

is more than 10 times the national average. These are people who can work, and want to work, but who face transportation, environmental, and attitudinal barriers when it comes to finding the employment that will allow them to become self-sufficient, independent members of society.

Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability creates a positive synergy that ripples out to the greater community in the form of reduced dependency on welfare. There are 45 million Americans with a disability, many of whom are forced to rely on public welfare because they have not been able to find employment. Of people with disabilities, some 5.2 million receive Social Security Disability Insurance, 3.5 million receive Supplemental Security Insurance, and 1.3 million who receive both. By tapping into the potential of a person with a disability by offering them an employment opportunity, we can help them to become tax-paying citizens that can help power America's economy and strengthen our communities.

That is why I am proud to commend the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, which provides employment opportunities where they are needed most—to Americans with disabilities.

The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities, which allows them to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide and last year generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD. I am pleased that these JWOD contracts have had such a positive impact, and hope that this is only the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the JWOD Program and encourage my congressional colleagues to do the same.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PEMBROKE, GA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate Pembroke, Georgia on its 200th Anniversary in 2004. I'm honored to represent this vibrant city and to call many of its residents my friends.

Historic downtown Pembroke is named for Pembroke Williams who was a judge and a prominent local resident in the late 19th century. The historic district is located in the central business district of this city of 2,500 persons and is characterized by its relationship to the Georgia Central Railroad, which bisects the town. It was founded as a farming town, like so many similar towns which sprouted during that time to serve the agricultural needs of the nation. The layout of the town around the railroad harkens to a time of great growth, industrial zeal and expansionism.

Pembroke found a thriving life serving the trains that led to the great markets of the coast.

The majority of the structures in the district are of 1930s and 1940s vintage. The city also consists of several blocks of early 20th-Century commercial and government buildings. With the exception of a few buildings, all of the buildings are of one or two stories in height, and most of the buildings are brick or brick-faced buildings with pine timber construction.

The buildings in the district are a variety of styles and materials, all dating from the early to mid 1900s. Most are brick one and two-story commercial buildings and originally had wood or metal awnings over the windows. Today, the buildings show architectural niceties such as terra cotta embellishments, carved cornerstone, and marble commemorative plaques that reflect the pride of simple rural businessmen in their buildings and in their town. The most interesting structures architecturally are the Pembroke Millworks building and the Food bank building. Most of the buildings in the district are in good condition and are currently in use as publicly owned property.

The historic district of Pembroke was created to serve the agricultural needs of the nation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The layout of the town around the railroad, the plethora of commercial structures crowding the verges of the railroad property, and the prim, stolid storefronts of the respectable buildings all harken to a time of great growth, industrial zeal and expansionism in American history.

The history of Pembroke is the history of early American commerce. Founded as a railroad depot, Pembroke found a thriving life serving the trains that led to the great markets of the coast. When the trains stopped coming and the commerce declined, the town faltered, but managed to remain alive through the tough years. Now on the verge of explosive re-growth as a bedroom community to Savannah, Pembroke is seeking to retain its heritage, while finding new vitality in the influx of new residents.

Much of the historic district, once the province of private industry, is today publicly owned property. The buildings themselves, and their changing uses over the years, offer a glimpse into the working of local government of the last century. At the same time, several of the buildings—the "Welcome Center," the old Jail, and the Tos Theater to name the most prominent—retain elements of some of the more grim elements of its past . . . the stark conditions of prisoners in the jail, the segregated seating in the old theater, the peculiar design of the "Welcome Center" (with slit windows giving the police officers a vantage on the entire downtown.)

The Tos Theater, founded by G.S. Tos, was a quintessential example of the small-town movie palace. Without even a concession stand (candy, popcorn, and sodas were obtained from the drugstore soda fountain next door), the Tos Theater nevertheless was an important social gathering place for the town. With segregated seating (the toilet facilities), the building also recalls some of the social conventions of the 20th Century South, conventions which are fast fading into the past, but should be recalled and recognized.

Pembroke's Historic District is a landscape defined by transportation. First by the railway,

which gave the town its reason for existence and its livelihood for much of its history. Second by horses and mules, the dependence on which beasts of burden helped to define the layout of the city. Third by the car, highways for which have provided the lifeline for the city, keeping Pembroke connected to its larger neighbors for much of the latter half of the 20th Century. The highways—Hwy. 67, Hwy. 119 and Hwy. 280—which converge in Pembroke will help to define its future, as they have its past.

I am proud to recognize Pembroke, Georgia on this its 200th Anniversary. This town has provided much to the state of Georgia and I am proud to have represented it in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO NESHANNOCK HIGH
SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Neshannock High School baseball team, this year's Class A Pennsylvania State Champions. Head coach, Michael Kirkwood led 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall vote 406. It was my intention to vote "yes" on rollcall No. 406.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to return to private airline screeners, now is the time to continue to focus on passenger safety.

This November, airports will be given the option to apply to opt-out of having Transportation Security Administration TSA screeners in favor of hiring private screeners. If this is allowed to happen, it will be a step backwards in airline security.

TSA has only been in existence for a few years and has certainly suffered through some growing pains. Because of this, we should be focused on ensuring the success of TSA rather than adding the new challenge of privatization that could jeopardize their future and potentially endanger the security of airline passengers. That is why I am introducing the Passenger Safety Act which will repeal the opt-out language in the law that created the TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative to protect passenger safety.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AILEEN WARFIELD

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Aileen Warfield of Pueblo, Colorado. Aileen recently passed away at the age of seventy-eight. She will be remembered for her commitment to her family and her contributions to her community. I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing her life and her memory before this body of Congress and this nation.

Aileen's passion was working at her candy store, Nettie's Colorado Candies. The origins of Nettie's Colorado Candies can be traced back to the 1930's, and Aileen and her husband, Ray Warfield bought the candy store in 1971. They had no experience in the business, but Aileen wished to undertake the challenge of owning and operating a small business. Once the Warfields assumed control, they made it into a family business employing most of their children over the years. What originated as a hobby, turned into a busy job. Aileen worked six days a week and was an active member of the RCI, the Retail Confectioners International.

Aileen dedicated her time and energies to her family and her community. She was a member of the Mesa Junction Association, a board member of the Parade of Lights committee and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, Aileen Warfield was a beloved member of her community and I am honored to remember her life today. Her work ethic and friendly face at the candy store will be sorely missed in the Grand Junction community. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Aileen's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and missed three rollcall votes. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 391, 392, and 393.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, DONALD PAYNE, and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership in bringing H. Con. Res. 467 to the floor so quickly. The resolution, which I am proud to co-sponsor, accurately labels the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan as genocide, and calls upon the United Nations to take action to prevent it.

Mr. Speaker, millions of people in Darfur face a life-threatening crisis. Through actions of militias supported by the Sudanese government, villages have been burned, crops destroyed, and people uprooted.

Tens of thousands of people have already died. Without prompt and effective international action, the death toll will soon go much higher.

The Bush Administration has appropriately increased public awareness, in the United States and throughout the world, about what is at stake in Darfur, and this resolution acknowledges that.

But it calls upon the Administration to do more. A decade ago, the international community did not act quickly enough to prevent the horror of Rwanda. We must not see a repeat of that tragedy in Darfur.

Sustained and effective leadership by the United States will be necessary to achieve that goal.

The rainy season has arrived in Darfur, and the level of misery is increasing. The Sudanese are not acting quickly enough to implement promises they made to control the militias and facilitate the delivery of relief supplies.

Passage of this resolution should heighten the sense of urgency and sharpen the understanding of the Sudanese government of the resolve of the United States on this urgent and critical matter.

I urge the adoption of the resolution.

URGING GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS TO ENSURE DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND FAIR ELECTION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 652 which urges the Government of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in October 2004. As the sponsor of the Belarus Democracy Act (H.R. 854), which has also been reported out by the International Relations Committee, it is important that the House call specific attention to these upcoming fall elections. Mr. BERTEUTER, in his capacity as Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Europe, has lend his support of the Belarus Democracy Act as well.

Belarus' poor track record with recent elections—which were judged as not meeting international democratic standards by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—and more broadly with the situation with respect to human rights and democracy in Belarus, underscore the need for this resolution. Belarus, under autocratic ruler Alexander Lukashenko, has the worst human rights record in Europe today. Repressions against members of the democratic opposition, non-governmental organizations, the independent media and independent trade unions have become commonplace. Independent thought and action are anathema to Lukashenko, who over the last 10 years has consolidated his power to an alarming extent.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Belarusian authorities will take this resolution seriously, as it provides them with a blueprint on what they need to do to have their elections conform with OSCE standards. Unfortunately, four benchmarks for free and fair elections established by the OSCE 4 years ago still not been met. Thus far, the pre-election environment has not been encouraging. Last month, three opposition parliamentarians staged an 18-day hunger strike demanding changes in the Election Code, which still includes several undemocratic provisions. The reform bill was overwhelmingly defeated by the Lukashenko-controlled parliament.

Belarusians still have no opportunity to receive independent viewpoints through broadcast media. Opposition access to the state media is virtually non-existent; rather the political opposition is often vilified. Just yesterday Lukashenko, talking about his hopes for a pro-government majority in the October elections, said: "I strongly hope that the people will make the right choice," and added that "the people will take a close look at traitors, black sheep . . . wolves in sheep's clothing, and we will help them if they don't." This is not a good harbinger for the elections—and the election campaign has not even begun!

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we convey to the Belarusian authorities our call for a free, fair, open and transparent parliamentary election process consistent with Belarus' freely undertaken OSCE commitments. The long-suffering Belarusian people deserve no less.

STOCK OPTION ACCOUNTING REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, as a cosponsor of H.R. 3574, the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the bill. In order to remain competitive in today's difficult economy, America's small businesses need the flexibility to choose how to treat their stock options, and I am pleased that Congress is acting today on legislation that maintains the discretionary nature of expensing stock options. If Congress were to do nothing and allow the mandatory stock option expensing proposal to take effect, America's small businesses—especially high tech firms—would suffer.

Particularly for the high tech sector, stock options are critical to attracting employees to