

young athletes who play in year-round leagues and train in a variety of clinics, several Olympic figure skaters practice at the Ice House routinely, including 2002 Gold Medalists Sarah Hughes, Elena Bereznia and Anton Sikharulidze. The Ice House's athletic programs continue to train and accommodate Northern New Jersey's youth, teaching the importance of physical fitness and upholding the values of good sportsmanship—values that the national champion Northern New Jersey Avalanche proudly uphold.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous achievements of the outstanding group of young athletes who comprise the National Champion Northern New Jersey Avalanche, and acknowledge the success they have achieved, and the pride that they bring to the people of the great state of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR.
NSIDIBE N. IKPE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride—but wit deep sorrow—that I rise to pay tribute to the late Dr. Nsidibe N. Ikpe, one of my community's quiet unsung heroes. On Saturday, May 7, 2005, he will be memorialized during a service to be held at Miami's Glendale Missionary Baptist Church.

Born on February 18, 1949 in the village of Ndiya, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, West Africa, he was the first son of Chief Nelson Ikpe and Arit Akpan Uko. His genuine character as an industrious youth paved the way to his becoming one of the most accomplished professionals of Nigeria.

Married to Helen Roberts of Nigeria in 1969, Dr. Ikpe immigrated to the United States to pursue higher education. He supported himself with odd jobs and was soon employed by the Boy Scouts of America, where he won several accolades. It was while he served as a custodian in a psychiatric hospital in Iowa that he was inspired by the work of the doctors there and decided to pursue a career in medicine.

Entering Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, he earned his Doctorate of Medicine and completed his internship and residency at Westchester General Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Afterwards, he established the Legion Park Medical Center in Miami, and expanded his practice to three more community clinics in South Florida at which he treated over 50,000 patients. It is this commitment that endeared him to our community, and it is with this remembrance that he will be sorely missed as one of our preeminent minority physicians. Though a highly private individual, he virtually consecrated his professional life to public service. In so doing, he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the spirit of idealism and optimism in serving his fellow man, particularly the downtrodden and less fortunate.

The numerous accolades he received during his lifetime buttress the unequivocal testimony of the gratitude and respect he enjoyed from the community. I am deeply privileged to have enjoyed his friendship, and I now join our

community in remembering his giving spirit and the magnificent works that emanated from his boundless heart.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE BIKEL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Theodore Bikel, a Renaissance man who has made his mark as an accomplished musician, actor, author, lecturer, and activist. Throughout his life, Theodore has been committed to arts awareness, human rights, and Jewish activism, and his service to the Los Angeles community and the world has been truly remarkable.

Theodore was born in 1924, in Vienna, Austria. At the age of 13, Theodore and his parents fled Austria to avoid Nazi persecution. They eventually settled in Palestine, where Theodore began to develop a deep respect for Jewish tradition and the performing arts. He soon began acting in the famous Habimah Theater. After a few years of training, Theodore left for London, where he performed in small theatre productions. He eventually caught the attention of Sir Laurence Olivier and was cast as Mitch in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

After his initial success, Theodore went on to star in Broadway productions of "The Sound of Music", "The Lark" and "The King and I," but he is most famous for his portrayal of the character Tevye in "The Fiddler on the Roof," a role he has played more than 2,000 times. Theodore later branched into film, and in 1959 he was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for his role as the Southern Sheriff in "The Defiant Ones."

In 1965, Theodore made his concert debut at the Carnegie Recital Hall, and in 1988 he won an Emmy Award for his portrayal of Harris Newmark, an early immigrant pioneer of the West Coast. In recognition of his inspirational work on stage, Theodore will be honored this spring with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Off stage, Theodore has used his talents to advance causes near to his heart. During the Civil Rights Movement, he helped produce the album "Sing" for Freedom: Civil Rights Movement Songs. He has also dedicated himself to human rights movements around the world, visiting and entertaining soldiers during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and serving as a board member of Amnesty International. Back home, Theodore has been president of the Actors' Equity Association and a member of President Carter's National Council on the Arts.

Throughout his life, Theodore has also made serving the Jewish community a priority. Most notably, he has been involved in the Soviet Jewry movement and has served as senior vice president in the American Jewish Congress. In the Los Angeles Jewish community, Theodore has collaborated with Rabbi David Baron and cofounded Temple Shalom for the Arts in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Theodore Bikel, an influential leader, a visionary artist, and a talented individual whose spirit and activism have inspired our generation

and will undoubtedly touch generations to come.

INTRODUCING THE RAILROAD
COMPETITION IMPROVEMENT
AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2005

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by House Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member JAMES OBERSTAR to introduce the Railroad Competition Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, a bill designed to restore a measure of competition to our Nation's freight rail marketplace. We are also joined by our colleagues Representatives RODNEY ALEXANDER, CHARLES BOUSTANY, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, CHARLIE MELANCON, DENNY REHBERG, COLLIN PETERSON, DARLENE HOOLEY, MARION BERRY, and ED PASTOR. This bill, I believe, captures the true intentions of railroad deregulation.

Like all Americans, Mr. Speaker, I want our national railroad industry to remain the most efficient in the world. Indeed, our railroad system is a model for other national systems. My home state of Louisiana in particular relies heavily on efficient railroads to deliver product to market and provide the feedstock for our manufacturing base. Without reliable rail service, Louisiana—and all of America—would be economically hamstrung.

Congress deregulated the railroad industry in 1980 when it passed the Staggers Act. This law revitalized the industry, built efficiencies in the system, and bolstered the railroads as a critical component to America's transportation infrastructure. As Chairman of the Louisiana House Committee on Transportation and Highways, I observed closely the implementation and success of the Act.

However, one lingering element of the Staggers Act provides for "differential pricing," which in effect allows railroads to "price gouge" customers served by a single railroad in order to help make up for revenue that is lost to customers served by more than one railroad. In other words railroads can overcharge a customer where the railroad is a monopoly to help recover the revenue it loses in a competitive, multiple-railroad environment.

Prior to the Staggers Act, the federal government administered the finances of railroads by imposing price controls. But by allowing railroads to institutionalize price gouging, are we not continuing the practice of price controls? Indeed, is differential pricing the thriving legacy of regulatory control? I believe it is. I assert that differential pricing is no more "deregulation" than the artificially imposed government price controls that existed before 1980.

I do not believe Congress intended to institutionalize price gouging when it passed the Staggers Act in 1980. Rather, the Staggers Act was an attempt to revive an important industry in America's economy. It was not enacted to allow the industry to thrive at its customers' expense. When the 109th Congress reflects back on the success of the Staggers Act, we can indeed take pride in "getting it right." Congress achieved its goal of resuscitating the ailing railroad industry, but Congress

did not intend to sustain the life of this industry at the growing, unfair expense of other industries.

When Congress passed the Staggers Act in 1980 there were over 40 Class I railroads competing for business. Today, after over 50 mergers and consolidations there are only 7 Class I railroads in North America and four of them control over 95 percent of the railroad business. This unprecedented consolidation has led to whole states, regions and entire industries becoming captive to a single railroad. This level of concentration and the lack of competition it has brought were never envisioned by Congress in the 1980 Act.

Over this same period the agency that administers rail law, the Surface Transportation Board, has produced rulings, which have skewed the freight rail market place to the point that it is now a Federally protected monopoly. Railroads are operating within the law... but that law is outdated given the current number of railroads and market conditions of the new century.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, Louisiana industry is in dire straits. Every month companies announce closures, lay offs, and moves—depriving our economically struggling state of hundreds of important jobs. When these jobs are lost, so are the workers' pensions, salaries, and health benefits. When hundreds of jobs are lost, it affects other small businesses that rely on workers to keep them viable.

Though Louisiana industry faces many financial challenges, premier among them is the cost to do business—and aside from energy supply, the most expensive cost of business is the artificially inflated rates imposed on Louisiana companies that, through no fault of their own, exist under a railroad monopoly.

Mr. Speaker, this situation is not exclusive to Louisiana. It exists in West Virginia, North Dakota, Idaho, Georgia, Florida, Montana, Minnesota—in fact, Mr. Speaker, there is not a state in the Union free from this blemish on the free enterprise system.

The bill we are introducing today will truly match the deregulation goals of the Staggers Act with the tried and true American tradition of a competitive free market.

Our bill takes deregulation to a higher level by fortifying healthy market competition.

The bill would remove artificial protections maintained by an outdated policy that allows freight railroads to operate in an atmosphere, which no other business in the country enjoys—including exemption from anti-trust law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all pro-market, pro-consumer, pro-deregulation, pro-fairness, projobs, pro-economy, pro-transportation, and pro-railroad Members to join me in completing the deregulation goals of the Staggers Act of 1980 by cosponsoring the Railroad Competition Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2003.

RECOGNIZING MR. THOMAS
HOBART

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a proud son of Buffalo and Empire State, Mr. Thomas Hobart on his recent retirement as President of the New York State

United Teachers. Mr. Hobart skillfully served in that capacity for the past 33 years.

Tom Hobart is a graduate of Buffalo State College and in 1959 he began his career teaching Industrial Arts in the Buffalo Public Schools. At that time the furthest thing on his mind was union activity, but by struggling to get by on a starting teaching salary he easily recognized that teachers needed to join together to get collective bargaining rights. In 1964 Tom became his Building representative to the Buffalo Teachers Federation, in 1969 he became BTF President, and in 1971 he was elected President of the New York State Teachers Association.

Tom realized that the presidency enabled him to be an advocate not only for teachers but also for public school students and for children in general. He realized that greater numbers provided greater influence, and the best way to achieve that influence was to merge the two State Teacher unions. Tom immediately began pressing for the merger and worked with New York City's legendary Albert Shanker to create NYSUT. In March of 1973 Tom was elected the first President of a 200,000 member statewide union. Today because of his leadership, the New York Teachers Federation boasts a membership of over one half million members and it is regarded as one of the most respected, influential and effective labor organizations in the nation.

On Thursday, May 12, 2005, President Hobart will be recognized for his outstanding service to New York States Teachers at a reception honoring him upon retirement. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Tom and his wife Dorothy, and wish them many happy years together in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. DON MALARKEY,
LT. LYNN "BUCK" COMPTON,
AND VANCE DAY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to Sgt. Don Malarkey, Lt. Lynn "Buck" Compton and Vance Day, on the occasion of their trip to our Nation's Capital to share their stories, talents and leadership qualities with the Congress this evening.

Don Malarkey and Buck Compton are highly decorated veterans of World War II. They served with the 101st Airborne Division's Easy Company throughout the Allied advance toward victory. Their distinguished service and that of their company were memorialized in Stephen Ambrose's Band of Brothers and the riveting Band of Brothers mini-series in which they were featured prominently.

From their dramatic parachute drop behind enemy lines to secure German positions and reduce resistance to the amphibious D-Day invasion, to action in Holland, Bastogne, Germany, Austria and eventually Hitler's Eagle's Nest, they showed courage under fire, perseverance, personal sacrifice and compassion in the heat of battle. Both Don and Buck served with distinction during the war, and have lived extraordinary lives out of the service as well.

I'm proud to claim Don Malarkey as a born and bred Oregonian. Born in Astoria in 1921,

he volunteered for the "Parachute Troops" after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was an original member of Easy Company and served more consecutive days of combat than any other member of his unit. During his service he received a number of decorations including the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Good Conduct Medal. After leaving the service, Don went on to become one of the youngest elected county commissioners in Oregon's history. He later worked as a real estate consultant and broker and became a renowned lecturer who has spoken at the United States Military Academy at West Point and numerous locations in North America and Europe. He now resides in Salem, Oregon, with his wife Irene.

Buck Compton was born in Los Angeles and attended UCLA where he played catcher on the baseball team with Jackie Robinson and was a starting guard in the 1943 Rose Bowl game. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant out of UCLA's ROTC program and went on to jump school at Ft. Benning, GA. He earned a Silver Star for bravery on D-Day for his role in the successful destruction of four 105 mm cannons, a Purple Heart after sustaining an injury in Holland, the America Defense Medal and World War II Victory Medal. After the war, Buck completed his law degree at UCLA then went to work in the Los Angeles County prosecutor's office where he convicted Robert Kennedy's assassin, Sirhan Sirhan. In 1970, Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him to the California Court of Appeals where he served until his retirement in 1990. He now lives in Mt. Vernon, Washington near his two daughters and their families where he provides weekly policy and political commentary on local radio.

In addition to the decorations already mentioned, both Don and Buck were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge; Presidential Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster; European, African, Mid-Eastern Campaign Medal and the American Campaign Citation.

Mr. Speaker, Don and Buck forged a fast and enduring friendship that helped them through day after day of combat and has kept them in close contact ever since. In fact, when Buck was injured by a German round, Don led the effort to drag him to the back of a tank and off the battlefield. Their continuing friendship is a testament to the adventures they shared and I'm pleased to welcome them today.

I am also pleased to welcome their friend and mine, Vance Day, from my home state of Oregon. Vance has long been a friend with whom I've worked on many political issues of importance in the State. He is a former news reporter and historian who now is a partner at a law firm in Salem. It was Vance who first approached me about sponsoring this event, and I thank him for moderating the presentation today as he has at similar events around the country. In fact, due to his diligence, similar presentations are being held at the Heritage Foundation, Family Resource Council, and the White House during their trip to Washington, D.C.

It is truly fitting that we are here with Don, Buck and Vance at this time, just days before the 60th Anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe, a day we are able to celebrate only because of the sacrifices made by men like Don, Buck and countless others of "The Greatest Generation" who stood in the face of