

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

new, start-up companies. Requiring companies to expense their stock options would compel many small firms to stop offering the options altogether, forcing some to give up the primary tool used to attract the best employees. Start-up firms would be especially hard hit because it would be increasingly difficult for them to raise capital.

At a time when U.S. industries are losing jobs overseas, mandatory stock option expensing would put small American companies at an even greater disadvantage. Many foreign competitors offer stock options to create talented work pools. By passing this legislation today, we will ensure that U.S. businesses remain competitive and avoid additional incentives for U.S. firms to move jobs overseas.

We need to maintain a balance between increasing transparency to outside investors while not burdening technology firms with onerous reporting requirements. The Stock Option Accounting Reform Act will achieve and maintain that balance. For instance, this legislation requires increased disclosure by companies about stock option plans, stock purchase plans and similar incentive plans.

In addition, although the bill keeps the expensing of stock options as voluntary, in general, larger companies are required to expense the fair value of the stock options issued to their top five corporate officers. This proposal will allow each business to make its own decision on how to handle stock options issued to medium and low-level employees, while achieving a certain degree of transparency for investors.

H.R. 3574 bridges two potentially conflicting goals—rewarding hard work and ensuring transparency of corporate actions in the capital markets. Enjoying the fruits of one's own labor is a key component of the American Dream. For innovative and highly creative ventures like high tech, the rewards may be slow to realize—thus inviting the issuance of stock options, which will capture a company's future value.

I support the passage of the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

CELEBRATING COTTAGE GROVE'S SECOND ALL AMERICAN CITY AWARD

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the City of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Located in my congressional district at the southern end of the beautiful Willamette Valley, Cottage Grove recently won its second All-American City award.

The Kalapuya Indians first enjoyed the riches of the southern valley, and the Oregon Trail opened the territory to other settlers in 1848. In 1863, gold was discovered in the mountains south of Cottage Grove, and mining activities continued into the 1920s, when the lumber industry became the economic engine. The City celebrates its exciting history every summer during Bohemia Mining Days. Today, this community of not quite 9,000 is blessed with a wealth of community spirit and "can do" attitude.

Cottage Grove is a vital community dedicated to possibilities. This town is not afraid to take and share responsibility for creating a better future. In fact, in Cottage Grove there is a strong sense of obligation to making dreams come true. The 1968 and 2004 All-American City Awards honor the community's commitment to excellence, cooperation, and creativity.

Only ten communities earn All-American City status each year nationwide. Cottage Grove is being saluted for a variety of accomplishments and three major projects—the new Cottage Grove Community Hospital, the formation of the Economic & Business Improvement District, and the recently completed Cottage Grove High School facility.

American anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Cottage Grove embodies this great notion, with friends, neighbors, government, businesses, and service agencies working together to get things done, and done well.

I am proud to represent Cottage Grove, and thank you for the opportunity to highlight "the little city that could."

HONORING RICHARD A. BLOCH, BUSINESS PIONEER AND PHILANTHROPIST

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, Missouri citizens and all Americans mourn yesterday's passing of a great American, Richard A. Bloch—the "R" in H&R Bloch. Richard Bloch was an entrepreneur, philanthropist, beloved husband, devoted father of three and grandfather of 10, who exemplified personal and professional integrity. He was 78 years old.

Honored for his philanthropy and his second career as a crusader for cancer patients, as well as his success in creating one of America's most famous brands, Richard Bloch was born in Kansas City in 1926.

By age 12, he had founded his own small business providing printing services to Kansas City high schools. At 16, he entered the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, the youngest member of his class. He graduated in 1945 with a degree in economics.

After graduation, Richard returned to Kansas City, married his wife Annette, and soon joined his brothers Henry and Leon in their bookkeeping business. A simple newspaper ad in the Kansas City Star in 1954, showing a man behind an eight ball, with the headline, "Taxes, \$5," stimulated a long line of customers that turned a sidelight of tax return preparation into a spectacular national success that made business history.

Today those first customers translate into one out of every seven individual income tax filers in America, served by over 125,000 employees at nearly 10,000 U.S. offices, and international clients in 11 countries. Tax planning and preparation have expanded to include financial, mortgage, accounting, and consulting services.

Over the last 50 years, well over a hundred million Americans have had their anxieties allayed by a Bloch-prepared tax return. Both Federal and State governments also benefit from accurate tax returns reflecting sound advice and professional preparation.

In 1978, Richard was diagnosed with lung cancer and told he had three months to live. Refusing to accept this prognosis, he sought treatment at the M.D. Anderson Center in Houston. Richard promised himself that if he survived, he would devote his life to helping others fight cancer. Cured after two years of aggressive therapy, he kept that promise, selling his interest in H&R Bloch to devote full time to cancer work.

Richard and Annette founded the R. A. Bloch Cancer Management Center and the R. A. Bloch Cancer Support Center at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. From 1980 to 1995, the Management Center offered Kansas City area patients a free multidisciplinary second opinion panel. The panel, including more than 100 physicians, helped patients identify the best cancer treatment available. The Management Center has served as a model for more than 125 centers nationwide.

Richard and Annette also founded the Cancer Hotline in 1980 and authored three books. Supported by volunteers who have had or are battling cancer, the hotline educates thousands of newly diagnosed cancer patients and their family and friends about available treatments. A Website, www.blochcancer.org, now assists. So do annual Fighting Cancer Rallies in more than 700 communities that raise awareness that cancer and death are not synonymous and that give victims faith that there can be life after a cancer diagnosis.

In my district and across America, Richard & Annette Bloch Parks for Cancer Survivors provide an oasis of peace for contemplation and inspiration, dedicated to Americans who have been diagnosed with cancer, each a tribute to life.

Richard Bloch's vision of a national network of cancer information led to the National Cancer Institute's Physician's Data Query. This Website provides information about state of the art treatment for every type and stage of cancer and all the current experimental therapies. To honor Richard's efforts, our government named a building at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, the R. A. Bloch International Cancer Information Center. Most government cancer information is disseminated from the Bloch Center.

In 1982, Richard was appointed by President Reagan to a six year term on the National Cancer Advisory Board. He was a member of the President's Circle of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and a former board member of the National Institute of Health's Office of Alternative Medicine. He also received the American Society of Clinical Oncology's 1994 Public Service Award and the 1995 Layman's Award from the Society of Surgical Oncology.

Richard would ask anyone who wanted to open an H&R Bloch office, "Tell me what you want out of life." He encouraged people to go where their hearts led them and to follow their passion. Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending heartfelt sympathy to the entire Bloch family—Annette; his three daughters, Linda Lyon, Barbara Stanny, and Nancy Linsley; his 10 grandchildren; brothers Leon Jr. and Henry and Henry's wife, Marion—as we honor the