

while David was a senior designer. Ian used his 15 years of experience in finance, operations, and marketing to help launch and run Davin Wheels. His knowledge and expertise have driven the development, expansion, and success of Davin Wheels since the beginning.

Hank Seemore, Davin's Chief Financial Officer, met Fowlkes while he was Vice President of Fleet Bank's Private Client Group. After 17 years in the banking industry, Seemore was responsible for a \$200 million portfolio. Upon observing Fowlkes' prototype, Seemore and Hardman teamed up with Fowlkes to launch the company in 1998.

Davin Wheels' first product, the Revolution 1.0, made its official debut in January 2001. Since then, sales have been driven by word of mouth and celebrity plugs, including features on MTV, ESPN, and in various music videos. Davin Wheels is seen as the final touch to many celebrities' and athletes' flashy cars. The first three lines of the Revolution wheels have completely sold out, a sign that this Rhode Island company is sure to succeed for years to come on this simple, stylish product.

Fowlkes, Seemore, and Hardman join a distinguished group of Rhode Islanders who have been named Small Business Person of the Year. Small businesses are key to the economic growth in my home state, and I wish these gentlemen, and the 33,000 other small business owners in Rhode Island, great success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE READING FAILURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to establish statewide screening programs for children who are 5 to 7 years of age, in an effort to prevent reading failure.

Reading failure is epidemic. Declining test scores in reading have been noted in many states. Nationally, 38 percent of 4th graders score below the basic reading level and 28 percent of 8th graders score below the basic reading level in our public schools.

The Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004 proposes that the grants be used to screen incoming students for traits that indicate dyslexia or other reading failure risks. It would also provide adequate professional development for personnel who administer the screening programs. Dyslexia, often referred to as a language based learning disability, is the most common form of learning disability. Approximately 15–20 percent of the population has a learning disability and, according to the National Institutes of Health, 60 percent to 80 percent of those with learning disabilities have problems with reading and language skills. Predictions for the coming decades indicate that the number of children with learning disabilities will increase for associated social, economic, and educational reasons.

In spite of the fact that reading success in early grades is an essential basis for success in later grades, current methods of identifying children as learning disabled rely on a "wait

and fail" model, where children must demonstrate severe academic problems before remediation is rendered. The Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004 allows for the early screening of children so that remediation can begin immediately.

Because reading disorders, such as dyslexia, often affect oral language functioning, individuals with these disorders are at a disadvantage as they enter their adolescent years when language becomes more central to peer relationships. Being at odds with the mainstream environment causes these children to experience great stress, creating social and emotional adjustment problems. Usually, they become vulnerable to feelings of low self-esteem and suffer from frustration and anxiety. If these students are not met with proper intervention, they can begin to experience academic failure. However, when learning disorders, such as dyslexia, are caught early by trained professionals, learning strategies and proper treatment can help them to succeed academically and to develop a positive self-image.

I believe that this legislation will be a very important step in ensuring that our nation's children are adequately prepared for lifelong reading success. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by co-sponsoring the Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004.

ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF THE LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Monday, May 10, marks the first observance of World Lupus Day. Coordinated by the Lupus Foundation of America, this event will focus on accurate lupus diagnosis, improved patient healthcare services, and increased research into the treatment and cure of lupus. I am pleased the Arkansas chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host World Lupus Day activities. The chapter has scheduled a public open house on May 10 in its main office located in Hot Springs that will feature a live radio broadcast on KLAZ–105.3, videos of lupus patients sharing their experiences, and dissemination of educational materials.

Started in October 1993, in the guestroom of the founder's home, the Arkansas chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America has grown to 200 members and serves the entire State of Arkansas. Mrs. Jamesetta Smith saw the importance of starting the chapter when she and her husband moved to Arkansas in 1992. As a lupus patient herself, Jamesetta knows about the importance of education and support for those directly and indirectly impacted by the devastating disease. Lupus patients need someone to talk to who understands and knows firsthand about the physical and emotional challenges that lie ahead. To help these individuals, the chapter's Hot Springs and Ft. Smith offices host monthly support groups, free of charge. To support the Arkansas chapter's many efforts and awareness activities, patients, family members, and supporters come together regularly to raise funding.

It is estimated that nationally 1 out of every 185 persons has lupus. According to the

Lupus Foundation, about 1.5 million Americans have a form of the chronic, incurable disease that can result in severe joint pain and swelling, fevers, fatigue, and other health effects, including organ failure and death. Needless to say, lupus is a widespread disease that touches the lives of millions of Americans. I am glad Mrs. Jamesetta Smith, Founder of the Arkansas Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, took on the challenge of developing and implementing a chapter and based it in my Congressional District. She and the chapter's volunteers are to be commended for their hard work in informing Arkansans about the symptoms and health effects of lupus and providing important facts to help the public better understand the impact of the disease.

NEGOTIATIONS ON SHANNON AIRPORT SHOULD NOT PROCEED UNTIL ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY IS COMPLETED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Chairman HYDE, Ranking Member OBERSTAR, and Rep. PETER KING and DONALD PAYNE, to introduce legislation on a critical and timely issue of interest to both U.S. and Irish companies operating in western Ireland and the impact on jobs in that region. The concern arises out of negotiations between the United States and Ireland that will determine the status of Shannon Airport, an important gateway for commerce and tourism between our two countries.

Under the "dual gateway" policy international carriers currently operating flights between to and from the United States through Dublin are required to undertake an equal number of flights to Shannon Airport and Dublin Airport over each calendar year.

The Dual Gateway Policy Review Act we are introducing today provides for an economic impact study proposed changes to the "dual gateway" policy might have on U.S. businesses operating in western Ireland, Irish businesses operating in and around Shannon Airport, and U.S. air carriers serving Ireland.

This matter came to my attention recently through the persistent efforts of Dana Rosemary Scallan, a Member of the European Parliament representing much of western Ireland, the region that would be most adversely affected by changes actively under negotiation between Washington and Dublin. In fact, it is my understanding that talks are underway this week in Washington between American and Irish negotiators.

At Ms. Scallan urging, I arranged for us to meet with the chief U.S. aviation negotiators in February, here in Washington. I was shocked and dismayed to learn that no consideration whatsoever had been given to the potential loss of jobs and negative economic impact that such a policy change would have on western Ireland.

A key element missing from these talks—is a glaring omission in my view—is an expert assessment of the economic impact of changing the status of Shannon Airport, an economic hub critical to development in western Ireland and the estimated 140 U.S. corporations operating in the region. My legislation would correct this shortcoming.

Mr. Speaker, in a series of meetings arranged last week by Ms. Scallon, I met with representatives of scores of U.S. corporations deeply concerned over the potential impact of modifications or discontinuance of the "dual gateway" policy on their operations. Approximately half of U.S. investment in Ireland is made in the western part of the country. Many of these corporations have made sizable investments in western Ireland and are keen to maintain their presence in the region, but would be forced to reevaluate their positions should Shannon Airport's status be downgraded.

These business executives estimate that 40,000 jobs on the western corridor from north of Galway to south of Limerick are directly affected by Shannon Airport. An additional 80,000 jobs are indirectly affected by Shannon operations according to these business representatives. I also met with local leaders along the west coast who were united in their concern over the likely economic and social consequences of a downgrading of Shannon Airport's status. Business leaders from County Donegal warned of the ripple effect their region would feel from such a change.

The potential threat posed by possible changes to the "dual gateway" policy have galvanized U.S. business executives representing many different sizes and types of enterprises along the west coast to speak out with a single voice on this matter. They highlight the fact that Shannon Airport is a major access point to and from the U.S. and European cities necessary to sustain and promote development and growth in the region.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly six decades Shannon Airport has served as a vital gateway for the United States to Ireland and beyond. Indeed, many Americans, including me, trace their family roots back generations to counties along the rugged western coast of Ireland. Hundreds of thousands of American tourists pass through this gateway each year. An estimated 140 U.S. corporations have come to rely upon Shannon Airport as a vital gateway to doing business in western Ireland.

RECOGNITION OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again bring attention to the upcoming elections in Belarus.

The current leader, Aleksandr Lukashenko told the National Assembly on April 14th, "The new parliament that is to be elected this fall should include representatives of all groups aside from 'businessmen, merchants and capitalists.'"

At a time when Belarus desperately needs business and entrepreneurs, it is appalling that the Belarussian leader would declare that candidates with business backgrounds or professions would not be allowed to run or to serve in the Belarus Assembly.

In response to this repressive political environment, we need to focus our efforts on helping to promote the institutional survival of the country's democratic political organizations and helping their leaders and activists prepare for political and public policy.

The important thing for the current regime in Belarus to understand is that Washington and the world are watching.

HONORING FLAG CITY USA

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the official designation of my hometown of Findlay, Ohio, as Flag City USA.

Findlay's spirited celebration of Flag Day dates back to 1968, when an area businessman shared his passion for Old Glory with the community. John B. Cooke, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, determined that every household in Findlay should display the flag on June 14. Speaking to industry and community groups throughout Findlay in support of this idea, he spearheaded a successful effort to purchase 14,000 flags. Area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls distributed these flags to area households and businesses.

My predecessor in Congress and former boss, Jackson Betts, recognized this achievement in a speech to the House on June 12, 1968. "The strong patriotism of residents of my district," he said, "has rarely been better exhibited than the present project which will make Findlay, Ohio, Flag City USA on June 14, 1968." Congressman Betts also contributed a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to Findlay's Flag Day display.

The event was heralded in the House by my immediate predecessor in Congress, Tennyson Guyer. On May 7, 1974, Congressman Guyer introduced a joint resolution to designate Findlay as Flag City USA, citing the 1968 Flag Day event and the dedication of a plaque in Findlay to our armed forces on that day. This Friday, May 7, I will join my constituents at an event in Findlay hosted by the Hancock/Flag City Heritage Commission to commemorate the 30th anniversary of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Flag City know that Old Glory is far more than a piece of cloth. This point was most clearly illustrated in 1989, after the Supreme Court upheld flag burning as a protected act. More than 2,000 area residents gathered in Findlay's Dorney Plaza to celebrate our flag and express their strong opposition to this ruling. I was proud to join them at this event, where they presented me with a petition containing more than 5,000 signatures objecting to the Court's act.

Our flag has never gone out of fashion in Findlay, but the post-September 11 era has brought even more poignancy to the banners readily seen throughout our city. They remind us of the debt we owe to the brave men and women who fight in defense of our freedom—both those protecting our homeland domestically and those engaged on our behalf across the globe.

As I go to work each day and see Old Glory flying over the Capitol dome, I reflect on our enduring freedoms celebrated each day in Findlay and in towns and villages throughout the nation. Our flag remains the most visible symbol of our nation and of the liberties we have too often taken for granted. It is a uni-

fying sign in times of peace and war, renewing pride in America and continued hope for our future.

It has been three decades since we were officially named Flag City USA, but Findlay's spirit of patriotism has shined brightly throughout its history. I salute the hard work of the Hancock/Flag City Heritage Commission for coordinating this commemoration, and thank all of the fine citizens of our community who maintain the pride of Flag City USA. They remind us that ours is the greatest nation on earth, and that our city is brimming with the American spirit.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time to recognize an important group of individuals who are being honored today, Tuesday, May 4, National Teacher Day.

Growing up in Stamford, my own teachers played an important role in my upbringing. It is one reason why I chose to become a teacher myself.

Since starting out as a vocational agriculture teacher, education has been a passion of mine. That is why I now spend so much time in our schools. And I certainly realize the important role that teachers play in our children's lives. Our teachers go above and beyond the call of duty time after time to help their students learn and be successful.

I'm happy we take this day to honor those who have chosen to enter this profession. It sometimes can be a thankless job. But it is rewarding to see the kids grow and mature before your very eyes—even after they have left your classroom.

I am pleased to cosponsor several pieces of legislation that support America's teachers, including:

The LEARN Act (H.R. 1643), legislation that would provide a \$2,000 tax credit to teachers and principals who work in low-income schools.

Student loan forgiveness legislation (H.R. 1751, H.R. 934 and H.R. 2811), designed to result in the recruitment of new and talented teachers to educate the next generation of students. These bills would provide student loan forgiveness up to \$17,500 to a teacher who teaches for five years in a low-income school, rural school or in high-demand subjects such as mathematics, science, special education, foreign languages and bilingual education.

The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 594), which would end unfair discrimination against Texas teachers and other public employees who currently are denied the Social Security survivors benefit. I strongly support this legislation, and have signed a discharge petition that would bring H.R. 594 to the House floor for a vote.

As a former educator and grandfather of three, I will continue to be concerned about providing the best educational opportunities to all American children. Yet, the successful education of this nation's children is inextricably tied to the quality of the teachers educating them. We must provide the proper financial