

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 but that law is outdated given the current number of railroads and market conditions of the new century.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The bill would remove artificial protections maintained by an outdated policy that allows freight railroads to operate in an atmosphere, which no other business in the country enjoys—including exemption from anti-trust law.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

tyranny to preserve the liberties we all hold dear. We owe them a profound debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have helped bring these three gentlemen to Capitol Hill today. Don, Buck and Vance, thank you so much for sharing your time, your experience and your stories with us today.

RECOGNIZING THE GEORGE MARK
CHILDREN'S HOUSE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the George Mark Children's House in San Leandro, California, the first free-standing residential children's hospice and respite care facility in the United States. The House offers around the clock respite care; transitional care, end-of life and family care services to children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses.

The George Mark Children's House's focus is on keeping the family intact while in the midst of profoundly challenging circumstances. The House features private family quarters that allow parents and siblings to stay together with a child during the final stage of his or her life, when care at home or the hospital is no longer practical and/or desirable. The House helps families make the most of the precious time they have remaining together. In this un-hurried, nurturing and non-institutional setting, child focused end-of life care and bereavement support is available for the entire family.

An interdisciplinary team of specialists staff the House; pediatric physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual care counselors, therapists and intensively trained volunteers. Through the generosity and support of the community, the George Mark Children's House is accessible to medically eligible families, regardless of their ability to pay.

It is anticipated the House will serve up to 150 families per year from the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. I am hopeful the George Mark Children's House will serve as a model to be replicated throughout the country for the establishment of other residential children's hospices for terminally ill children, and respite care for their families with a full spectrum of supportive services.

I send best wishes to the George Mark Children's House as we welcome them to our community.

CONGRATULATING KAREN KUREK
OF HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Kurek, a resident of the 13th Congressional District of Illinois, on receiving the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2005 Illinois District Office and Midwest Regional Small Business Administration Champion Award for "Women in Business Champion of the Year."

Karen Kurek began her career in Arthur Andersen's Audit practice in 1981 where she became a manager in 1985 and a partner in 1994. Soon after her elevation to partner she gave birth to twins, which made it difficult for Karen to continue with the 60-hour workweeks that are customary for partners. Facing a dilemma common to many women—how to manage a career and family—she paved a pioneering path at Arthur Andersen by proposing and negotiating a reduced work schedule on what was to be a one-year trial basis. Karen faced her fair share of skeptics, but she proved them wrong. She not only excelled at Arthur Andersen, but she committed herself to making these same benefits available for other women working for the firm.

Karen's success led to her appointment as head of Arthur Andersen's innovative Growth and Retention of Women (GROW) Initiative. Established in 1998, GROW's purpose was to significantly enhance the recruitment, retention, advancement and leadership paths of women within the firm. Under Karen's leadership, the GROW initiative led to reduced turnover among women, an increased number of women in leadership positions, greater implementation of flexible work schedules, and Arthur Andersen's repeated citation in Working Mother Magazine's annual list of "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers."

Today, Karen continues to help women excel in the workforce. As a partner at RSM McGladrey, she heads the firm's Women's Initiative—an ongoing, multi-faceted program of networking, mentoring and career-building activities designed to create a culture that encourages diversity and allows women professionals to excel.

Throughout Karen's career, she has paved the way for the women who followed her. Working tirelessly to establish a supportive environment for women in the workforce, she helped to create an atmosphere in which women looking to balance a career and family can thrive professionally. I commend her for improving the lives of women and their families and I once again congratulate her on receiving this much deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 28, 2005 I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 210, Supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day, and recognizing the importance of intellectual property in the United States and Worldwide. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 150.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me this afternoon

in celebrating the 50th anniversary of incorporation of the City of Treasure Island, which I have the great privilege to represent.

It was at 2:32 p.m. on May 3, 1955 that the Florida State Legislature by a special act incorporated the towns of Sunset Beach, Boca Ciega, Sunset Beach, and Treasure Island into the City of Treasure Island.

Throughout this past half-century, the city has grown into a favorite destination for beachgoers from throughout Florida, our Nation and the world. Although the current population of Treasure Island is 7,500, in the winter months it more than doubles to accommodate the many visitors who want to experience its beautiful beaches; colorful sunsets; unique shops, restaurants and businesses. It is a great community in which to live, to work, and to play.

Many individuals, volunteer organizations, and elected officials have made significant contributions to the development of Treasure Island over the past 50 years. Eight individuals have had the honor to serve the city as Mayor and countless others have served on the city council. Together, they have worked hard to maintain the small town feel for this jewel of Florida's Gulf Coast.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate the people of Treasure Island as they gather today for the reenactment of the signing of their charter of incorporation. It has been an honor to represent the city in public office for 45 of their first 50 years and to call it home for many of those years. Please join me in wishing the City of Treasure Island and its residents and visitors well as they embark on their next 50 years of living and working together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 149 and 150. I was regrettably absent from the chamber today during rollcall votes 149, and 150. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 149, and "yea" on rollcall 150.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
COMMEMORATING THE WAR OF
1812 BICENTENNIAL

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing with Representative WAYNE GILCHREST two pieces of legislation that will be catalysts for the forthcoming national commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

The first bill, entitled the "Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act", will establish within the National Park Service's National Trails System a 290-mile long trail extending from Southern Maryland through the District of Columbia and Virginia and north to Baltimore, Maryland. The trail will follow and recognize