

I am pleased to recognize Jim Mejchar's accomplishments today. I, along with the people of West Allis wish him a much earned retirement. Congratulations and thank you, Jim, for your dedication to public service.

YOUNG AGENCY CELEBRATING A  
CENTURY IN BUSINESS

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Young Agency, Inc., an independent insurance, bonding, and risk-management company located on Syracuse's North Side. Since its inception in 1905, the agency has grown into a 100 employee business with close to 10,000 clients.

George Young, the founder of Young Agency, began his business in 1905 by selling fire insurance door-to-door. After several location changes, the agency moved to its current office at Bridewater Place at 500 Plum St. George Young passed away in 1936, leaving the agency to his sons, Albert and Carl. With the help of George Schunck, George's grandson, and Roy S. Moore III, the current president, the agency has expanded into a respected company with more than \$220 million in annual premiums. In 2001, Young merged with Florida-based Brown & Brown, Inc., the nation's eighth-largest insurance brokerage firm.

On behalf of the clients, employees and community members of Syracuse, I extend my best wishes and many more successful years to the Young Agency, a valued fixture in our community.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK  
STUBENHOFER

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Captain Mark Stubenhofer and his remarkable service to the United States of America.

Captain Stubenhofer was born on April 18, 1974 in Fairfax, Virginia. He grew up here in the suburbs of this great capital of freedom and was an all-American from the start. He delivered newspapers in the morning before school and worked long after the school day ended doing homework or practicing baseball. He attended West Springfield High School here in Fairfax, Virginia and attended Nativity Catholic Church nearby. He was elected Student Government Vice President at West Springfield and during his senior year played baseball on the varsity squad. He attended Clemson University where his leadership skills were honed through the school's ROTC program. He graduated from Clemson in May of 1996 and immediately began fulfilling his obligation to the Army.

Captain Stubenhofer was commissioned as an infantry officer and attended both the elite Airborne and Ranger schools. He went on to serve two tours in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom. In his first tour in 2003 he helped liberate five Iraqi cities. In his second tour Captain Stubenhofer served as a company commander for the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He was awarded numerous medals and honors, among them two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, and two Army Commendation Medals. Tragically, he was killed in combat on December 7, 2004.

During his final tour of duty, Captain Stubenhofer's third child was born—a daughter he would never see or hold. He asked his wife Patty to name the child Hope. Mark, in his last phone conversation to his parents, commented that it was hope that brought him to Iraq and to the service of his country.

Mr. Speaker, we owe Captain Mark Stubenhofer, and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. While we pay homage to fallen heroes like Mark with monuments of stone, the most fitting tribute is the enduring memory of their lives. As Pericles, the great orator, builder, and general of Athens said, "For to famous men all the earth is a sepulcher; and their virtues shall be testified not only by the inscription in stone at home but by an unwritten record of the mind, which more than of any monument will remain with everyone forever."

Mr. Speaker, I call on this body to forever remember Captain Mark Stubenhofer and to keep record in our minds and hearts, the great works and sacrifices that our sons and daughters of the military continue to make on our behalf.

INTRODUCTION OF JOHN'S LAW

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, we will soon observe the fifth anniversary of the tragic death of one of my constituents. U.S. Navy Ensign John Elliott, who had just received his commission to Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, was struck and killed by a drunk driver on July 22, 2000. The accident instantly killed Elliott and seriously injured his passenger, Kristen Hohenwarter.

Sadly, it was later discovered that the driver responsible for Elliott's death had been arrested for drunken driving earlier that evening. Having called for a ride, he was picked up by a friend and returned to his car. Elliott was on his way home for his mother's birthday party when he crossed paths with the intoxicated driver.

Nearly 5 years after that tragic accident, his parents continue the fight to save other families from the grief they have endured. Lobbying the New Jersey State Legislature, the Elliott's saw to fruition the drafting, passage and ultimate enactment of John's Law. The law ensures that individuals who pick up an arrested driver sign a document accepting custody. Additionally, it gives State Police the authorization to impound the automobile of an arrested driver for up to 12 hours.

Today, I am introducing legislation to encourage all states to enact legislation to require law enforcement officers to impound

motor vehicles of those charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). The legislation would make states that adopt DWI vehicle impoundment programs eligible to receive federal grant funds under the existing Alcohol Impaired Countermeasures Program to help defray costs.

We are making important strides to eliminate the senseless deaths caused by the lethal mix of alcohol and automobiles. Annual deaths from drinking and driving have decreased from approximately 28,000 in 1980 to 16,068 in 2000. In 1982, 57 percent of all traffic fatalities were alcohol-related. In 2000, that percentage fell to 38 percent. However, much work remains to be done. Each death is a preventable one and I am sure this resolution will go a long way in ensuring deaths like Ensign Elliott's are prevented and families are saved from the pain the Elliotts and other families across the nation have endured.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST  
MICHAEL S. EVANS

**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier who lost his life in the line of duty. On January 28, 2005, United States Army Specialist Michael S. Evans died in Baghdad when his military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. Specialist Evans was serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Evans gave his life in the service of his country. He answered the call when his Nation needed him. His willingness to serve our country has made our Nation safer and more secure.

I hope Michael's wife Melissa, his parents Michael and Wynette, and the rest of his family and friends know that our Nation thanks him for his service and sacrifice. He served our Nation as a patriot. His contribution will never be forgotten.

Specialist Evans was assigned to B Company, 1088th Engineer Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, New Roads, Louisiana. Specialist Evans's wife resides in Metairie, Louisiana and his parents live in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate International Customs Day and show support for all the men and women in the Department of Homeland Security who enforce our customs laws. They deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

International Customs Day marks the day that the World Customs Organization (WCO) commenced its first meeting on January 26, 1953. This date has grown in significance through the years as we better appreciate the

services performed by customs agencies around the world. These agencies keep the world economy running smoothly by facilitating the movement of imports and exports even during this time of heightened security.

The WCO evolved out of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), which initially was a loose conglomeration of a few members. The CCC member countries were dedicated to establishing uniform rules among the varying customs services as a way of expediting the trade process. After the number of participating members surged, the CCC renamed itself the World Customs Organization to stress the true international nature of the organization. Its current membership is 164 countries, indicating the marked dedication in the international community to the harmonization of these processes to hasten the growth of the trade facilitation process.

Our own agency for customs matters has been evolving for years to meet the ever growing demands of our country. After the world dramatically changed on September 11, 2001, the United States had to reevaluate its mechanisms to facilitate the free, yet secure, movement of trade across our borders. The new offices of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were formed within the Department of Homeland Security and remain instrumental in assuring that our border remains safe, yet open to the free transfer of goods and services which support our American workers, consumers, and industries. Thus, CBP has launched an innovative program entitled Project Shield America, which integrates trade with homeland security issues by seeking to prevent the trafficking of dangerous weapons into the United States by illegal exporters, in addition to preventing the illegal export of certain goods and commodities. At the same time CBP is continuing its work with the WCO to harmonize and unify the various customs rules which affect international commerce. Similarly, ICE has undertaken the Cornerstone project, which investigates intellectual property crime, trade fraud, and financial crime. It also participates in the coordination of the Intellectual Property Rights Coordination to protect against violations of intellectual property rights.

Levels of trade are at an all-time high, with imports at \$664 billion and \$12.2 billion in duties collected. The effective operation of customs operations is essential. Thanks to the great strides undertaken by our customs officials and by importers and exporters, 95 percent of FY 2004 entries sampled were found to be compliant with U.S. trade laws.

In the 108th Congress the Committee on Ways and Means examined the changing role of CBP and ICE in our hearing on Customs Budget Authorizations and Other Customs Issues. The Committee will continue its oversight over how CBP and ICE can effectively expedite the movement of goods and services while maintaining the safe borders we as Americans undoubtedly depend upon.

I appreciate this opportunity to personally thank the men and women of Customs for their hard work in continuing to strengthen these vital trade relationships and their vigilance in protecting our borders. I commend their dedication to their role of border protection while continuing to fulfill their long-established mission of trade facilitation.

CONTINUING CARE FOR  
RECOVERING FAMILIES ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, it has only been a couple months since we commemorated the third anniversary of the most devastating attack against our country since Pearl Harbor. It was a solemn day and an occasion to remember the men and women who perished on that clear Tuesday morning. For the families of the victims, September 11 will always be a difficult date on the calendar. Like the World Trade Center families, the Pentagon families, and the families of first responders, the families of the greater Boston area experienced this tragedy personally as two of the four planes involved took off from Logan Airport carrying their loved ones.

Unfortunately, for many of these brave families, their difficult days are not over. Many of the families who continue to struggle are now faced with the loss of their eligibility through the low-cost COBRA health insurance program.

The COBRA program is intended to provide stability to families as they go through a major life transition, and for 120 days following the trauma of September 11th, it provided critical health insurance for families in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia, and elsewhere who lost a loved one. This temporary assistance has already expired for many of these families and without this legislation, more families will lose their eligibility. Without the security of this program they must struggle to find affordable coverage in the private market, pay enormous health care premiums or go without health insurance.

The families who had their loved ones taken away on September 11th have suffered and lost enough. The least we can do for these brave Americans is provide them with continued access to stable and affordable health insurance.

That is why Senator KENNEDY and I are introducing the "Continuing Care for Recovering Families Act." This legislation will allow families of victims of September 11th to buy health care coverage under the federal COBRA program—the temporary low-cost continuation of coverage available for those who change their job, lose their job or for families that lose their chief income earner through death.

The families who lost their loved ones on September 11th continue to face the hardship and trauma of that devastating day with courage and determination. We should do whatever we can to ease the pain of these brave Americans, and I am proud to be introducing legislation today with Senator KENNEDY to provide these families with continued access to low-cost, quality health care.

I urge the Congress to act quickly to ensure that these brave families not have to go without the security and piece of mind that medical insurance provides.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRIENDSHIP PACT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK AND JERUSALEM MAGEN DAVID ADOM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my distinguished colleagues an article in the January 27, 2005 issue of the New York Sun regarding the recent announcement by the American Red Cross in Greater New York that it intends to forge a partnership with the Jerusalem Magen David Adom, a branch of Israel's emergency medical, ambulance, blood and disaster services.

The article, by Meghan Clyne, a Staff Reporter for the Sun, is as follows:

Entering where the international community fears to tread, the Greater New York chapter of the American Red Cross has signed a friendship pact with the Jerusalem Magen David Adom, Israel's Red Cross society. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognizes as full members 181 national Red Cross organizations—including those from Iran, Cuba and North Korea—but not Israel's.

On February 9, a delegation from the Jerusalem MDA—Magen David Adom means Red Star of David—is scheduled to visit New York as part of a continuing exchange between the societies, to learn from the work undertaken by the New York Red Cross, according to officials from the New York chapter. In late November the New Yorkers journeyed to Israel, where they met with MDA officials in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and visited a settlement to observe how the MDA responds to, and prepares for, emergency situations. At the end of the trip, members of the New York and Jerusalem groups signed a memorandum of understanding making the cooperation official.

One of the benefits of that cooperation is increased training in responding to terrorist attacks, the CEO of the American Red Cross in Greater New York, Terry Bischoff, said.

"Certainly we believe that given issues Israel has unfortunately had to deal with around disasters and terrorism responses, there are things we can learn from them to enhance our response capability," she said. In exchange, Ms. Bischoff said, the Americans are more experienced in providing mental-health and other support services to victims of terrorist attacks and other disasters, an expertise the Israelis hoped to learn from in dealing with the aftermath of suicide bombings and other attacks.

The New York-Jerusalem cooperation "really builds on a 50-year history . . . the American Red Cross has always been supportive of bringing the MDA into the Red Cross movement," Ms. Bischoff said. While the MDA is not an official voting member of the international federation, Israel's national Red Cross organization enjoys bilateral friendship agreements with several other countries, including France and Bulgaria in addition to America. Ms. Bischoff said those agreements—and greater working relationships between the MDA and other nations' Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations—are helpful to the cause of getting Israel fully recognized by the international Red Cross apparatus.

For its part, Ms. Bischoff added, the American Red Cross signed a friendship agreement with the MDA in 2002 and has withheld \$25 million in dues from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent