term, strong and full enforcement of U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws is the only means to encourage market behavior and deter the unfair trade practices that initially led to the steel crisis. These laws are critical to the long-term survival of the domestic steel industry. It is essential that our trade laws are fully enforced and that the Administration defend the integrity of this last line of defense against unfairly traded imports in negotiations for new international trade agreements.

THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one-year Anniversary of President Bush's decision to impose temporary tariff relief on behalf of the domestic steel industry.

Since 1998, our domestic steel industry has been in crisis, with the worst year coming in 2001. The fundamental cause of this crisis

was massive foreign overcapacity, which had caused the United States to become the dumping ground for world excess steel products. As a result of this, 35 steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, and over 50,000 American steel workers have lost their jobs.

In my home state of Illinois, the crisis has resulted in four steel companies filing for bankruptcy, including Laclede Steel and the parent company for Granite City Steel, which are in the Congressional District I represent. Approximately 5,000 steel workers have lost their jobs in Illinois alone.

In 2000, I joined my colleagues on the Congressional Steel Caucus in urging the President to implement a Section 201 investigation by the International Trade Commission to determine if our domestic markets had been harmed by illegal dumping. I also testified before the ITC to express my concerns regarding the steel crisis. The ITC ruled unanimously that the steel industry had indeed been harmed.

While the ITC's decision was welcome, it didn't guarantee relief for the domestic steel industry. That decision was left to the President to determine what type of remedy should be afforded to the industry. I was pleased that the President decided to impose the tariffs, rather than quotas, which would not have been as helpful to the industry.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the positive results of the President's decision to impose tariffs. The steel industry is beginning to show signs of recovery. Prices are stabilizing and steel companies are returning to profitability. The industry is restructuring and consolidating. All of this has happened without hampering the availability of competitively priced steel products. In fact, steel imports were higher in 2002 than they were in 2001.

However, for the industry to continue its recovery, it is imperative that as the Section 201 tariff measures are reviewed, they remain fully enforced for at least three years as ordered by the President, and that exemptions to the tariffs are limited.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our domestic steel industry by supporting the existing tariffs on foreign steel. This support will allow for the continued recovery of this nation's domestic steel industry.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSTALLMENT SALE PRODUCTION ACT OF 2003

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation that would restore effective use of the installment method of accounting to long-term service business owners who sell their business interests.

The installment method of accounting allows a seller to pay tax on the gain from a sale as the seller receives the sale proceeds. This tax treatment matches the time for paying the tax to when the seller has the cash with which to pay that tax.

As many Members are aware, in the 106th Congress, we acted on a recommendation from the Clinton Administration to repeal the installment method of accounting for accrual