way to make English our unifying language is to avoid making language a divisive national issue.

I make my living writing and speaking in English, and I would preach to anyone the joys of mastering this Anglo-Saxon gift to our nation. My wife and I encourage our kids to speak the language with precision and to show respect for its grammar, as did the nuns who taught me as a kid—even if some of them spoke French better than English. Politicians who care about the language might usefully think about how it can be taught well, to the native-born as well as to immigrants.

When I put my children to bed, I recite the same prayer that my late mother said for my sister and me. The prayer is in French. I certainly hope that it doesn't make my children any less American to hear a few spiritual thoughts in a language other than English before they fall asleep.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, I take to the floor to reluctantly cast my vote against H.R. 5449. Although I deeply admire the hard work performed by our Nation's air traffic controllers and support their efforts to negotiate a fair contract, I cannot support this legislation. I believe that this bill goes too far and needlessly picks a winner and a loser between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Association of Air Traffic Controllers, NATCA. In addition, this bill will completely remove congressional oversight from this process.

No workers, regardless of their profession, should be forced to accept a contract without having a chance to negotiate the terms. I believe the existing negotiating framework between the FAA and the air traffic controllers is broken and needs to be fixed. That is why I not only cosponsored H.R. 4755, the Federal Aviation Administration Fair Labor Management Dispute Resolution Act, but sent a letter to the Speaker asking for a floor vote on this bill.

H.R. 4755 would have prevented the FAA from instituting one-sided, unilateral contract terms on the labor union. If negotiations were to stall, Congress would have 60 days to review the FAA's last proposal and then decide whether or not more negotiations were necessary. The bill would have prevented air traffic controllers from having to accept a contract they clearly rejected, while at the same time ensuring that negotiations did not remain deadlocked. I supported H.R. 4755 then and I support it now. Unfortunately, this is not the bill that has been brought to the floor today.

H.R. 5449 goes too far and needlessly puts Congress in the position of picking a winner and a loser in this debate. While I agree that the current process is flawed, the role of Congress is to reform the system, not to circumvent it. This bill would further hinder negotiations, prevent real progress from being made, and remove Congress from the process. For these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID P. SMITH, DELAWARE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the tragic and untimely passing of David P. Smith, a Delaware County Chamber of Commerce executive and a lifelong community activist, who leaves behind a legacy of service to his hometown—Media, Pennsylvania—where he was known as ''Mr. Media.''

Dave's untimely death is deeply felt by the entire Media community. In celebration of his life a tribute was held yesterday (June 6, 2006) at the Media Theater where his family and friends gathered to remember this remarkable man. Everyone shared words of praise, joyful memories, and personal stories I know will be told for many years to come. Everyone always marveled how Dave could be so active in so many business, political and community endeavors and still have so much time for his friends. Dave was successful in his professional life but, more importantly, in his personal friendships. He was always there for those who needed a kind word, and he always had a ready smile and warm greeting.

Dave lived life with a passion for everything he did, and he worked tirelessly for the betterment of his community. He was active with the Swarthmore Players Club, the Media Republicans, the Delaware County Press Club, the Brandywine Conservancy and the Middletown Business and Professional Association. He demonstrated, by example, the kind of work that can be achieved when one is committed, involved and enthusiastic about making his community a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday Delaware County said goodbye to a favorite son. I offer my condolences to his family, his friends and his beloved community. I know that while Dave is no longer with us, his legacy will continue for many years to come.