

might have mentioned that both parties have obligations under the Road Map.

Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting merely that balance is valuable, and that it makes sense to seek points of commonality instead of to focus on those that drive us apart. I hope that the Administration can look beyond the ICJ ruling to pursue more vigorously the peace process that has stalled for too long.

HONORING JOHN BAKER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, history reminds us of people who made a difference, who used their talent to change things. John Baker is one of those rare persons whose life has made a difference.

I first met John Baker as his classmate entering Williamette University in Salem, Oregon. We both joined the Sigma Chi Fraternity together. We studied science, religion, and history together. We played intramural sports and campus politics together.

John was always special. I think he was the first person I met who constructively was questioning authority—asking, “why not?” whenever someone was treated unfairly he spoke up for them. When the Civil Rights movement began in the South, John made sure the injustice being done was brought to the attention of the Northwest. He was always the first to rise to the cause—in many cases began the cause—to fight evil.

John's career brought him to the ministry to use it as a means of educating parishioners to the wrongs in society.

To the farmers, he brought the issues of farm workers. To the warriors, he brought the sorrow of death and destruction of the families and their enemies. To the small, friendly and secure rural towns of California, he brought the hatred and prejudice of the towns in the South. John was always a teacher, a prophet, a motivator for justice. Truly a religious leader.

That was not enough. He moved to education and a larger audience. He became a counselor of students and rose to statewide recognition in his field.

John was always pushing—pushing people to think about options, to change their lives to do better. He didn't just influence the students, he had an impact on his peers as well. He pushed his community to participate in the electoral process. He didn't just preach, he also practiced his compassion.

He was one of the first during the Vietnam War to adopt Vietnamese orphans. He didn't just tell people to vote for change, he ran for public office and got elected to the City Council.

John practices what he preaches—and he preaches what he practices. His special style makes him an ideal counselor fitting ones passions with ones work.

Public institutions will miss him because he makes those institutions do better. Teachers and students will miss him because he is the best of both. His friends will miss him because he makes friendship mean a lifetime of sup-

port. I'll miss him because he pushed me to push others. My public service as an elected county supervisor, state legislator, and now congressman, was made possible by John Baker's support and belief that ordinary people can rise to opportunity to do greater good. John personifies President Theodore Roosevelt's wise command, “Do what you can, where you are, with what you've got.” John's life and deeds are a model for how the torch should be passed to the next generation.

As John departs his position as Vice President of Student Services from Gavilan College, I wish him all the best in his retirement. He will be deeply missed.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NEWPORT BEACH JUNIOR CHAMBER

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of the Newport Beach Junior Chamber on the occasion of the 2004 Metropolitan Network Conference. The Newport Beach Junior Chamber, also known as the Newport Beach Jaycees, is a local chapter of the Junior Chamber International. With the stated mission of contributing “to the advancement of the global community by providing young people the opportunity to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship, and fellowship necessary to create positive change,” the Junior Chamber International is a global federation of more than 200,000 leaders and entrepreneurs who serve in over 100 nations worldwide.

Here in our country, the U.S. Junior Chamber has been an active force for positive change in communities across America. They have built parks, hospitals, playgrounds, and housing for the elderly, and they have raised millions of dollars for causes such as the March of Dimes and research into Muscular Dystrophy. With their strong passion for volunteerism, the U.S. Junior Chamber is improving the quality of life and expanding opportunities for Americans from the smallest of towns to the largest of cities nationwide.

The Newport Beach Junior Chamber was founded in 1941. In the 63 years since it was first chartered, the Newport Beach Jaycees have grown to include more than 200 men and women between the ages of 18 and 40 who live and work in cities throughout Orange County, and is the largest Junior Chamber chapter in the state of California. The Newport Beach Jaycees serve the community by hosting business skills seminars, providing project management training and networking opportunities for members and non-members alike, and by participating in community service projects, such as Habitat for Humanity and Adopt-A-Family.

This year, the Newport Beach Jaycees hosted the 2004 Metropolitan Network Conference, the U.S. Junior Chamber's annual leadership and networking symposium for chapters with over 100 members or those located in communities with 75,000 or more residents. Thursday, July 15 marked the commencement of the Conference, also known as

MetNet 2004, for which more than 120 members and community leaders traveled from across the nation and from around the world to participate in various business seminars, training sessions, and networking events that took place from Thursday through Sunday.

I wish the Newport Beach Jaycees and all participants in MetNet 2004 the best for a successful event this year, and I thank them for their continued service to our nation.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to serve on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which provides funding that supports many of the most important segments of our economy—from farm to table; and the programs that create our food safety net. Given our current budget limitations, the Committee has done a good job with what little funds they had, but it is simply not enough.

This bill leaves us with a serious shortfall in our effort to protect against bio-terrorism directed toward our food supply. The Committee provided just 40 percent of the total increase requested by both Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to improve food security. Especially in light of the new homeland security warnings we have just heard from the Administration, this is a threat we cannot afford to ignore, but our growing budget deficit has left us without the funds to address issue.

I am troubled that this bill reduces funding for the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program by about \$150 million. This nutrition program serves our poorest women and children—it touches the lives of every 5 people in the United States—and each dollar invested in the program saves more than three dollars in other government spending on programs such as Medicaid.

Shortfalls in programs like WIC and in bio-security are the result of the fiscal irresponsibility of the Republican Leadership. Choosing to provide trillions of dollars of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans has left us faced with an increasingly broken food safety net, rising rural poverty, and potential bio-security threats for all.

And so, Mr. Chairman, while I support this bill, I believe we can and should do better—for the sake of the health and security of every citizen in this country—young and old, rich or poor—this Congress has a moral obligation to do better.

RECOGNIZING THE NESHANNOCK
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM
AS THE 2004 CLASS 'A' PENNSYLVANIA
STATE CHAMPS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Neshannock High School baseball team, this years' Class A Pennsylvania State Champions. Head coach, Michael Kirkwood lead the Neshannock Lancers to the State Championship game, where they defeated the Muncy Indians by a score of 8-4. The Lancers ended the season with an impressive 23-1 record.

I am happy to see such spirit, dedication, and teamwork flourishing in the congressional district that I represent. I wish the members of 2004 Neshannock baseball team continued success.

I am proud to have such talented young athletes in the 4th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in recognizing their great achievement.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
MR. SAMUEL JAMES "SANDY"
KAHN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I and my colleague, Congressman RANDY CUNNINGHAM, rise today to recognize and commend to the House a man who embodies the spirit of America and has worked tirelessly for his community. Mr. Samuel James ("Sandy") Kahn, a third generation Californian, has had both a distinguished business career and an unselfish record of community and philanthropic service.

Sandy received his undergraduate, graduate and law school education at the University of San Diego. He is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of one of our country's largest privately owned real estate development companies that developed in excess of 25% of the developable land in the City of San Diego. Although a successful business owner and executive, Mr. Kahn has always been committed to public service. He became a member of the San Diego Sheriff's Department Reserve program. Sandy graduated first in his academy class and progressed through the ranks from Deputy to Sheriff's Captain retiring honorably in 1995 after 25 years. For his service he received the department's highest award for meritorious service.

He has given unselfishly of his time to his community, State and nation. He was selected by the Adjutant General of the State of California to serve on the Advisory Board for Homeland Security. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors appointed Sandy to its Board of Economic Advisors for two terms. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trust-

ees of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and in October of 2001 he was appointed by the CEO of the San Francisco Federal Reserve bank to the "Beige Book" survey committee of leading economic indicators. He is a trustee of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation which is committed to defending the interests of crime victims and law enforcement through both State and Federal appellate jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman DUKE CUNNINGHAM and I ask that the House commend Mr. Kahn for his accomplishments and his service to our Nation.

HONORING FERMI 2 POWER PLANT
FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH
AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant located in Monroe County, Michigan. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration is awarding the Michigan Star to this DTE Energy Company plant for its accomplishments in health and safety.

The Michigan Star is the highest recognition awarded by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration and its Michigan Voluntary Protection Programs. The honor acknowledges exemplary programs in both the areas of health and safety for all employed in the power plant. This recognition is the most rigorous of the MVPP's awards, which is a true testament to the work done in this nuclear facility.

The Michigan Voluntary Protection Programs provides both employers and employees with very specific and distinct tools used to measure and evaluate the plant's programs. This award demonstrates that all of those working at the Fermi 2 Plant have worked together in achieving excellence beyond basic compliance with health and safety programs.

This power plant employs some 900 workers and provides electricity to an estimated one million residents of Southeastern Michigan. In a work environment that is so sensitive, the employers and employees of the Fermi 2 Plant have committed themselves to health and safety practices that will ensure a more productive plant for them and the community they serve.

Such accomplishments in our nuclear power plants are vital and commendable, setting an example for similar facilities. I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in recognizing DTE Energy, the Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant, and all of its employees on the occasion of receiving the Michigan Star.

TOW TRUCK OPERATORS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce federal legislation that will

help states and localities rein in rogue towing operations that continue to harass and take advantage of local residents.

In 1994, Congress enacted the Federal Aviation Administration Act which opened a loophole permitting tow truck operators to qualify as interstate carriers exempt from state and local regulation.

A year later in 1995, Congress passed another attempt to streamline the federal government in the form of a law eliminating the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). This legislation struck down the regulatory body that provided federal oversight of the tow truck industry, leaving the tow truck industry without proper federal, state or local regulation.

In the years since, a number of conflicting U.S. District court rulings between towing operators and localities have been issued, including a 2000 Supreme Court decision in the City of Columbus v. Ours Garage and Wrecker Service. While the Supreme Court found that both state and local governments have the ability to exercise, free from federal preemption, the "safety regulatory authority" provided in law, the Court unfortunately failed to address what specific types of regulation would qualify under this distinction. Subsequent federal court decisions have yielded little additional clarity and have probably confused the issue further.

Without a clear judicial precedent, states and localities have been confronted with a barrage of problems related to "non-consensual" or "trespass tows." It has been brought to my attention that in Arlington County, VA alone, over 280 complaints and inquiries with regard to trespass towing have been received in the past 2 years.

Due to a lack of clear guidance from the courts and the large number of cases which have been brought to my attention involving a group of small but very active predatory towers in this region, I am here this morning to announce the introduction of legislation that will close the federal loophole, once and for all, that has prevented states and localities from having the full authority to regulate all aspects of "non consensual" towing.

Entitled the "State and Local Predatory Towing Enforcement Act of 2004," this legislation simply amends title 49 of the United States Code to give state and local governments the ability to enact common-sense, pro-consumer "trespass towing" protections for their residents.

Something is wrong when, in the absence of any federal regulatory oversight, local and state governments do not have the proper authority to protect their citizens against companies not conducting safe business practices.

Whether it be overcharging someone an arm and a leg for parking illegally in an area with no signs properly designating the space, to a lack of ATM machines at tow lots requiring cash only transactions to get your car out of impoundment, tow companies should be held accountable by state and local governments for non-consensual towing practices that do not take the consumer into account.

A solution to bring an end to this out of control problem is needed. The "State and Local Predatory Towing Enforcement Act" is that solution. It will correct a lack of regulatory oversight for an industry whose image is being tarnished by a few bad apples, and in doing so, will return power back to the people.