

the largest natural gas distributor east of the Rocky Mountains. This incredible growth came under the talented leadership of Mr. Neale, as he has brought an unparalleled level of vision and energy to NiSource. Because of his commitment to the community and his company, he will continue to serve NiSource as Chairman of the Board of Directors after his retirement.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Neale will have nearly 40 years of experience in the energy industry. He has become one of the most well-respected leaders in the industry over the years. Mr. Neale has served as the chairman of the American Gas Association and the North American Electric Reliability Council. He was also appointed by former U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to serve on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board and was selected by former U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to serve on the National Petroleum Council.

His contributions to the economy of Northwest Indiana are only eclipsed by his commitment to community service. The NiSource Charitable Foundation contributes more than \$5 million per year to non-profit organizations in the communities served by NiSource. Under his guidance, NiSource developed its Environmental Challenge Fund to support wildlife enhancement projects. To date, the fund has awarded more than \$850,000 in support of wildlife projects. Mr. Neale himself is personally committed to public service, serving on the boards of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society, the Lake County United Way Campaign, and the Northwest Indiana Americans With Disabilities Act Advisory Board. A leader in economic development and a man of foresight, Mr. Neale has worked to improve the efficiency of local government services through his involvement with the Good Government Initiative in Northwest Indiana. Additionally, he has invested great amounts of personal time and energy in the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center. He is also committed to higher education in Northwest Indiana, serving as a Trustee of Valparaiso University.

Mr. Neale has accomplished much since coming to Northwest Indiana from his home state of Washington, where he received his B.A. and M.B.A. from the University of Washington. I wish him, his wife Sandy, his two children, Julie and David, and his five grandchildren the best of luck in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Gary Neale for his outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended. Over the years, I have sought out Gary for his advice and counsel on energy issues and to seek his assistance on matters affecting Northwest Indiana. I have always found him to be conscientious, deliberate, and innovative in his guidance. As James Joyce said, "not in time, place, or circumstance but in the man lies success;" or, as my father would say, "he's a 100% guy."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NANCY BELL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Nancy Bell received the Spirit of Democracy Award in recognition for her accomplishments as the Director of the Ross County Board of Elections; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell has been acknowledged by Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell; and

Whereas, Nancy Bell should be commended for her outstanding dedication to the Ross County Board of Elections and for her exceptional knowledge of the elections process.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Nancy Bell for receiving the Spirit of Democracy Award.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Huntsville, Alabama on its 200th birthday. Huntsville is a part of my Congressional District and also my birthplace and hometown.

The City of Huntsville, named after Pioneer John Hunt, was founded in 1805. By 1819, it was the largest city in the Alabama Territory and was soon named the State of Alabama's first capitol.

Over the last two centuries, Huntsville has played a significant role in the development of our Nation and has established itself as a leader in science and technology development. Today, technology, space, and defense industries have a major presence in Huntsville with the Army's Redstone Arsenal, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and Cummings Research Park. The City is home to several Fortune 500 companies and also offers a broad base of manufacturing, retail and service industries. In fact, Huntsville was recently named by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the best cities in the nation to live and work.

Huntsville is most well known as America's Space Capitol. In the 1950s, German Rocket Scientist Wernher von Braun and his team came to Redstone Arsenal to develop rockets for the U.S. Army. The von Braun team eventually developed the rockets which put the first American in space and transported the first astronauts to the moon. Huntsville's space legacy continues today at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the City's bicentennial, the City is constructing a large Bicentennial park. Once completed, the park will incorporate a wide variety of symbols that represent the first 200 years of the City.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Huntsville has been honoring its proud history through 2005 and will culminate its celebration during the first week of August with parades and the lighting

of the Unity Candle on the City's birthday cake. I rise today to join the celebration and to congratulate Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, City Council Members, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Mark Russell, Sandra Moon, Bill Kling, Jr., and Glenn Watson, and the Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission, Mary Jane Caylor on a job well done.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN- TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). I would like to be clear that I support increasing fair and free trade with our allies in Central America, and I appreciate the steps these nations have taken to improve business relations with the United States, especially among small businesses in my home State of Rhode Island. Fair trade between our nations could also help to bridge the relationship of our governments, leading to more stability in the region. There are several sociological and economic benefits that could be achieved through fair trade; unfortunately, those who drafted CAFTA did not aim to use this agreement as a vehicle for change, but rather chose to honor special interests before addressing the needs of the families and children living in those nations that will be most affected.

At a time when our Nation is preparing to pass sweeping trade legislation, the Administration has not only cut corners within the agreement, but also within the Federal agencies we rely on to regulate our global policies. I think this fact is best illustrated by the President's funding priorities in this year's budget. He requested, and his party's leader's agreed, to cut the International Labor budget by 86 percent. This funding helps to save children from spending their childhoods working in factories with deplorable conditions. I find it hard to believe that we can stand here and pass such a sweeping trade agreement as we continue to obliterate our ability to protect the children and low-wage employees that will be most affected.

Don't be fooled by those who tell you that there are protections for labor in this bill. The fact remains that this agreement simply permits Central American nations to "enforce their own laws." Should they change their laws, or weaken them in any way, the United States will have no recourse to protest this change. In fact, two CAFTA nations have already weakened or proposed weakening their basic labor laws since the signing of this agreement.

My colleagues from across the aisle talk about providing increased funding for labor protection and enforcement. But that's all it is—talk. There is absolutely nothing written in this agreement that requires the Congress to put money behind their promises, and after passing a budget with an 86 percent cut to the program that stops child labor, I am not confident that this funding will be present in the

next budget handed down from the White House. Let us use our trade policies to help the world's most vulnerable populations, and take advantage of the great power of our nation to lift individuals out of poverty, not perpetuate the status quo.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3045, and in opposition to the unfair trade policies and burdensome costs to Americans that this agreement represents.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, which binds together the trade policy and economic future of the U.S., Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, was negotiated over an 18-month period. As globalization takes hold in the world and our Nation becomes further integrated economically with others, it is vital that we only enter into a trade agreement that will protect U.S. workers, consumers, and businesses, and that economic development, the proliferation of democracy, environmental protection and, most importantly, the rule of law is honored in the agreement.

Unfortunately, CAFTA does not meet these standards, and instead, includes provisions that will cause considerable distress and harm to U.S. workers and businesses. It lacks a sincere commitment to protecting American jobs. It lacks strong environmental protection provisions. It lacks strong public health provisions. It lacks worker protection provisions. It lacks consumer protection. One of the most egregious portions of CAFTA would allow drug patents to be extended beyond normal limits, thus denying CAFTA nations the opportunity to introduce and offer generic drugs to its citizens, the majority of whom are poor and cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. Perhaps most importantly, CAFTA lacks that comprehensive policy that should be an overarching feature of any multinational trade agreement—the ability to proactively engage and integrate the domestic business and labor policies of each nation to ensure that each realizes new, improved standards of living, economic standing, and commitments to democracy.

I will vote against CAFTA because I do not believe it will achieve these goals. And I am not alone. In my state of New Mexico, numerous labor and business organizations have voiced opposition to this trade agreement. Since the President signed CAFTA nearly 1 year ago, my constituents have continuously expressed to me their concerns of what CAFTA will mean for them and their families. And they continue, in greater and greater volume, to voice those concerns to me as we have begun debate on H.R. 3045 here in the House.

U.S. trade policy must be fair trade policy, and CAFTA is not. I believe we have squan-

dered an opportunity to enact positive trade policy, and I believe enacting CAFTA will cost our American businesses and families. I oppose this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
PASTOR WAYNE ICKES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Wayne Ickes is celebrating 50 years of service and dedication to the ministry; and

Whereas, Wayne Ickes is the well loved executive pastor of East Richland Evangelical Friends Church in East Richland, OH; and

Whereas, Wayne Ickes is happily married to Barbara with sons David and Doug.

Therefore, I join with the residents of East Richland, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Wayne Ickes as he celebrates his 50th Anniversary of service to the Lord.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3045, the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

I'm an unapologetic avid free-trader. I believe we are in the midst of a globalization revolution. I believe the United States has an enormous role to play in that revolution.

We are the nation that benefits most from global economic integration, so it is our job to make sure globalization is sustainable. That it creates more winners than losers, in as many places as possible, on as many days as possible.

But Mr. Speaker, we need to understand that CAFTA is more than just a trade pact. It's a signal of U.S. commitment to democracy and prosperity for our neighbors. And it's the best immigration, anti-gang, and anti-drug policy at our disposal.

I recently returned from leading a congressional delegation to El Salvador, Venezuela, and Colombia. The trip left me more convinced than ever that a large part of the answer to so many questions confronting the D.C. region and the entire United States is, quite simply, free trade.

Want to fight the ever-more-violent MS-13 gang activity originating in El Salvador but prospering in Northern Virginia? Pass CAFTA.

Want to begin to ebb the growing flow of illegal immigrants from Central America? Pass CAFTA.

Want to curb the still-steady stream of illegal drugs to American streets? Pass CAFTA.

Want to help make sure Al-Qaeda and other foreign terrorist groups don't easily utilize the

southern border to enter the United States and do us harm? Pass CAFTA.

The reality is, CAFTA has profound implications for not only U.S. economic interests, but geo-political and homeland security concerns as well. My fear is that we are now so focused on promoting freedom and democracy in Iraq that we risk missing a critical and timely opportunity to further those causes in our own backyard—all because of some misguided but politically compelling opposition rhetoric.

Take the so-called "labor concerns," for example. I discussed this with Salvadoran President Tony Saca, and he chuckled at the illogical nature of the criticism. "We have a profound respect for unions," he said. "But if we don't have more jobs, we won't have more unions. Because I haven't seen any jobless unions."

Saca knows what opponents won't admit: the economic benefits arising from CAFTA would significantly increase wealth in El Salvador—wealth that will allow Saca to enforce existing, and even implement new, labor environmental safeguards.

Each of the CAFTA nations is unique, but they share traits, including an urgent need for investment and jobs. Do we really think there is no connection between a lack of economic opportunity in Central America and illegal immigration to the U.S.? Or no connection between rising gang activity and poverty, underemployment, and broken homes? Our own neighborhoods are not insulated from the lack of economic opportunity abroad.

Our best immigration policy is one that strengthens economies south of our border.

For U.S. economic interests, the gains are equally clear: U.S. exports to the six nations total about \$15 billion a year; that would increase by \$4 billion in the pact's first year, resulting in a net gain of about 25,000 U.S. jobs.

And, having seen firsthand the growing hostility toward America in Venezuela under Hugo Chavez, I can only conclude that American national security interests are also at stake with CAFTA. While the collective attention of our Nation has been primarily focused on Iraq, a string of troubling events has been unraveling in South America.

Economic collapse in Argentina. Growing instability and leftist populism in Bolivia and Ecuador. Chavez consolidating power in oil-rich Venezuela, and extending his anti-US influence into the Caribbean and across the Andes. Brazil signing huge economic deals with China.

Meanwhile, the six CAFTA countries comprise some of our most reliable, steadfast allies anywhere. El Salvador, to this day, maintains hundreds of troops in Iraq in support of the U.S.-led mission.

Some say CAFTA is a move to ship U.S. jobs to Central America; in actuality, it offers a path toward importing apparel and other goods from Central American allies instead of China.

The CAFTA countries are dominated not by Chavez-like dictatorships with a "democratic" face, but by 21st century leaders who realize that when people are given a larger economic role in their community, they in turn demand a greater role in how that community is governed.

But this rising democratic tide could be easily turned back unless Central Americans see—and see soon—that democracy delivers more than promises. The best way to make