

May, I rise today to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to the institution. His accomplishments while serving the House were many. One of his most notable contributions was as a member of the team responsible for reupholstering the two chairs on the dais in the House Chamber which are used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House during every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Phil many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHALLENGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am happy to introduce today the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2007. This legislation acknowledges the special historical and legal relationship of the United States to Native American people and builds on the lessons we as a Nation have learned in the international arena and our often-failed efforts to bring jobs, income and hope to Native people here at home.

Anyone who has visited Alaska Native communities or Indian reservations in the continental U.S. knows that Native people continue to lag behind their countrymen despite a rich cultural legacy and in some instances abundant natural resources on and under their lands. Native economies face a number of hurdles including geographic remoteness, distance from markets and population centers, and lack of or poor physical infrastructure. After decades of failed Federal efforts to revitalize Native economies, I believe the time is right to use what we know is working to reduce poverty, increase incomes, and encourage transparent governments in the developing world. Initiated in 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act has put forth a model for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The bill I am introducing today would use these same principles to enhance the long-term job creation and revenue generation potential of Native economies by creating investment-favorable climates and increasing Native productivity. It would also administer Federal economic development assistance in a new way to promote economic growth, eliminate poverty, and strengthen good governance, entrepreneurship, and investment in Native communities.

The Native American Challenge rests on four key principles that are as relevant to Na-

tive communities as they are to the developing world: (1) reducing poverty through vigorous private sector economic growth is a proven method of success; (2) rewarding constructive policies that are initiated and followed by the host government is a legitimate tool of United States policy; (3) operating as true partners with eligible entities increases the chances of success by maximizing communication and identifying and pursuing whatever mid-course corrections might be needed in tailoring an eligible entity's development plan; and (4) focusing on clearly-articulated criteria and concrete results by funneling Corporation attention and resources on those countries that have clear objectives, are willing and able to measure progress, and can therefore ensure accountability in their development plan.

A critical component of the Native American Challenge is in its demand for accountability in the performance of the Compact terms and use of financial resources and this legislation would require that not later than March 15, 2008, and annually thereafter, the eligible entities shall prepare and submit to the Secretary written reports regarding the assistance provided under this Act during the previous fiscal year. These reports, with any additional information the Secretary deems relevant, will then be transmitted to Congress by May 15 of each year.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA FLEMING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Melissa Fleming who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County, Colorado, in the amount of \$1,000. Melissa will use this scholarship to continue her education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado.

This is truly an incredible honor for Melissa, because this is the second year that she has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship. The selection committee for the scholarship was so impressed with Melissa's dedication to her degree at the University of Colorado, they decided to award her a second time, an unprecedented milestone in the history of the scholarship award.

The Curtis Garrett Scholarship is based on two criteria that Melissa has fulfilled, those being a demonstrated financial need and the desire to pursue a career in political science or education. Melissa has chosen special education as her future career.

I encourage all students at every level of education to give their personal best to their studies and educational pursuits; that they may develop a work ethic and sense of pride in their work, characteristics that will guide and help them through every step of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Melissa Fleming for winning the Curtis Garrett Scholarship, for an unprecedented 2 years. I am proud of the dedication Melissa has shown in her first year of college and have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication in her successive years at the University of Northern

Colorado and to her future career in education.

RECOGNIZING CACTUS HEALTH SERVICES

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize Cactus Health Services. Cactus Health Services serves Terrell and Pecos Counties, two rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. Cactus Health Services, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize Cactus Health Services for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. ARTHUR "ART" BALTRYM FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 24, 2007, I rise today to thank Arthur "Art" Baltrym for over 32 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Art began his career with the House in 1966 as a Congressional Page. After completing his education at St. John's University in New York and Georgetown University in Washington, DC, he graduated with a bachelors degree in Political Science. At that time, he returned to the U.S. Capitol and worked as a Capitol Police Officer.

Art left the Capitol Police in 1971 to pursue a challenging opportunity to work for the Education and Labor Committee, where he worked for the next seven years. In January 1978, Art was hired by the Clerk of the House as a cabinetmaker for the former Property Supply department. Over the next 32 years, he was promoted to various positions and eventually became manager of the CAO Furnishings department. Art's accomplishments are far too lengthy to list in this tribute. However, two examples of his contributions are worthy of recognition.

After the original Speaker's Chair was given to then Speaker Thomas P. ("Tip") O'Neal for placement in his official library, the Clerk of

the House commissioned the construction of a replacement chair. Art was a key member of the team that hand-built the replacement Speaker's Chair. He personally spent numerous hours hand-carving the exquisite detail that is displayed on much of the chair. Another significant contribution was his oversight of the team which constructed the two hydraulic-controlled lecterns currently used today on the House floor.

On a more personal note and equally worthy of recognition, Art has dedicated his life to making the CAO and the U.S. House of Representatives a better place. He has served as a tutor for the CAO's literacy program since its inception. He also serves his community by working as a "Food for Others" volunteer and assisting the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network. After his retirement, it is Art's goal to pursue more volunteer opportunities and to perform community services in order to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Art for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center for being the recipient of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The DDRC is one of the largest nonprofit human services agencies in Colorado with resources and services designed to provide positive choices, individualized to enhance quality of life and help people help themselves. DDRC has quietly made an incredible difference for the thousands of people it has touched with developmental disabilities and their families by its responsiveness and expanding to meet their needs.

The organization offers services and support in many forms, including resource coordination, children and family services, Medicaid support, adult vocational services, graduate activities program, quality living options, supported living services, and recreation services. All of these programs are of incredibly high quality and only further exemplify the DDRC's deservingness of this prestigious award.

The DDRC has a long history of holding a high standard of ethics. It has continually received the Better Business Gold Star Award and its code of ethics has been used as a model by the Association of Community Centered Boards.

Organizations such as the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center are an imperative in communities across the United States, because they provide a source of support for individuals and their families. Congratulations to Dr. Art Hogling, for his leadership of the DDRC. I offer my strong encouragement to the DDRC to continue their dedicated and excellent work and to all the individuals who

make the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center what it is today.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the Occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize Community Health Development. Community Health Development centers serve Edwards, Real, Uvalde and Zavala Counties, four rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. Community Health Development, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. In rural communities, community health centers are often the only medical facility within miles, and the health professionals there serve as the family doctors for everyone in the community. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize Community Health Development for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO US STEEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate US Steel on their 100th anniversary of production in the State of Alabama.

In 1907, the United States was in the midst of a "financial panic" that threatened the future of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TC&I) and the jobs of thousands of people employed by the company in Alabama. The United States Steel Corporation (US Steel), the Nation's first billion dollar business enterprise, agreed to purchase a majority of the capital stock of TC&I, preserving thousands of Alabama jobs. President Theodore Roosevelt and the U.S. Justice Department gave their approval on November 4, 1907 for the merger of US Steel and TC&I to help restore public confidence in the Nation's economy, thus ending the financial panic.

Soon after the merger, US Steel significantly expanded iron and steel production in Alabama, creating thousands of new jobs, and initiating social reforms for company employees, such as: building new homes for workers, establishing community schools, and building the Lloyd Noland Hospital.

US Steel was the first steel company in America to embrace collective bargaining in 1937 by recognizing the Steel Workers Organizing Committee which became the United Steel Workers of America. The steel produced at US Steel by its Alabama employees built the ships, tanks and other military armaments that defended the United States in two world wars, as well as in the Korean War and Vietnam War.

In the past 100 years, generations of Alabama residents—estimated to exceed a million people—worked at U.S. Steel mills, coal and iron mines, barge rail lines and other commercial facilities.

US Steel continues to create quality family-supporting jobs, with health care benefits for some 2,500 skilled employees in Alabama. These employees work at plants and offices including the Fairfield Works, the largest steel making plant in the South; the Fairfield Works Seamless Pipe Mill; US Steel Realty, a major land developer in the Birmingham area; and US Steel's Transtar subsidiary that includes the Birmingham Southern Railroad, Warrior & Gulf Navigation Company, and the Mobile River Terminal at Mobile.

Despite the fierce competitive challenges in a global steel market, including unfair competition from heavily subsidized foreign steel producers, US Steel has continued to make job-creating and job-retaining capital investments in Alabama.

US Steel has a long history of supporting philanthropic and community projects to enhance the quality of life in Alabama such as the Red Mountain Oak in Birmingham, which will be the largest urban park in America. This project represents a contribution from US Steel exceeding \$10 million.

Madam Speaker, I wish to officially mark the centennial observance of the United States Steel Corporation in Alabama. I congratulate the company for 100 years of steelmaking and job-producing commercial activity in my State. Through its 100 years, US Steel and its skilled employees have made a tremendous contribution to the State's economy, and to Alabama's future as a major manufacturing center in America.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This bill invests \$50 billion in our children and our seniors. The minority has had no objections to spending half a trillion dollars in Iraq but objects to \$50 billion over 5 years for our children and seniors? Where are their priorities?

Passing this bill will mean that 5 million more children who are already eligible for SCHIP will be enrolled. That will bring the total number of children covered by SCHIP to 11 million. Passing this bill will mean a real investment for our children, our seniors, and, indeed, our Nation.

I urge you to vote "yes" on the CHAMP Act.