

“pro-poor” groups in the region. But this claim is troubling on two levels. First, CAFTA would actually help the poor: it would create 300,000 new jobs in shoes, textiles and apparel; it would create a new mechanism for enforcing labor rights; and a World Bank study has found that the vast majority of poor families in the region would gain from the deal. But second, the defeat of CAFTA would help not anti-poverty movements but anti-American demagogues, starting with Mr. Chavez. For them, the retreat of the United States from partnership with Central America would be a major victory.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER KEITH
D. ATKINS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins has acted with graciousness and selflessness; and

Whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins should be commended for his excellence, for his leadership and integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to affect other people's lives in a positive and in a changing way.

Therefore, I join with the family whose time was enhanced by Officer Keith D. Atkins' personal tour of the Capitol, which was beyond his realm of duty, and for his accommodating and courteous attitude while assisting them throughout their day at the Nation's Capitol.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERI-
CANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA extended landmark civil rights protections to an estimated 43 million disabled Americans, which is roughly 1 out of every 7 Americans. It established a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

The ADA seeks to guarantee that every American should have the right to live independently and fully participate in all aspects of our society. The ADA has had its greatest successes in improving physical accessibility, transportation and communications. The ADA has also begun to change society's attitudes toward people with disabilities.

Despite this impressive progress, the promise of the ADA unfortunately remains unfilled for too many disabled Americans. In the area of employment, for example, today only 35 percent of people of working age who have a disability are employed, compared to 78 percent of people without disabilities. Federal courts have also issued rulings interpreting the ADA whereby individuals may be considered too disabled by an employer to get a job, but not disabled enough by the courts to be pro-

ted by the ADA. This violates the spirit and intent of the ADA, which was designed to protect employees from discrimination based on real or perceived impairment. Congress should take action to correct these court decisions and strengthen the ADA.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I was pleased that in 1999 Congress enacted the Ticket to Work Act, which provides Americans receiving disability benefits with greater access to vocational rehabilitation services. This initiative provides tickets to recipients of both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that can be used to purchase rehabilitation, employment and other supportive services designed to help them secure and maintain a job. Payments to providers of these services are based on the success individuals using the tickets have in overcoming barriers and ultimately in becoming employed.

The Ticket to Work Act also created state options to eliminate the dilemma faced by many individuals receiving disability benefits—choosing between work and health insurance coverage. The Ticket to Work Act allows States to adopt a Medicaid “buy-in” program to permit individuals to maintain Medicaid coverage while still working. Finally, the measure extended Medicare Part A coverage to working SSDI beneficiaries for a total of 8½ years—4 years beyond the coverage previously provided by Medicare.

As our Nation celebrates the 15th anniversary of the ADA, let us rededicate ourselves to carry out the commitment of that historic legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 417: yes; rollcall No. 418: yes; and rollcall No. 419: yes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM
CLEVELAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding performance of Officer Tom Cleveland at the World Police and Fire Games in Quebec City, Canada.

The World Police and Fire Games, the second largest international sporting event, has been a longstanding tradition for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters in several countries throughout the world. This international event takes place every other year as a chance for them to showcase their athletic abilities.

This year, Tom's determination and drive led him to be one of the best among the 10,000 competitors from 51 countries world-

wide. He finished 3rd in the 400 Int. Hurdles, 5th in the 110 High Hurdles and 12th in the Toughest Competitor Alive competition.

I am proud to recognize Officer Tom Cleveland a fine citizen and athlete. We are proud of his accomplishments and to have him represent and serve the North Richland Hills Community, the 26th District of Texas, and our great Nation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JIM
CARNES ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Jim Carnes is retiring from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources after years of exemplary service; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes served the people of the State of Ohio as a State Senator from 1995 until 2004 representing the former twentieth Senate district, having over forty pieces of legislation passed into law during his terms in office; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes has been among the most well-liked and well-respected men, noted for his energetic spirit and dedication to his job; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes will be deeply missed by all who have had the privilege to work with him.

Therefore, I join with his fellow colleagues, family, and friends in thanking Jim Carnes for his service to the State of Ohio and wish him the very best on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, I was returning to Washington from an oversight trip in Iraq and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote No. 417, yes on recorded vote No. 418, and yes on recorded vote No. 419.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE FREEMYER—
THE PERFECT OLDER AMERICAN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maxine Freemyer. Maxine Freemyer is the perfect example of a successful older American. At 93 years young, she refuses to allow her advancing age, failing eyesight or

other health problems get her down. She makes every day count.

As a long-standing volunteer at the Bent County HealthCare Center, she has dedicated the past 25 years to helping the elderly. Some of the duties she has willingly performed include serving snacks each day, communicating with family and friends on their behalf, and just spending time listening to the residents reminisce about the past.

She has received several prestigious awards for her volunteerism, including Colorado Volunteer of the Year and the Colorado Cares award, presented by Governor Bill Owens. Serving others is her passion, which helps keep her active and spry.

Maxine Freemyer's gardening abilities are second to none. Her hard work and special skill in tending to her flowers are showcased in a dazzling display of color from early spring until late fall. Her magnificent garden is a gift to her neighbors and community.

Caring, compassionate, hard working and dedicated are all words that describe Maxine. Her zest for life is inspiring to young and old alike. I am proud to represent such an individual in the U.S. Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF 20 YEARS OF SERVICE BY PASTOR BERNARD YATES TO THE ZION HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Pastor Bernard Yates for having served as the pastor to the Zion Hope Baptist Church in my district for 20 years.

Since 1985, Pastor Yates has led the growth of the Zion Hope congregation from approximately 300 to over 2,000 members, with three Sunday services and a major mid-week service as well. Pastor Yates initiated the Zion Hope Centre for Training and Biblical Study, founded the Hope Christian Academy, and launched the Young-at-Heart ministry. These three ministries are just a few examples of the many ministries that he has helped start within the church.

Pastor Yates is joined in much of his work by Vonda Yates, his wife of 23 years. Together, they have worked diligently through Bible studies and writing to help families live Godly lives. Vonda is known for her work with women's conferences as well, while Bernard is called upon to speak at men's conferences and retreats across the Nation.

The selfless contributions of this man are not limited to just one church; Pastor Yates has also been a civic leader, dedicating time to the Boys and Girls Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletics, a special community advisory board for the county commissioners, advisory for the Escambia County Sheriffs Office, and the Escambia County School District. His wisdom is regarded just as highly at a meeting table as it is at the pulpit.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal service to a congregation for 20 years is

something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for his dedication to the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2005

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reauthorize two important aspects of the National Historic Preservation Act. Specifically, my legislation will extend authorization for deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund through 2011 and will permanently authorize funding for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In effect, we are extending authority for the money and expertise necessary for the Historic Preservation Act to continue fulfilling its purpose.

Allowing the Act to continue fulfilling its purpose is critical. As Americans, we revere our past. The individuals, cultures, institutions and events which precede our arrival at this place and time provide insight not only into who we are today, but also who we aspire to be tomorrow. This is true for the brief 229-year history of this nation, the 513-year history of Europeans in North America, and it is especially true for the tens of thousands of years of Native American history on this land.

Preserving this rich tapestry of cultures and traditions requires coordination of federal, state, local and private efforts. The centerpiece of federal historic preservation is the National Historic Preservation Act. Enacted in 1966, the Act provides an array of tools, as well as a funding source, which are central to preserving that which came before us.

One of those tools is the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation which has two important roles under the Act. One is to assist the Secretary of the Interior in cataloguing and preserving known historic resources through the National Register of Historic Places and other programs. In addition, the Council assists all federal agencies in avoiding damaging or destroying historic resources through consultation under the Act. The Council is not empowered to control agency decision-making or federal property.

Last reauthorized for five years in 2000, the Council is made up of Agency heads and Presidential appointees with diverse backgrounds. My legislation recognizes the critical importance of the Council by providing it permanent authorization while also making several technical changes in the Council's make-up and operation.

In addition, this bill will extend authorization for deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund for the next six years. The Fund is administered by the National Park Service and provides matching grants to states and territories for a variety of historic preservation programs including statewide historic preservation surveys and preservation plans. The Fund also provides matching grants to Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and Historically Black Colleges and Universities for cultural heritage projects and the preservation of historic structures.

The source for the Historic Preservation Fund is a small percentage of the enormous

revenues generated by oil and gas development in the Outer Continental Shelf. This legislation would allow that funding to continue flowing into the Fund through 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that we can move forward quickly on this legislation to allow the Council and the Fund to continue working. This legislation is nearly identical to a companion bill in the Senate as well as legislation introduced in the previous Congress which received the support of the Advisory Council, the National Park Service, and the Historic Preservation Community.

These are vital programs serving to preserve and protect the story of American and its people.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ROMAN BUHLER AND MARY JABLONICKY BUHLER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Roman and Mary Buhler have dedicated their lives to each other; and

Whereas, Roman and Mary Buhler have shown the love and commitment necessary to live a long and beautiful life together; and

Whereas, Roman and Mary Buhler have chosen share their special day with friends and family.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Roman and Mary Buhler on the occasion of their marriage.

COMMENDING THE LAUNCH OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "DISCOVERY"

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today is a truly momentous day in the history of our space program. The liftoff of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is significant achievement for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It is also a solemn tribute to the astronauts lost in last shuttle mission and the East Texans who helped in the wake of that tragedy.

Two years ago, on a quiet Saturday morning, millions of Americans witnessed the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and its seven heroic crewmembers in the skies over East Texas. While we will never be able to bring back the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*, I am pleased to see our space program reaching for the stars once more by launching the first shuttle since that terrible disaster.

The crew of the *Discovery*, and their support team at NASA, have been working hard to get our shuttle program back on track. To increase the safety of the crew, the scientists at NASA have made multiple improvements on the shuttle. The *Columbia* accident investigation board made 15 recommendations that have been implemented for this flight, as well as 29 other improvements to launch, orbit, and reentry procedures. Commander Eileen Collins