

U.S. law. With a number of free trade agreements currently being negotiated, it is imperative that the current deficiencies in domestic law are not codified in these international agreements. We should seize the opportunity represented by new trade agreements to obtain stronger enforcement obligations from our trading partners against counterfeiting.

The groups listed above represent thousands of trademark owners whose intellectual property assets are targets of counterfeiters in the U.S. and abroad. We would like to thank you for your excellent leadership on this issue and we commit to working with you to ensure that the U.S. House of Representatives acts quickly to consider and pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the interested associations directly, or Tim Trainer ([ttrainer@iacc.org](mailto:ttrainer@iacc.org)) of the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition, telephone (202) 223-6667.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY  
BURNS

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my Congressional District, and wish her the best as she begins a new chapter of her life. Sister Mary Burns has spent more than a decade honoring the lives of Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Maryknoll Sisters who were killed in 1980 while working to assist the poor in El Salvador. I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor her and her own work on behalf of economically disadvantaged women.

In 1993, Sister Mary Burns founded the Maura Clarke-Ita Ford Center (MCIF) in one of New York City's most impoverished communities, the Bushwick neighborhood in Brooklyn. The center provides education and training to low-income, mainly Hispanic, women. Under the leadership of Sister Mary Burns, MCIF has thrived—providing personal development, education and economic independence, and empowering women to break the cycle of poverty.

Like many Irish women who grew up in South Boston, Sister Mary Burns is strong and resilient, a person with deep faith and a wicked sense of humor. She is generous of heart and giving to her core. And her work on behalf of disadvantaged women is as impassioned as it is pioneering.

Bushwick was devastated during the riots of the late 1970s, and severe poverty and unemployment continues to plague the neighborhood. MCIF offers residents literacy classes, GED instruction, and job training. Recognizing the desperate need for entry level jobs in the Bushwick area, MCIF initiated an innovative program to create a small clothing factory in the neighborhood to offer low income women employment earning a livable wage, day care services, and the opportunity to attain business development and leadership skills.

MCIF also has a kitchen incubator to help new entrepreneurs develop the skills and experience necessary to launch successful small businesses in the food industry. Similarly, the center is home to a bakery program where local women put their skills to work baking cookies. Sales from these cookies, which on

their own are well worth a trip to Bushwick, are used to support the program and compensate the bakers for their hard work—providing a path to economic independence.

These programs serve as an important model on how to strengthen communities one person and one family at a time. And its through the dedication and drive of Sister Mary Burns that the women who enter the doors of MCIF leave believing in themselves, envisioning promising futures, and chartering successful lives for their families.

I am honored to have worked with Sister Mary Burns over the years in advancing the mission of MCIF. Under her guidance, the center has become a critical resource for some, a sanctuary for others, and a source of inspiration for all who witness its extraordinary work. I, along with so many residents of the community, will miss her dearly. But her principles of loving acceptance, unwavering encouragement, and enduring faith are now firmly embedded in the spirit of the community—and families from Bushwick will benefit from her work for generations to come. It is in this light Mr. Speaker, that I ask my House colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable contributions of Sister Mary Burns and wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCING H.R. 240, WELFARE  
REFORM REAUTHORIZATION BILL

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in introducing H.R. 240, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2005. This legislation reauthorizes and strengthens the successful welfare reforms begun in the 1996 welfare reform law (P.L. 104-193). Joining me introducing this legislation are Representatives PRYCE, THOMAS, BOEHNER, BARTON, GOODLATTE, MCKEON, BILIRAKIS, DELAY, SHAW, CANTOR, ENGLISH, CAMP, NANCY JOHNSON, WELLER, NORWOOD, JOE WILSON and KLINE.

Welfare reform has been a great success in promoting work, ending dependence, and reducing poverty. Millions more low-income parents are working today instead of depending on welfare, offering brighter prospects for their family's future. Since the implementation of welfare reform in 1996, welfare caseloads dropped by more than 50 percent nationwide—leading more than two million families and seven million former recipients to rely on themselves, rather than depend on a check from the government. More than 1 million children have been lifted out of poverty since reform, and poverty rates for black children and children living with single mothers reached—and despite the 2001 recession still remain near—all time lows. Recent reports linked work-based welfare reforms with reduced parental substance abuse (<http://www.affiliatedsystems.com/newest.htm>) and child poverty ([http://www.manhattaninstitute.org/html/cr\\_44.htm](http://www.manhattaninstitute.org/html/cr_44.htm)).

Still, despite this success nearly 2 million families remain dependent on welfare for support, and relatively few of those parents are working or getting training in skills needed to lift their families out of poverty. That needs to

improve. Plus too many families break up or never form, leaving millions of children and parents at risk of welfare dependence in the future.

H.R. 240 as introduced today will help even more low-income parents and families support themselves, including through stepped up efforts to strengthen families and support healthy marriages that are the best environment for raising children. H.R. 240 would extend TANF and related programs through fiscal year 2010, and makes selected changes to promote more work and stronger families, including healthy marriages.

In 2002 and 2003, the U.S. House passed earlier versions of this legislation. However, since the U.S. Senate failed to pass companion legislation, comprehensive welfare reauthorization legislation was not signed into law. Instead, the President signed eight short extensions of current law, the most recent of which expires on March 31, 2005. H.R. 240 as introduced today is an updated version of legislation the House passed in 2002 and 2003, which will serve as the basis for hearings and other consideration during the early days of the 109th Congress.

I look forward to working together with my Republican and Democrat colleagues to craft the best possible welfare reauthorization policy, building on the foundation of the current system and the proposals the House passed in recent years. We will hold hearings to examine features of today's welfare policy that are working, and those that are in need of improvement. In tight budget times, it will take all of our efforts to ensure that welfare reform continues to be successful. As the 1996 reforms have proven, however, we can help more parents work, reduce dependence on government benefits, cut poverty, and still protect taxpayers' interests at the same time. Before 1996, hardly anyone thought we could do all that, and now we have a track record of getting it done. We need to build on that successful record, which H.R. 240 would do.

I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BEA WEISBROD

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute today to one of the most respected community leaders in Dallas, Texas: Bea Weisbrod.

The name Bea Weisbrod has long been associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride. Bea Weisbrod, on December 5, 2004 received the Bnai Zion's Lifetime service award. Bea is founding member of Bnai Zion-Texas Region and a long-time member of Congregation Shearith Israel. Her many years of community service and dedication to making a difference in the lives of people in our community, as well, as in Israel are truly deserving of our appreciation and praise.

In addition to her professional associations, Bea Weisbrod selflessly devotes her personal time to numerous organizations including the

Hadassah where she serves on the regional board.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bnai Zion Foundation on its excellent selection of Bea Weisbrod for its lifetime service award, and I wish her sons Les, Carl, and their loving family continued success in all of their endeavors.

I know that Bea Weisbrod will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America will continue to benefit from her dedication, service and hard work.

HONORING HOMER CADDELL  
"CAL" HENDERSON, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Homer Caddell "Cal" Henderson Jr., who is retiring today after 12 years of loyal service as Sheriff of Hillsborough County, Florida.

Cal dedicated his life to keeping our community safe. At 21, Cal began his law enforcement career in the Tampa Police Department, and he went on to serve the U.S. Border Patrol and the CIA as a national police trainer in Vietnam. In 1969, when Cal returned home to Tampa, he joined the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

During his 35 years in the Sheriff's Office, Cal Henderson experienced a period of enormous growth and development in Hillsborough County. The year Cal joined the force, the Sheriff's Office employed 157 deputies serving a mostly rural area. In fact, at that time, Cal was the only deputy working in his region of eastern Hillsborough. Today, as Sheriff Henderson retires, his office employs 1,200 deputies, 950 sworn detention officers and 1,000 civilians, and the territory that he once patrolled alone is now served by as many as 12 deputies.

Cal Henderson worked his way through the ranks of the Sheriff's office, and he was able to do it while adapting to colossal changes in the needs of our community. Following the September 11 tragedies, Sheriff Henderson recognized the need to coordinate the efforts of our region's first responders, and he spearheaded the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Security Task Force. A model for communities nationwide, the task force brings together fire fighters, EMS, hospital, port, police and sheriff and other officers to streamline efforts to keep our region safe.

Fortunately for the people of Hillsborough County, Sheriff Henderson is leaving us well equipped for the transition to new leadership under incoming Sheriff David Gee. And while Cal may be hanging up his Sheriff's badge, we can rest assured that he will continue his service to our community. Cal has already indicated that while taking advantage of some well deserved rest in retirement, he is also planning to assist the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on issues pertaining to missing and exploited children.

Hillsborough County has truly been blessed to have Sheriff Cal Henderson as a faithful public servant. Cal has served with honor and integrity and has always shown the highest re-

spect for those he serves. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for his commitment and my best wishes for his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL AND  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act, which would force the federal government to finally get serious about protecting our nation's transit and intercity rail passengers.

This bill addresses the tremendous disparity between what we spend on security for each airline passenger and what we spend for each bus and train passenger, who are no less vulnerable than those who fly. In fact, data from the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism shows that public transportation passengers are in far more danger worldwide than airline passengers. Since 9/11, there have been over five times as many attacks on public transportation targets around the world than on aviation targets, with nearly ten times the number of fatalities.

The recent attacks in Spain, and intelligence that terrorists may strike the rail and transit systems here in America, dictate that we now broaden our attention to also include rail and transit security. Each year, approximately 24 million intercity rail passengers ride Amtrak, and 9.6 billion people travel by transit. Every day, 32 million commuters, students, and tourists depend on our public transportation system. One of the ripple effects of 9/11 was that the aviation industry was shut down for several days. Imagine the social and economic dislocation that would occur if a major attack destroyed people's confidence in our transit system, or made it grind to a halt. The economic impact would be far greater than 9/11.

Our nation's rail and transit systems are highly vulnerable, and require at least \$5.2 billion in capital equipment and \$800 million in annual operating expenses to adequately meet security needs, according to the American Public Transportation Association. This legislation provides that funding, and just as importantly, it allows operating expense grant money to be used for the best security device of all: more police officers.

Giving our transit agencies money for fences, cameras and explosive detection equipment is necessary, but only a half-measure unless we also give them money for the cops and security officers that make all that equipment work. This bill allows money to be used for hiring new cops and security officers, pay them overtime when necessary, deploy additional K-9 units, conduct helicopter patrols, and more. In short, it unties the hands of our transit agencies and lets them spend the money where they need it.

This legislation also provides badly needed security and safety funding for Amtrak, including \$670 million for safety upgrades to the tunnels that run underneath New York, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. These tunnels are simply not properly equipped for rescue oper-

ations or evacuation should either be necessary. An additional \$62 million for Amtrak to put towards security expenses, including the hiring of additional police officers, is also provided.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize new research and development grants to help develop new technologies for both passenger and freight rail that can help reduce the threat of terrorist attacks. And since rail security involves more than just deterring terrorist attacks, the legislation would establish new inspection procedures for rail track, and set new standards for tank cars, to make sure their hazardous cargo isn't released in the event of an accident.

I believe this bill is already long overdue. I urge my colleagues to imagine what we would have done, what action we would have taken, if the Madrid train bombings had occurred in our homeland, on our soil. What immediate investments would we have been ready to make? What urgent action would we have been willing to take?

Well, we can do it now. Let's make that investment and take those actions now. Let's take what steps we can to reduce the risk to our nation's transit. We don't need commissions and studies after a tragedy in order to act, so let's not get mired in that now. Nearly three years of needs assessment and analysis have occurred, and we have the data to put a program in place. All it takes is Congress having the gumption to act before a tragedy on the rails takes place in this country.

HONORING METROPOLITAN  
ANTHONY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 4, 2005*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, Metropolitan Anthony, who recently passed away.

Metropolitan Anthony ascended to great heights from very modest beginnings. He was born on the Greek island of Crete, one of six children struggling to grow up under the brutal Nazi occupation of the island. He became the first member of his family to leave his village, ultimately graduating in 1960 from the prestigious Halki Theological School of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. He came to the United States after his ordination to the priesthood to serve the Church in this country.

Metropolitan Anthony was elected Bishop of San Francisco in 1979. He served as Bishop and later Metropolitan of the Diocese of San Francisco, which covers seven western states, for more than 25 years. He was responsible for a significant expansion of ministries and programs during his tenure. He oversaw the founding of more than 25 new parishes and missions, as well as the establishment of three monasteries. He also developed the annual Metropolis Folk Dance Festival, the largest exhibition of authentic Greek folk dance, costume, and music in the world. In addition, he established a multi-million dollar endowment fund to provide scholarships for seminarians and theological students to attend holy school.

Mr. Speaker, Metropolitan Anthony inspired many because he was a great leader and devout man of faith. He challenged the faithful