

the third time—making it the only chamber to have won this prestigious award more than twice.

These awards are a tribute to the knowledge, leadership skills, and management effectiveness of chamber President Bob Bartz and to the quality of the work done by the organization's staff and the spirit and involvement of its volunteers, including the chamber's officers and Board of Directors.

I congratulate the Manatee Chamber of Commerce and its members for these impressive awards. I recognize their many accomplishments, and I appreciate their successful efforts to help businesses succeed and enhance the lives of Manatee County residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, on Roll-call vote 806 to strike section 726 from the bill relating to the importation of prescription drugs, I voted "no". I intended to vote "aye". My vote would not have changed the result, but I want this RECORD to reflect my intention.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS KENNEDY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, we rise to honor Dennis Kennedy upon his retirement as the Mayor of the City of Morgan Hill. The City of Morgan Hill is located in southern Santa Clara Valley, approximately 12 miles south of San Jose.

Mr. Kennedy has the distinction of being the City's first widely elected Mayor of Morgan Hill and also the longest serving Mayor overall, at an impressive four terms. By many accounts, Mr. Kennedy would have overwhelmingly won a fifth term had he not chosen to retire.

The community's decision to elect Mr. Kennedy as its first mayor was most likely based on his firm commitment to public service demonstrated through his roles as a member of the City of Morgan Hill's General Plan Task Force, Planning Commission, and his participation on the Urban Limit Line Study Commission.

In addition, Mr. Kennedy was very active in the City's Visioning Process and as a result was heavily involved in the process of constructing a new Aquatics Center, Community & Cultural Center, Centennial Recreation Center and the establishment of the local Community Health Foundation and, most recently, a County Library.

Mr. Kennedy has deep-seated roots within the community of Santa Clara County. He is a graduate of Bellarmine College Preparatory School and Santa Clara University, where he received his engineering degree.

On behalf of the constituents we represent in the City of Morgan Hill, we thank Mr. Kennedy for his commitment to public service that has lasted over 25 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in three votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on the afternoon of September 5, 2007. I was absent in order to be present for the return to the United States Senate of my friend and colleague from South Dakota, Senator TIM JOHNSON, who has been recovering from an incapacitating brain injury.

As noted, I was not present for three votes:

The first vote was H. Res. 629, extending the condolences and sympathy of the House of Representatives to the Government and the people of Greece for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by the devastating fires raging through Greece since June 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was H. Res. 508, recognizing the strong security alliance between the Government of Japan and the United States and expressing appreciation to Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region and its efforts in the global war against terrorism. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was H. Res. 544, expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding in 20 counties in eastern Kansas beginning on June 26, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS CAPTAIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas Captain, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Nicholas served in the United States Army, 148th Ordnance Motor Vehicle Armament Company in Normandy, Northern France and in Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, Nicholas received the European African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Nicholas Captain for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made

to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Nicholas Captain for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOSHUA BRESNICK

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents Mr. Joshua Bresnick of Parker, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Bresnick to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Bresnick and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the University of West Florida.

The vision of the University is to distinguish itself as the best regional comprehensive university in America, and it has achieved that mission. Situated on 1,600 acres, UWF is the second largest main campus in the State of Florida University system and is now home to nearly ten thousand students.

UWF consists of 35 academic buildings, 21 student services facilities, 25 dormitories, 2 university village student apartment complexes and 20 plant support facilities.

The University's contributions to Northwest Florida have been numerous and extremely beneficial to understanding the area's past and helping it move into the future. The highly-regarded anthropology department has been involved in extensive archaeological research, including excavating the prehistoric archaeological site Bernath in Santa Rosa County. The department is also at the forefront of underwater archaeology, excavating shipwrecks from different centuries off the Gulf Coast.

The University's affiliations with other organizations such as the cutting-edge Institute for Human and Machine Cognition also help maintain UWF's presence as a leading institution for academic research. In addition, the Division of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies has partnered with the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office to offer higher education opportunities for law enforcement officers.

Over 100,000 students have passed through the University of West Florida, and more continue to do so each academic year. The last 40 years have established UWF as a regional leader, involving the community in its research and learning. I know the next 40 years will see further expansion of UWF's place as an outstanding academic institution. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the 40th anniversary of the University of West Florida.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 595

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Local 595 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. IBEW was founded in 1891 and has become the largest union representing electrical workers in the United States and Canada. Local 595 was established by charter of the national IBEW on August 26, 1907, in Oakland, California. Today, Local 595 is headquartered in Dublin, California, in the district that I represent.

For the last 100 years, Local 595 has organized all of the electrical workers in Alameda County. The thousands of electrical workers, who have made up Local 595 throughout its history, have excelled in their trade while working at shipyards, motor shops, construction sites, and government facilities.

These men and women have electrified hundreds of thousands of homes, office buildings, manufacturing plants, and classrooms throughout the East Bay. Local 595 has consistently and dramatically improved the lives of its members and their families, thereby improving the communities in which they live. Local 595's apprenticeship programs have greatly improved the quality of electrical workers throughout the region, and this heightened expertise has helped to ensure Local 595 members have long careers with high wages, good pensions, and quality healthcare benefits.

Local 595 has reached out to help all working families in the East Bay through its active involvement in the Alameda County Building Trades Council and the Alameda County Central Labor Council. Local 595 has helped to build and grow communities throughout the East Bay by supporting numerous volunteer construction, scholarship, educational, and cancer research programs. For these reasons, and many others, I would like to commend IBEW Local 595 for 100 years of service to its members and to the community.

THE IRAQ REPORTS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as America awaits word from our military and diplomatic leaders in Iraq early next week, it's apparent to me that many in Congress seem prepared to prejudge our progress and dismiss the report of Gen. David Petraeus even before he makes it.

Many, as was said on the House floor this morning, cite the recent GAO report as a basis for accepting retreat and defeat in Iraq. But as Fred Kagan, of the American Enterprise Institute, pointed out recently, "the mandate of the GAO report was not to evaluate progress broadly defined in Iraq; it was to determine whether the Iraqi Government had met eighteen benchmarks set by the U.S. Congress."

Kagan pointed out that the term "Anbar," actually appears only twice in the GAO report despite the extraordinary progress in the Anbar province where we have seen Sunni leadership come forward working with marines, working with the Al-Maliki government, and defeating Al Qaeda in Iraq.

The so-called "triangle of death" is so safe the President of the United States was able to land there and meet with Sunni and Shiite leaders earlier this week. It's imperative that we stand with our soldiers; wait and hear from our military and diplomatic leaders, and that we, for the purpose of freedom in Iraq, for the purpose of our national honor, we accept nothing short of victory in that nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES T. HEINLEIN, UNITED STATES ARMY, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, our Nation is sustained by men and women who so willingly risk their lives to defend our liberty and our way of life. PFC Charles T. Heinlein was one such soldier, and he gave the last full measure in service to his country and to his fellow citizens.

Today, I want to recognize on the floor of the United States House of Representatives the life of Charles T. Heinlein. In saluting heroes like Charlie, we remember him with undying gratitude. And we resolve, though we cannot repay the debt we owe him or his family, to live our lives in such a way as to be worthy of their sacrifice.

Charlie joined the United States Army to become "a better person," but it is his heroism in battling back tyranny and terror halfway around the globe that has helped build a better America and a better world. His actions on the field of duty will forever stand as a reminder that America remains the land of the free and the home of the brave.

May God keep Charlie, may God watch and comfort his family, and may God continue to grant this Nation the courage to defend life and liberty.

REMARKS ON THE ENERGY BILLS (H.R. 3221 AND H.R. 2776) CONSIDERED ON AUGUST 4, 2007

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3221, New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act, and H.R. 2776, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. I am extremely saddened that these bills, which according to the Democrat Majority were meant to "achieve energy independence, strengthen national security, grow our economy and create jobs, lower energy prices, and begin to address global warming," will in fact result in less domestic natural gas and oil production, higher taxes that are passed to consumers, and wasteful spending on duplicative government programs.

The northern Illinois Congressional district I am honored to represent has a significant manufacturing base. There are over 2,500 industries in the 16th District of Illinois. Because of this, I devote a considerable amount of my time working on manufacturing issues. I am a member of the Council on Competitiveness, a co-chair of the Manufacturing Caucus, and Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee Task Force on Manufacturing. As previous Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, I held countless hearings on competitiveness. I travel this country and overseas studying machine tools, manufacturing efficiencies, global supply chains, manufacturing financing, intellectual property rights protection, export controls, and other important issues. I've also lectured extensively on America's need to be globally competitive. However, the devastating effect of the rising cost of natural gas to America's manufacturers, especially chemical, plastics, and advanced composites producers, is dramatic. Composite, chemical, and plastic manufacturers are more dependent on affordable and stable natural gas prices because they use natural gas as a base "feed stock." Soaring natural gas prices have challenged their competitiveness. In 2004 alone, increases in natural gas prices forced the closure of scores of chemical companies and cost roughly 100,000 high-paying jobs.

In 2005, Congress passed an energy bill that resulted in an increase of an additional 18 percent capacity in domestic natural gas production. We are now contemplating legislation that will reduce incentives for domestic production and, if past is prologue, will likely lead to a decrease domestic output and an increase dependence on imports from foreign sources. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service (CRS), a similar tax on oil and natural gas producers lead to a decrease in domestic oil production by as much as 1.26 million barrels between 1980 and 1986 and may have led to roughly 13 percent more in imported natural gas and oil over the same time period.

We cannot afford to travel down this path again. The Department of Energy projects that the United States will use 28 percent more oil and 19 percent more natural gas in 2030 than was used in 2005. To meet this rising demand and wean ourselves from foreign oil and natural gas, we must reduce regulatory burdens,