

to defend our principles, uphold our proud traditions and articulate to the world what America stands for. I urge my colleagues to express their support to Chairman YOUNG to retain the McCain amendment, without modification, in the conference agreement to the FY2006 Defense Appropriations bill.

TRIBUTE TO ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF HARTFORD-NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT AND ARAM "OTTO" BAYRAMIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished congregation, St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Hartford-New Britain, Connecticut, which is celebrating its eightieth anniversary on November 6, 2005. The Church is also honoring in memoriam Aram "Otto" Bayramian, a beloved parishioner and extraordinary leader.

St. Stephen's is the oldest Armenian church in Connecticut and one of the oldest in our Nation. Armenians began immigrating to the United States in large numbers in the late 19th century when troubles in their historic land, now part of Eastern Turkey, began mounting. They brought their Christian faith with them and began conducting religious services in rented churches. Fundraising for St. Stephen's began in 1912, but it was interrupted several times by world events. The groundbreaking took place in 1925, the culmination of many years of arduous work.

St. Stephen's is honoring extraordinary parishioners during its 80th birthday celebration and the event's special honoree is Aram "Otto" Bayramian, who died in 1996. He served St. Stephen's with distinction for more than 20 years.

Otto's father, Umrah Bayramian was one of the founders of St. Stephen's. Otto, a lifelong resident of New Britain, was one of the most respected business and community leaders in the region. He was a decorated veteran of World War II, flying eight subpatrol and 40 missions successfully, retiring as a Captain in the Air Force.

Upon returning home, Otto joined his father in the family business, founding the Epicure Market in Farmington, Connecticut. It became known as the "gold standard" in the food business throughout Connecticut.

Otto graced the stage of the theatre, including the New Britain Repertory, the Mark Twain Masquers, the Producing Guild, and the Waterbury Civic Theatre.

He was an organizer and Charter member of the Joel Eshoo Post 1 Assyrian American War Veterans which was established in 1946.

His great love was St. Stephen's Church and he did everything possible to strengthen its future.

It is highly appropriate that as St. Stephen's celebrates its founding 80 years ago, that the life of Otto Bayramian and his countless contributions to the betterment of St. Stephen's is celebrated as well.

It is also fitting that the Church's three archdeacons, Aram-Sumpad Khachoyan, Sebouh Asadourian and Edward Varjabedian

are being honored for their 25 years of dedicated service on the altar. The Annual Youth Award recipient is choir member Maral Firkatian, and parishioners Diroushi Avakian, Mary Boornazian and Susan Shabazian will each be presented with certificates of appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Hartford-New Britain on the occasion of its 80th anniversary, honoring the life and contributions of the beloved Otto Bayramian, and in extending thanks to those being honored at the anniversary celebration.

Our Nation has been enriched by the lives and the faith of generations past, as well as parishioners of St. Stephen's today. We are unmistakably a better community and a more decent Nation because of the Church, because of Otto Bayramian and because of the contributions the Parish continues to make.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with 17 other bipartisan, original cosponsors, am introducing the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act (AMCA). This bill will help our manufacturing companies and their workers in a time of need. Right now, America's manufacturers are facing unprecedented international competition so it's critical that we pursue policies that make American manufacturing industries the strongest in the world.

In order to be competitive on the global market, our manufacturing base has to have access to timely supplies of competitively priced raw materials. Our manufacturers have to sell their goods at globally competitive prices, so they need to get their inputs at globally competitive prices too.

The problem is excessively high raw material prices are hurting our manufacturers. For example, U.S. steel prices are now the highest in the world. As just one example, the price for hot-rolled coil is over \$100/ton higher than anywhere else in the world. When the costs of inputs for our manufacturing base are higher than the rest of the world, it undermines their ability to compete.

Government policies are part of the problem. For example, there are now over 150 different import restrictions covering over 20 steel products from over 30 nations. Some of these have been in effect since the 1980's, and cover steel products that are more expensive here than anywhere in the world. These restrictions can cause large distortions in the U.S. market for raw materials, and can inflict harm on the manufacturers and workers who need those materials to make their products. They hobble our manufacturers in tight markets, and choke off our larger manufacturing base.

However, the astonishing reality is this harm to our manufacturing base is being ignored when decisions about import restrictions are made. The International Trade Commission (ITC) and Department of Commerce (DOC) don't even allow the industrial users any

meaningful participation in the process. Think about this. American companies are directly impacted by these decisions, but they are not even considered in the process. In fact, foreign producers have more rights in this process than our own American industrial users. This is especially disturbing since steel consuming jobs outnumber steel producing jobs by over 60 to 1. This is extremely unfair and unwise.

I testified at the ITC twice earlier this year during hearings on 5-year sunset reviews for duties on hot-rolled steel and stainless steel sheet and strip. Duties on these types of steel had already been in place for 5 years, and now the ITC was required to make a decision about whether they should continue. Companies who need these types of steel testified at these hearings too and provided information about the trouble they have getting the quantity and quality of the steel they need at competitive prices. When a manufacturing company can't get the raw materials it needs, that causes damage to the company particularly when they have to deliver their products just-in-time. Because of these duties, the industrial users are suffering damage.

I also introduced House Resolution 84, which urges the ITC to consider the effects of duties on industrial users during these sunset reviews. This resolution has 48 bipartisan cosponsors. All we were asking was that the ITC consider the effects of these duties on the consuming companies.

When the report explaining the ITC's decision to keep the duties in place came out, I was shocked that there was no evidence at all that the ITC considered the effects of the duties on the industrial users. Nothing. These are American companies with American workers, but there was no evidence the ITC listened at all.

Furthermore, during one of the hearings a representative for the steel industry stated "the Commission is precluded from considering the impact of imports of the subject merchandise on domestic steel consumers in determining whether the antidumping order should be revoked." This person was saying in effect that the ITC is not even allowed to consider the effects of their decisions on our manufacturing base. This is just wrong and it must be addressed to prevent unnecessary damage to our manufacturing base.

Antidumping and countervailing duty laws are necessary and they're in the interest of the United States, when applied in an objective and fair manner, to prevent unfair pricing and subsidized competition. But it's not fair and it's not acceptable when American companies being hurt by duties on imports can't even be considered in the process.

Mr. Speaker, basic fairness and common sense require us to change the law. My bill will address this problem by giving industrial users legal standing to participate in the antidumping and countervailing duty processes. It will require the ITC and the DOC to consider the information provided by the businesses that use these products. This is only fair. Furthermore, the process for imposing duties will remain the same, with the addition of a simple test that looks at the downstream harm. Under this bill, when making decisions on import restrictions, an economic impact test would be conducted by the ITC to determine the net effect on the American manufacturers affected by those decisions. In order for a restriction to

be imposed, the test must show it would provide greater benefit than harm to U.S. interested parties in that case. If not, it can't be imposed. This is only fair, and makes sure our policies are economically sound.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill to help our American manufacturing base be as competitive as it can be.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX ON WINNING THE 2005 WORLD SERIES

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution honoring a sports team that will go down in history as one of the best there ever was: the 2005 Chicago White Sox. For a city so rich as Chicago in sports tradition—and sports misery, for that matter—our first World Series championship since 1917 has generated fond new memories for a whole new generation of Chicagoans.

Perhaps most remarkable about the team that has restored baseball pride to Illinois is its recipe for success: teamwork, teamwork, and more teamwork. Ozzie Guillen, the man who led this team of non-superstars, is an immigrant from Venezuela whose coaching future was measured by some experts in terms of months. Players such Scott Podsednik, A.J. Pierzinski, and Bobby Jenks, who provided some of the series' most thrilling and memorable moments, were mostly cast-offs from other teams. This Chamber, and indeed this country, can learn a lot from the team-first principles which the Chicago White Sox proved are the ultimate winning formula.

Mr. Speaker, I'm particularly proud of the manner with which the Chicago area celebrated our team's victory. The moment Paul Konerko caught the final out of Game Four, millions of Chicagoans and thousands of my own constituents poured out into the streets of most every neighborhood, and managed to conduct themselves in a wildly enthusiastic, yet safe and dignified manner. The victory celebration downtown attracted 1.7 million people and had to be held on a Friday because nobody wanted to wait until the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the world-class city that is Chicago now has another world championship calling card. I salute the 2005 White Sox and their fans, and I urge passage of this measure honoring this utterly deserving team.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX ON WINNING THE 2005 WORLD SERIES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago White Sox for their historic 2005 season which culminated in their first World Series victory in 88 years.

Earlier this year, many Chicagoans realized that this team was something special. For example, their style of play was unique. The White Sox placed emphasis on aggressive base running, solid pitching, strong defense and strategic hitting. This style of play became known around the league as "Ozzie ball," named after the White Sox former shortstop and now manager, Ozzie Guillen.

The White Sox front office caught on to this trend and began marketing the Sox with their "Grinder Ball Rules" ad campaign. One of these "rules," Grinder Ball Rule #7, was demonstrated in a print ad featuring White Sox closer and Japan native, Shingo Takatsu with the line: "To win, you need defense, speed and discipline . . . And immigration."

That ad captured two of the important components of this historic team: the hard nosed ball playing of the Sox and the diversity of players that came together to win the championship as a team.

The White Sox dugout at times sounded as if it were a mini-United Nations. Jose Contreras and Orlando Hernandez from Cuba. Damaso Marte, Luis Vizcaino, Pablo Ozuna, Juan Uribe and Timo Perez from the Dominican Republic. Freddy Garcia and manager Ozzie Guillen from Venezuela. Tadahito Iguchi from Japan. And last, but not least, the Korean baseball hero, always smiling bullpen catcher, "the Hulk," Man Soo Lee.

Their story is so familiar, so hopeful, for so many immigrants in this country—men and women who, like them, come to the United States to work hard, to provide for their families and loved ones, so that they, too, can live a better and safer life and pursue the American Dream.

And that is why this resolution is so important, deserving and justified. Throughout history people have associated baseball with the strengths of American culture and equated the game with the best of our country's character and resolve.

And in Chicago, we have found a team that embodies the character of our great city, especially the South Side of Chicago, where part of my District lies. The team, much like the South Side, is composed of close-knit friends who do their work diligently and without much fanfare. You can see it in the fan base, especially when you watch games on television. When the White Sox swept the Red Sox in the first round of the playoffs, celebrities like Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Matt Damon, and Robert Redford were easily identified by the television cameras panning around Fenway Park. But when the next round came back to Chicago, the cameras weren't as active looking for Bernie Mack, James Denton (the plumber from "Desperate Housewives") and Dennis DeYoung of Styx.

And I think that's just fine with the South Side and our city at large. The White Sox didn't win the World Series by relying on the star power of a few individuals. Instead they had to work together and grind out every game with blood, sweat and, after the champagne popped in the clubhouse, after the last game of the year, tears of White Sox heroes who all share the spotlight equally with some of the best fans in baseball. Congratulations.

CONGRATULATING TOM GRACE UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a sincere congratulations to my good friend Tom Grace upon his retirement as a social worker from the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Mental Disabilities. Tom Grace worked for 30 years in the Developmental Disabilities Service Office in West Seneca, New York.

Tom is a well respected union official in Western New York; in 1981 he was elected as the first President of Division 167 of the Professional Employees Federation. Tom was the Western New York Regional Coordinator for PEF from 1985 through 1987. For many years he served on the Executive Board of the Buffalo AFL-CIO District Council and presently serves on the Executive Board of the Western New York AFL-CIO Federation.

Tom Grace is also a distinguished social activist. Tom has always been a leader in the fight for social change in the United States. He is a staunch Democrat, and over the years he has been most generous with his time and resources. Tom's social activism goes back to his college days. On May 4, 1970 Tom was one of the students wounded at Kent State while protesting the Viet Nam war. Tom's spirit is unwavering. He is committed to speaking out when he sees injustice; be it in the work place or the social theater that makes up this Nation.

Tom has a reputation for fearlessness; he is modest in stature but grand in his convictions. Mr. Grace will be greatly missed but I am sure he will not travel far from the causes so dear to him.

It is with great pride and gratitude I stand here today to recognize Tom Grace for his many years of support and for his commitment as a community advocate. I wish Tom, his wife Peggy and their children TJ and Allison many years of continued health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO JACK BASKIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. FARR and I rise today to honor an extraordinary citizen of our community, Jack Baskin. Throughout his life, Mr. Baskin has made significant contributions to the betterment of Santa Cruz County and he is held in the highest regard throughout our region.

Jack Baskin, now a retired engineer and general contractor, was born in upstate New York, the son of immigrants. During the Great Depression his family made many sacrifices in order for him to go to college, and he was the first member of his family to do so. He attended the University of Colorado where he studied mechanical engineering, later transferring to New York University where he earned his B.S. in aeronautical engineering.

After serving as an aeronautical engineer during World War II, Mr. Baskin moved West