

Always a friend to the business community, Mr. O'Rourke's creativity and vision helped to achieve the longest labor agreements in the State of California, guaranteeing a stable and positive environment for employee groups as they serve the residents of the community. In addition, his efforts brought a vibrant commercial center to the Cordelia area of Fairfield, something the residents had identified as a critical need.

As chairman of the Travis Community Consortium, his legislative efforts assured the continued livelihood and superiority of Travis Air Force Base, the largest air mobility organization in the Air Force. His hard work brought a squadron of C-17s to the base, enhancing its mission as the West Coast terminal for aeromedical evacuation aircraft returning sick or injured patients from the Pacific area.

Mr. O'Rourke also successfully coordinated city, county, and State resources to bring many projects to Fairfield such as a state of the art public library, a successful auto mall along Interstate 80—a project that had eluded the city for decades and brings needed sales tax revenues to the general fund—and numerous recreational facilities important for after school programs and neighborhood events.

Mr. O'Rourke's many accomplishments have immeasurably improved the city of Fairfield and enriched the lives of its residents. I would like to thank him for his years of public service and wish him success and happiness in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall votes 924, 925, and 926 on October 1, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 924, 925, and 926.

TO CONGRATULATE THE INDUCTION OF DR. LARRY HORNBECK OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INTO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the induction of Dr. Larry Hornbeck of Texas Instruments into the National Academy of Engineering.

Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer, recognizing important contributions to engineering theory and practice.

Dr. Hornbeck invented the Digital Micro-mirror Device, or DMD, an optical semiconductor that is at the core of Texas Instruments' Digital Light Processing technology. His career at TI spans 34 years.

Texas Instruments is in my District, and I am proud of the advances in computing that

they have made and am also proud of their contributions and outreach to Dallas.

The Federal Government, through its support of basic research, played a pivotal role in the creation of the DMD.

The foundation of this technology was developed through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Security Agency research in the 1970s to assist with target detection and recognition. In 1989, DARPA provided funds to investigate the technology's application to high-definition TV.

Today, DLP is the only American display technology. Each chip contains millions of tiny mirrors that move independently to display trillions of colors.

TI's DLP business employs roughly 1,000 people in the Dallas area. The technology is now moving beyond projectors, television and cinema, into applications such as 3-D medical imaging—for example, allowing improved imaging of organs and better treatments for targeting tumors.

The current and potential success of DMD technology illustrates the importance of federal investment in basic research to innovation.

Congratulations to Dr. Hornbeck on his induction into the NAE. I am proud to highlight his work as an example of the importance of the engineering profession to the economy of Texas and the United States.

CONGRATULATING LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONER ROBERT C. CORDARO, THE 2007 HONOREE OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Robert C. Cordaro, Commissioner of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was named "Man of the Year" by the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association.

Mr. Cordaro is a 1979 graduate of Dunmore High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, senior class president and a first team all league football player where he held the position of linebacker.

He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Rochester in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in history. At the University of Rochester, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He also was a member of the first team academic All-America Football Team where he held the position of linebacker.

In 1986, Mr. Cordaro graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Mr. Cordaro went on to work for United States Congressman Charles F. Dougherty, Republican, of Philadelphia, before becoming a practicing attorney.

He was a founder of Landmark Community Bank where he served as a member of its board of directors.

Mr. Cordaro is a partner in Cord Realty, the owner and manager of a diversified real estate portfolio.

Mr. Cordaro was elected to the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners in 2000 and

was re-elected in 2004 after which he was named to the chairmanship of that board.

In 2006, Lackawanna County was the recipient of the National Award for County Arts Leadership, a first for Pennsylvania counties due to a program established in part by Mr. Cordaro.

According to Americans for the Arts, an innovative Education and Culture fee was created to encourage and support artistic endeavors within Lackawanna County, revenues from which are used to fund regional arts assets as well as arts and education activities.

The Lackawanna County Commissioners dedicated funds from this revenue source to support the Scranton Cultural Center, the Everhart Museum and the Lackawanna County Library System. "We believe that fostering arts and cultural activities is critical to our area's revitalization and growth," said Mr. Cordaro.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Commissioner Cordaro. His commitment to his community is reflected in the fact that he has been chosen for this distinguished award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY WORKFORCE ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, it is no secret that health care costs in the United States are sharply increasing. Nor is it any longer a surprise to hear that the rate of chronic illnesses and diseases has been on the rise. Left unabated, the continuing rise in both preventable illnesses and health care costs will put even more pressure on our already fragile health care system and threatens to bankrupt our Federal budget. These trends also have alarming implications for employers, both directly in terms of costs for employer-provided health care plans and indirectly through higher rates of absenteeism.

With all of these concerns in mind, I rise today to introduce the Healthy Workforce Act of 2007. In so doing, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from California, Representative MARY BONO. I would also like to thank Senator HARKIN, who is truly a leader on preventive health care issues, and who is the original sponsor of this legislation in the Senate.

The Healthy Workforce Act of 2007 provides a tax credit to businesses that offer comprehensive wellness programs to their employees, thereby promoting prevention of high cost chronic diseases. This tax credit will encourage business to raise health awareness through health education and health risk assessments. It will promote a supportive environment to encourage employee participation in workplace wellness programs, through offering meaningful incentive to participating employees, such as a reduction in health insurance premiums. And it will encourage employees to lead a healthy lifestyle through counseling, seminars or on-line programs. Keeping workers healthy in the first place can go a long way to reducing the growing health care costs to employers.

And Madam Speaker, these increasing costs are significant to employers. Average

employer medical costs increased 72 percent between 2000 and 2006. Some companies report spending more than 50 percent of their profits to cover these expenses. Employers are also increasingly bearing costs of diet-related chronic disease and obesity. For example, obesity-related health conditions cost employers approximately \$33 billion in health care and other indirect costs. However, proactive treatment would significantly reduce costs. The proactive treatment of hypertension costs about \$1,000 per year, whereas treatment for a heart attack costs a minimum of \$50,000, not including the costs which result from the time off and loss of productivity.

Employer spending on health promotion and chronic disease prevention is a good investment in our future. And this legislation targets primarily smaller and mid-sized companies who would otherwise have difficulty making the initial investment needed to support such programs. Workplace wellness programs are economical, averaging \$30 to \$200 per employee and studies have reported a proven rate of return on investment within 12 to 18 months, ranging from \$2 to \$10 for each dollar invested.

Adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases accounts for an estimated 75 percent of total healthcare spending and it is estimated that by 2014 our country's total health care expenditures will be \$3.6 trillion.

Clearly we cannot continue down this path. We must shift the focus of our nation's health care system to prevention and wellness programs. In so doing, we can reduce health care costs, improve health, improve quality of life, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our Nation needs a new approach to healthcare—one that puts prevention front and center.

The Healthy Workforce Act is one piece of the larger reform needed to our Nation's health care system. But it is a critical piece. By providing incentives for America's businesses to provide wellness programs for employees, they and their employees can focus on chronic disease prevention and health promotion, reduce health care costs, boost productivity, and improve the health and quality of life of working Americans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a more effective approach to preventing chronic diseases and providing incentives for employers and employees facing rising health care costs by cosponsoring the Healthy Workforce Act.

IN MEMORY OF BILL WIRTZ

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of a constituent and one of the most beloved people in the Chicagoland

area—Bill Wirtz. Last week, Mr. Wirtz passed after a battle with cancer at the age of 77.

Most knew him as the president of the Chicago Blackhawks, where he worked for the last 41 years. However, his fame in sporting circles was only surpassed by his infinite kindness and generosity. Through his direction, the Chicago Blackhawks Charities donated more than \$7.5 million since 1993 to various organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs. He also was renowned for his compassion toward his employees, treating them like members of his family.

The crowds at his visitation and funeral demonstrated the high regard that thousands had for Mr. Wirtz and his accomplishments.

I know I speak for the entire district when I send my deepest sympathies to his wife Alice, sons Rocky and Peter, daughters Gail, Karey and Alyson and his seven grandchildren. His memory will live on through the institutions he helped create and those whose lives he touched. It is because of this that his passion and dedication will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 1, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 185, H.R. 2276, and H.R. 3325.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 924 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 185, Commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 925 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2276, the Corporal Christopher E. Eskelson Post Office Building Designation, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 926 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3325, the Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office Designation, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA ENGINE COMPANY 52'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Philadelphia Fire Department's Engine Company 52 on celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since 1907, a dedicated unit of firefighters has served the Wissinoming community in the lower Northeast section of Philadelphia from this same location. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

In Philadelphia 271 years ago, Benjamin Franklin established the first Fire Department in America. He noted that once a fire was "cried out, active community members would with one mind apply themselves with all vigilance and resolution . . . to the hard work of

conquering the increasing fire." From this beginning, he developed societies of firefighters to attend to all fires in their neighborhoods. These companies formed the basis of the firefighting and fire prevention efforts of our city's current Fire Department.

Engine Company 52, originally known as the Wissinoming Fire Company, was dedicated to serving the community along a tributary of the Delaware River. Originally housed in a large red brick two-story building at Jackson and Van Kirk Streets, the top floor of the fire company was the home of the neighborhood school. Behind the building was a stable for the horses that pulled the firefighting equipment and a tower where fire hoses were hung to drain and dry. As the community grew, so did the fire company still known as "The Fifty-Two's." In 1951, the city built a new firehouse on the site. Today, Engine 52 is known as "Pipeline 52" because of its large capacity equipment used to supply water to other companies when major fires occur; in more recent years "Medic 32", an Emergency Medical Service unit has been added.

Today, the "Fifty-TooZ"—as they call themselves—serve a residential and business community, protecting the lives of those who live and work in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. As in the days of Benjamin Franklin, they "apply themselves with all vigilance and resolution," as well as dedication and courage, to protect their community.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the members of Engine Company 52 for their service, dedication and sacrifice. I look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring another 100 years of success, safety and security.

STABILITY FOR SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, the issue of stability in southeastern Europe is once again high on the world's agenda. In December, issues concerning the status of Kosovo will again come to the fore. Regional stability is tied closely, but not inextricably, to these issues. As we approach the winter months, it is important that our southeastern European friends be strong internally so that they can be producers of stability and not consumers of it.

Our friend, the Republic of Macedonia, is one such producer of stability. Time and again, it has proved itself a great friend and ally of the United States of America. Time and again, it has proven itself a friend to neighboring states. Time and again, it has stepped up to the plate and provided support to the United States in the War on Terrorism by providing soldiers to serve alongside our own troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Time and again, it has worked with and voted with the United States on important resolutions in the United Nations.

Unfortunately, our friend Greece has not been so supportive of the Republic of Macedonia. In 1993 and again in 1995, Greece imposed economic sanctions on Macedonia because Greece claims, entirely and exclusively, the word "Macedonia." Despite the fact