

HONORING ALBERT R. MORRIS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Albert R. Morris, President of A.R. Morris Jewelers in Wilmington, DE. On behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to pay tribute to this outstanding individual, and extend to him our congratulations on being chosen as the 2004 recipient of the Small Business Council of America's Small Business Person of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, for over 40 years, A.R. Morris Jewelers has set the standard for business and civic leadership in Delaware. The Morris family's steadfast commitment to dependability, integrity, quality, and trust has cemented A.R. Morris' position at the pinnacle of small business in Delaware, and as this award indicates, throughout the nation. Based on an unwavering commitment to his community, Mr. Morris has proven that businesses can succeed, while still maintaining an individual relationship with their customers. Now, in A.R. Morris' second generation of family ownership, they continue to provide value and excellence in their craft.

It is with great pleasure that I offer the most heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Morris upon receipt of this award. His tireless diligence and dedication to work and family should serve as an example for all small businesses. Mr. Speaker, I commend Albert R. Morris for his exceptional leadership and I ask that we recognize the substantial contributions his family and business have made to the state of Delaware.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ASTHMA
AWARENESS DAY**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Allergy and Asthma Network for holding today's 7th annual Asthma Awareness Day and the Breath Freely Briefing to increase asthma awareness. I also want to thank my colleagues, Representative STEARNS, Chairman BARTON, Representative TUBBS-JONES, Representative ENGEL and Representative KENNEDY for their leadership on this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2023. I signed onto this bill because I understand the life-altering effects of asthma. As you know, asthma is the 6th ranking chronic condition in the United States and the leading serious chronic illness of children in the United States.

The African American community is disproportionately impacted by the effects of asthma. More than 3 million African Americans currently have asthma. We are three times more likely than the general population to be hospitalized for asthma. Sadly, African Americans constitute 26 percent of all asthma deaths. The fact that asthma can be managed with proper health care and appropriate medi-

cations, makes these deaths all the more tragic.

I hope that our efforts through this bill and as well as the attention that we can bring to this disease through Asthma Awareness Day education and outreach activities today and throughout the weekend at the Omni Shoreham Hotel will help us reduce the incidence of asthma and the fatality rate associated with it. With this kind of bi-partisan effort and supported at the state and local level, we can make sure that every asthma patient has a chance to breathe freely.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RICHARD MICKA**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Richard "Dick" Micka, on the occasion of his retirement from La-Z-Boy Corporation after 36 years of distinguished service.

A longtime Monroe County, Michigan resident, Dick graduated from Monroe Catholic Central High School in 1956. He then earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Detroit in 1960. That same year, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. For nearly three of his seven years in the military, Dick served at Okinawa. He became a captain with the Medical Service Corps.

Dick began his career with La-Z-Boy's Monroe Headquarters in 1968 as Factory Payroll Supervisor. In 1970, he moved to inventory control, and then to the production-planning department in 1971. He was special projects manager from 1974 to 1979, working closely with the Fabric Processing Center. In this position, he was among the first to witness the company's computer-controlled system in Monroe, Michigan command a South Carolina factory machine to mechanically choose and pick up a fabric roll from the thousands on hand. In 1979, Dick was promoted to his current position. As Vice President of Administration, Dick has dealt with the assets, patents, trademarks, and administrative functions of La-Z-Boy, but he is certainly best known for his service as La-Z-Boy's community and civic affairs director.

Dick has faithfully served many community organizations, including the Monroe County Historical Commission, the United Way of Monroe County, and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

He is also a noted conservationist. The Michigan United Conservation Club honored him with their Conservationist of the Year award in June 1974 for his efforts to save the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in Monroe County, Michigan. He is still very actively involved in efforts to restore Lake Erie wetlands, clean the lake of environmental contamination and restore native habitats and species.

As Dick enters his retirement years, I would ask that my colleagues rise and join with me to wish him and his wife, Jeanne, a very happy, healthy, and relaxing future. I would also like to thank him for his dedicated service both to La-Z-Boy and the Monroe Community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALTA
CASSIETTO**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Alta Cassietto of Montrose, Colorado. Throughout her fulfilling life, Alta has fulfilled many roles with great success, including being appointed Telluride's first woman Postmaster. Her service, both in her career with the Postal Service and her community involvement, is certainly commendable and deserving of recognition by this body of Congress and nation.

Alta Cassietto was born in Cedaredge, Colorado in 1907. After traveling with her parents to their native Italy in 1908, the family returned to Telluride at the outbreak of the First World War. In 1927, as only a junior in high school, Alta began to work as a reporter for the Telluride Daily Journal. When economic conditions forced the paper to become a weekly in 1929, Alta became the editor, a position she held until 1934, when she became Telluride's first woman Postmaster, a position she held for thirty-six years until her retirement in 1970.

In 1975 Alta moved to Montrose to better care for her mother. She has remained very active in the community, volunteering at the Montrose Memorial Hospital and with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. She has also pursued her love of traveling, having crossed both the Atlantic and Pacific ten times.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Alta Cassietto before this body of Congress and this nation. She is a truly great treasure for her Montrose community and the State of Colorado. I sincerely thank her for her service.

THE WOOL SUIT AND TEXTILE
TRADE EXTENSION ACT OF 2004**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, introducing the "Wool Suit and Textile Trade Extension Act of 2004." This legislation extends and improves an existing program designed to equalize the trade treatment provided to domestic manufacturers of worsted wool suits.

Over the last decade a provision in our trade laws has had a devastating impact on the tailored clothing industry in the United States—reducing employment by half. This provision effectively created a suit export industry overnight in Canada and Mexico. Effectively, finished suits were able to enter our market duty-free, while our domestic producers were forced to contend with a tariff of more than 30 percent on the fine fabrics used in their production.

With a shrinking customer base the textile mills that once produced enormous amounts of worsted wool fabric reduced their fabric production. Competition for supply and prices paid to woolgrowers in turn were impacted negatively.

Our proposal builds on action taken by Congress in 2000 and 2002 to address this situation. Under the existing legislation, domestic

suit makers, textile producers, and the domestic sheep industry received a combination of tariff relief and incentives to stabilize employment and production in the United States. This program has been extremely successful, and stopped the precipitous decline in employment in the tailored suit industry.

However, these provisions expire next year. Because the suit industry must design their lines months in advance, the expiration of this program will affect pricing and competitiveness much earlier than the close of 2005.

Our proposal extends these provisions for an additional five years, and makes improvements in the program for all interested parties. We are pleased to note that our legislation has the strong support of the suit manufacturers, the garment workers' union—UNITE, the sheep association, and the textile industry. As the domestic tailored clothing industry and wool textile mills continue to face significant challenges maintaining employment and production as a result of an unlevelled playing field, an extension of this program is timely and vital to the continued health of this important manufacturing sector.

We hope our colleagues will join us in co-sponsoring this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
VISION STRATEGY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I rise to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month, and to discuss the importance of the recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy to the prevention of blindness and vision loss.

Good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, and it affects developmental learning, communication, work, health, and quality of life. Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. Despite the fact that half of all blindness can be prevented, far too many people do not have access to the care they need. If current trends continue, the number of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

Healthy Vision Month, a component of Healthy People 2010, is a national eye health campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss. Additionally, a coalition of leading eye health experts have just released the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy to provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss. This groundbreaking study recommends that, in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, we must concentrate our efforts on three priority areas: prevention; access to care and treatment; and research.

Our public health and prevention campaign must ensure that vision programs at the Na-

tional Eye Institute (NEI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns, increase surveillance, support epidemiology and prevention research; and implement appropriate program and policy changes.

In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, we must support programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations. We must also strengthen the Medicare program to advance coverage for vision rehabilitation services as provided by orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers, and low-vision therapists.

Finally, we must bolster our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, and to develop the most effective means of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. This report provides the roadmap we need to raise awareness about vision loss, give individuals the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments can be found.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I would like to thank all of the organizations involved in crafting this report, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the CDC, Lighthouse International, the National Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, the NEI and most importantly, Prevent Blindness America. Prevent Blindness America should be commended for spearheading this effort, for bringing together this coalition of experts, and for its almost century-long dedication to preventing vision loss.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE TOWN OF TAOS, NM

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an historic and outstanding community—Taos, New Mexico—and to congratulate the residents on the celebration of the town's 70th anniversary.

On May 7, 2004, the Town of Taos will commemorate the 70th anniversary of its incorporation as a general law municipality in the State of New Mexico. This event will also mark 389 years since the King of Spain colonized the Taos area in 1615—five years before the Pilgrims landed in New England.

Further, this will be the 209th anniversary since the Don Fernando de Taos land grant was declared an Ayuntamiento under the laws of the Spanish government in 1795. Finally, this will also mark 156 years since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed by the United States and Mexico in 1848.

It is the traditions of the long-established cultures that make Taos a proud community, a desirable place to live, and a wonderful place to visit. Although the Town of Taos celebrates its 70th birthday this month, we must not forget that it is an area that has been home to American Indians for nearly 1,000 years. The arrival of the Spanish Conquistadores, led by Capitán Hernan Alvarado on August 29, 1540, marked the beginning of the three cultures that would eventually dominate the area.

Yet other newcomers emerged in the 18th century with the arrival of French and American traders. Taos, no more than a tiny mountain village, was transformed into a bustling trade center as wagon trains, frontier scouts and mountain men gathered. Taos was also the home of famous frontier scout Kit Carson, who is commemorated in a state park and museum.

The once geographically-isolated village became more accessible when the Atcheson, Topeka and the Santa Fe Railroad reached Santa Fe. The era of America's love affair with the West had begun. As tales of the region's beauty spread, tourists, writers and artists from the east discovered northern New Mexico's uniqueness. Some settled permanently.

By the end of the Roaring Twenties, Taos had an established reputation as a thriving art colony. Writer D.H. Lawrence is credited with saying, "I think the skyline of Taos is the most beautiful I have ever seen. . ." Perhaps the most prominent resident of the 20th century was none other than artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

The incorporation of the Town of Taos began as a community-wide initiative after several large structure fires destroyed most of the plaza buildings in existence at the time.

Community volunteers undertook an effort to organize a volunteer fire department, a community water supply system and a municipal form of government to ensure stability over the long term.

Taos, sometimes described as "The Soul of the Southwest," is a flourishing community today in New Mexico. A hundred galleries showcase the works of artists past and present, local and international. Scattered within walking distance around the plaza and along side streets lined with bright hollyhocks and geraniums, the galleries invite thousands of tourists each year. World-class contemporary fine art, southwestern art, sculpture, ceramic, crafts, jewelry, and weavings are long-time economic staples of the town.

Wheeler Peak at over 13,000 feet looks down on the world-class Taos Ski Basin. During the warmer months, the area provides a scenic chair lift and trails for hiking, biking, horseback trips, llama treks and fishing.

Today, as in the past, Taos is a mecca for a wide range of people who are attracted by its mystique, unique heritage, historical significance, and beauty.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak for hours on the rich history of Taos. Let me finish by saying that this special occasion is a time for all Taosños to honor 70 years of proud and noble history. While we are grateful for the past seven decades, I know that the best is yet to come. I ask that my colleagues join me as we honor all the contributions Taos has made to New Mexico.