

leadership and extensive work with the Union City Police Department. His courage, contributions to the force, and strong commitment are an inspiration to the community.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ATOMICS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor General Atomics, an organization that has been a catalyst for improving science and technology education for thousands of students year after year. General Atomics, located in San Diego, California, began in 1955 for the purpose of harnessing the power of nuclear technologies to benefit mankind. General Atomics' basic research into fission and fusion has matured into many technologies, making them one of the world's leading resources for high-technology systems development ranging from the nuclear fuel cycle to remotely operated surveillance aircraft, airborne sensors, and advanced electric, electronic, wireless, and laser technologies.

While General Atomics has been pushing the boundaries of technology for almost 50 years, they have also heavily supported educational programs in their own community and beyond. As part of their commitment to education, General Atomics provided technical and administrative guidance to the newly formed Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP), which was created in my congressional district five years ago to inspire students to pursue an education in science and technology fields. Beyond their five years of participation in STEP, General Atomics has played an active role in bringing science and technology directly to Riverside County students and those from surrounding areas through their participation in each of the previous annual STEP Conferences that have been held in Riverside, California. They support the STEP Teacher Program by presenting tutorial workshops each year for elementary and middle school math and science teachers. In addition, they have become an integral and featured part of the STEP Student Program, which is attended by over 4,000 students plus more than 400 teachers and parents each year. Their exhibit booth in the "Discovery Zone" provides students with a hands-on introduction to plasma, electricity, thermal energy, and more. Technical personnel from General Atomics are on hand to explain to the students how the technologies work and how they are used in government and commercial applications. In the "Oh! Zone," students participate in an interactive Science Show with Rick Lee and Alex Nagy, two General Atomics scientists. The Science Show involves live demonstrations, often using student volunteers, of different technologies and scientific principles in order to show students that science can be interesting, useful, and fun.

General Atomics is a valued member of the technical community and a true partner in education. Their generous efforts have helped make science and technology interesting and accessible to thousands of students within the Inland Empire, throughout Southern California, and beyond.

ECONOMISTS ENDORSE INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$7.00

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, increasing the minimum wage is a vital issue for working families across the country. The minimum wage has not been increased in 7 years. The value of the last minimum wage increase has been fully eroded. Today, the minimum wage is worth less than it has been in 46 out of the previous 48 years. As a percentage of the hourly wage of non-supervisory employees, the minimum wage is at its lowest level in 55 years. This decline is causing serious hardships for low-income families.

To address this problem, I introduced H.R. 4256, the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004," which increases the minimum in three steps from its current level of \$5.15 to \$7.00. Ninety-four of my colleagues have joined me in sponsoring this legislation. On Wednesday, more than 562 prominent economists—including 4 Nobel Prize winners in economics and 7 past presidents of the American Economic Association—are joining us in endorsing an increase in the Federal minimum wage to \$7.00.

In their endorsement, these economists say, "We believe that a modest increase in the minimum wage would improve the well-being of low-wage workers and would not have the adverse effects that critics have claimed."

They go on to state:

As economists who are concerned about the problems facing low-wage workers, we believe the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004's proposed phased-in increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.00 falls well within the range of options where the benefits to the labor market, workers, and the overall economy would be positive.

Below is a copy of the economists' statement. A complete list of the cosigners can be found on the Economic Policy Institute's WEB site at: <http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/minwagestm2004>.

IT'S TIME FOR A RAISE—HUNDREDS OF ECONOMISTS SUPPORT A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The minimum wage has been an important part of our nation's economy for 65 years. It is based on the principle of valuing work by establishing an hourly wage floor beneath which employers cannot pay their workers. In so doing, the minimum wage helps to equalize the imbalance in bargaining power that low-wage workers face in the labor market. The minimum wage is also an important tool in fighting poverty.

The value of the 1997 increase in the federal minimum wage has been fully eroded. The real value of today's federal minimum wage is less than it has been in 46 out of the last 48 years. Moreover, the ratio of the minimum wage to the average hourly wage of non-supervisory workers is 33%, its lowest level in 55 years. This decline is causing hardship for low-wage workers and their families.

We believe that a modest increase in the minimum wage would improve the well-being of low-wage workers and would not have the adverse effects that critics have claimed. In particular, we share the view the Council of Economic Advisers expressed in the 1999 Economic Report of the President that "the weight of the evidence suggests

that modest increases in the minimum wage have had very little or no effect on employment." While controversy about the precise employment effects of the minimum wage continues, research has shown that most of the beneficiaries are adults, most are female, and the vast majority are members of low-income working families.

As economists who are concerned about the problems facing low-wage workers, we believe the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004's proposed phased-in increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.00 falls well within the range of options where the benefits to the labor market, workers, and the overall economy would be positive.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia have set their minimum wages above the federal level. Additional states, including Florida, Nevada, and New York, are considering similar measures. As with a federal increase, modest increases in state minimum wages in the range of \$1.00 to \$2.00 can significantly improve the lives of low-income workers and their families, without the adverse effects that critics have claimed.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month—a celebration of Americans of Hispanic heritage and their significant, collective and individual contributions to our community and to our nation.

Hosting one of the events this year is the Cleveland Public Library. The Cleveland Public Library and regional branches continue their commitment to promoting our diverse community, richly infused with Hispanic culture and language. As part of the Library's 2004 Strategic Plan, new and permanent resources of Spanish Language collections are now underway, along with the implementation of a Spanish language Web site.

Hispanic Heritage Month is reflective of the 500-year history of Hispanic culture and contributions to America. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably to all areas of our culture—from medicine, law, and business, to education, music and the fine arts. Hispanic Americans in our community and in communities across the country are life-saving doctors and nurses, veterans, inspiring professors, dedicated teachers, committed elected officials, fair-minded judges, and hardworking factory employees. Americans of Hispanic heritage bring energy, innovation, and a real sense of social justice to America, while retaining the cultural traditions of their homeland for all citizens to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, and join me in expressing my gratitude for the outstanding contributions made by Hispanic Americans. Their journey to America, fraught with significant obstacles and strife, paved the way for a better life for their children and future generations, and signifies what it means to be an American. Within our diversity we find strength. Within our traditions we find unity. And because of their journey, and the journey of people from all points of the world, we are stronger as a community, more unified as a Nation, and better as people.

RECOGNIZING TRW AUTOMOTIVE
IN FOWLerville, MI, FOR
EARNING INDUSTRY WEEK'S TEN
BEST PLANTS AWARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work ethic of some of Michigan's finest workers at the TRW Automotive plant in Fowlerville, Michigan. On September 15, 2004, TRW Automotive announced that its Kelsey-Hayes Company automotive braking facility in Fowlerville, Michigan, earned a place on Industry Week's prestigious list of "10 Best Plants" in North America for 2004.

Industry Week awards its 10 Best Plants award to facilities that have made credible changes in the way they run their operations, aligning production processes with customer needs and harnessing people's desire to make things better. The Fowlerville TRW is well deserving of this distinction, the plant boasts a 100% on-time delivery performance to 15 assembly locations, less than five days' on-hand inventory levels, and a defect rate of just three parts per million, down from 64 ppm in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the workers at TRW Automotive for their strong commitment to quality manufacturing. American automotive workers are the best trained, most highly skilled workers in the world. Industry Week's profile of these fine manufacturers is a testament to their aptitude and steadfast commitment to quality.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY
HARMON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gary Harmon from Grand Junction, Colorado. Gary is a journalist with the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, and has served the paper, city and state with distinction. I know Gary well, and he is a man of the utmost integrity. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his dedication and leadership before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Gary attended Casper College and California State University in Long Beach where he studied journalism. He went on to work at three different newspapers before moving to Grand Junction in 1987 to join the staff at the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. Gary is a hard-working journalist who won nationally prestigious John Hancock Award for Business and Financial Reporting in 1989 for an eight part series on workers' compensation. He has also won several news writing and column-writing awards from several Colorado and California press associations and the Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters. Gary is the father of two sons, whom he is actively involved in teaching to play basketball.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Gary Harmon for his exceptional service to the people of Grand Junction and Colorado. For

many years, his dedication to his community and journalistic integrity has made the Grand Junction Sentinel a thriving and influential news source. It is with great pleasure that I recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks for your service, Gary, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN
OF TAIWAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Taiwan's National Day on October 10, 2004, I wish to salute President Chen Shui-bian and the Taiwanese people for their many economic and political accomplishments.

Even though Taiwan is a small island nation with few natural resources, it has prospered. With one of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. President Chen believes that every citizen of Taiwan ought to enjoy the right to work, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to an education, the right to medical care, the right to participate in elections, and the right to social security in the event of unemployment, illness and disability.

In his May 20 inaugural address to his people, President Chen expressed his hope that Taiwan-China ties could be strengthened and urged cooperation in building a dynamic "peace and stability framework" for cross-strait interaction. I hope that talks will resume toward that end.

Even though Taiwan and the United States do not have formal diplomatic ties, our two peoples are very close. In terms of trading relations with us, Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner, thus providing many jobs for our manufacturers. In addition, more than 30,000 Taiwan students study at U.S. colleges and universities. The United States is the number one destination for most of Taiwan travelers. The U.S. and Taiwan share many values in common, such as attachment to freedom, democracy, and human rights.

As Taiwan celebrates National Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Taiwan's many accomplishments and offering our support to President Chen as he provides leadership, vision, and direction for Taiwan.

CONGRATULATING MAGEE RIETER
ON WINNING GENERAL MOTORS
AWARD FOR 12TH CONSECUTIVE
YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania for winning the "Supplier of the Year" award for quality and service for the 12th consecutive year from General Motors Corporation. I ask that my col-

leagues pay tribute to Magee Rieter, its President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Katerman and to all the employees for winning this international recognition.

Not only is this the 12th straight award for Magee Rieter and its employees, they now have the distinction of being the only company in all of North America to earn the honor for so many consecutive years. Each year, fewer than 100 companies out of 30,000 win this distinction. Additionally, only one other company in the world can match this incredible record of quality.

As Mr. Katerman puts it, Magee Rieter manufactures the highest quality fabricated floor carpet and acoustical systems. General Motors is their largest customer.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a company that has been internationally recognized for its commitment to quality, service, technology and value. It is equally rewarding to represent employees who are acclaimed for their hard work and ingenuity.

HONORING PATRICA G. CLOTHIER'S
DEDICATION TO THE FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patricia Clothier for more than twenty three years of dedicated service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Patricia Clothier was sworn into the FBI on April 6, 1981. Since then, she has worked from the Phoenix, Charleston, South Carolina, and Los Angeles Divisions throughout her career with the Bureau in addition to traveling to several countries to conduct field work. Beginning as an agent working against organized crime, Clothier worked on anti-narcotic and anti-corruption cases, including specific cases against the Mexican Mafia and Hell's Angels. Becoming the first female bomb technician only seven years after she became an agent, Clothier was deployed to many sites to work on high-profile cases, including the terrorist bombings at the U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya and the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing.

Clothier traveled to Montana to collect information from the cabin for the case against Ted Kaczynski, known as the Unabomber. Ms. Clothier retired earlier this fall as a supervisor in charge of the Counter Terrorism Squad and the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Her fellow agents looked to her as a supervisor who brought an ultimate sense of loyalty to the FBI in addition to someone who always stood strong for her beliefs while also being there to coach newer agents. Clothier remained a field agent even as a veteran to the Bureau, which only bolstered her credibility among the law enforcement community and colleagues.

I ask all members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Patricia Clothier for her exemplary professional and public service career, and for her immense dedication to the community and the nation.