

lifelong friends, and she has virtually adopted two of our sons, Alan and Julian, as her own.

On Saturday, we will congratulate Judge Mason on her 89th birthday and thank her for nearly 70 years of public service. She has dedicated her life to serving her country and the people of South Carolina. I applaud my friend Judge Mason on this occasion and wish her the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was detained in my district and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, October 22, 2007, for H.R. 189 (rollcall No. 983), H.R. 523 (rollcall No. 984), and H. Res. 762 (rollcall No. 985). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of these measures.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICES INDUSTRY

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the buoyant U.S. services industry, an unsung American success story that will continue to ensure that our workforce is second to none in the global economy of the future.

Services impact every village, town, city, and State all across this country in nearly every sector of the economy. Just think about the services we all rely on: lawyers, doctors, bankers, insurance agents, accountants, nurses, college professors, restaurant workers, web designers, and software engineers. And there are many more service workers who touch our lives every day.

What is often lost in attention-grabbing headlines is that the United States has run a large trade surplus in services since 1971 with almost 90 percent of the \$72 billion surplus generated by business and professional services.

Services accounted for 77.8 percent of U.S. private sector gross domestic product in 2005, or \$8.5 trillion. The services industry remains the engine of growth in our economy and we must not take our eye off the ball.

The United States is also the world's largest and most competitive exporter of services. We have enjoyed surpluses in the services sector since the 1970s because U.S. companies are exporting a wide range of high-value services around the world that other nations value, like financial services, express package delivery, web hosting, or software design. We are second to none in the services sector against our international competitors. To keep our lead, we need to strive for fair and open markets around the world so that we can sell these services in other countries.

Close to 400 congressional districts have 70 percent or more of their workforce employed in the services industry. By 2012, 19.2 million new services jobs will be created, which would

account for 90 percent of all new job creation, according to the Coalition of Service Industries. This is a phenomenal achievement and clearly where our workforce of the future will come from.

In my home State of Florida and in my congressional district, some 85 percent of all our jobs stem from a wide variety of services. And we're growing. In 2002, there were 5.5 million Floridians involved in services employment. That number grew to 5.9 million by 2005. Between 2004 and 2005, Florida's exports of services grew 13 percent to \$23 billion.

Services are being used in areas that we could hardly dream of just a decade ago. With today's fast-changing technology, services are provided around the globe—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For instance, IBM, one of my constituents which employs nearly 1,200 highly skilled workers at its Boca Raton facility, is providing a host of innovative services from its south Florida hub, such as network services, integrated technology services, and e-business hosting.

To give you an example of the IBM skill set, the company is testing speech translation-based products in my district. One of the products currently undergoing testing is a "speech to speech" voice recognition translator with two-way real-time speech capability. IBM is donating this key technology to the U.S. Government to translate between Iraqi Arabic and English.

A user speaks into the system in one language, their speech is recognized, translated, and spoken in another language using a combination of IBM technologies. They are also donating 1,000 laptops or handheld devices plus 10,000 software licenses to support better communication between the U.S. military, Iraqi citizens, and aid organizations in Iraq. We sincerely appreciate this type of corporate commitment to our community.

Services are making the world more connected, allowing producers, consumers, and everyone in between to communicate and collaborate quickly and easily in every corner of the globe. Our service industries are constantly providing new ways to innovate, both here and abroad, to grow our economy.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the impact and importance of this growing, vital sector to our economy and to keep fair and open markets that service providers need to achieve even greater success in the skills-based knowledge economy of the future.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this effort to override the President's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

This legislation would provide health care coverage for 10 million American children, at

a cost of less than \$3.50 a day per child. The State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act is supported by individuals and organizations from across the political and ideological spectrum. It is supported by 81 percent of Americans, the majority of Congress, 43 Governors, and more than 270 organizations, including AARP, American Medical Association, and America's Health Insurance Plans.

The arguments against this bill are at best distorted and at worst flat wrong. This legislation targets low-income children, it utilizes private health insurance, and it is paid for. H.R. 976 is also a bipartisan compromise bill created with cooperation of the House, Senate, health care providers, and consumers. Most importantly, ensuring our children have health care is the right thing to do.

As a mom, it is unconscionable to me to choose not to provide health care for children in need. As a Member of Congress, I am disappointed, but not surprised, that this President has put politics before the health of America's families.

Investing in our children's health care must be a priority. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President's misguided veto of H.R. 976.

CONGRATULATING NEIL ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON MOVING INTO THEIR NEW FACILITY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, Neil Armstrong Elementary School in Port Charlotte, Florida is celebrating the first day of school for the second time this year. It is my honor to rise today to congratulate the resilient and determined staff, students, and parents of Neil Armstrong Elementary School as they move into their new permanent school facility.

On August 13, 2004, the school's campus was completely destroyed by Hurricane Charley. Immediately following the Hurricane, the students attended classes on a split shift arrangement at Liberty Elementary School until they moved into a temporary modular school on the grounds of Port Charlotte Middle School.

Today, the students and staff move in to a brand new 112,000 square foot school. The newly completed school has been built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, standards, which is a nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Neil Armstrong Elementary School is named in honor of the first man on the moon, Neil A. Armstrong. A replica of the space suit that he wore on his historic lunar voyage will be displayed in the lobby of the new school.

When Neil Armstrong took that first step on the moon, he understood the importance of his small step and how it represented the determination of mankind. Today, I am pleased to paraphrase Mr. Armstrong in recognizing that the first step on the new campus today represents a giant leap toward recovery from

the ravages of Hurricane Charley in Charlotte County.

On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I wish the Neil Armstrong Elementary School community our congratulations and our best wishes for a long and successful future in their new home.

CONGRATULATING MR. RON LEVY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Levy, an exceptional leader from my district in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1999, Ron has served as President and CEO of SSM Health Care-St. Louis. Prior to that, Ron served with SSM Health Care for 30 years, beginning as a resident at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin in 1976. During his tenure, Ron has served in various capacities at SSM which have included: President of St. Clare Hospital and Health Services in Baraboo, Wisconsin; President of SSM St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Missouri, and President of SSM Physicians Organization in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ron's leadership over the years has been invaluable not only to the SSM health care system, but to the community as a whole. In 2005, Ron served as chair of the Missouri Hospital Association. Ron has served as a member of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, and since its inception has worked tirelessly to ensure access and coverage for healthcare services for the medically uninsured and underinsured in the greater St. Louis region.

I am pleased to be able to honor Ron Levy today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life and career.

RESTORE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Resolution 746, providing for consideration of H.R. 3773, the RESTORE Act of 2007. While I support many of the provisions of the underlying bill, I remain concerned that this bill is silent on the issue of carrier liability.

This rule provides no opportunity to amend the bill to address this important issue. In my view that is a mistake, and one which I hope will be dealt with before the legislation is sent to the President for his signature.

The failure of this House to address the issue of carrier liability may have significant long term implications for our future ability to protect our citizens. I encourage my colleagues to consider the incentives the legislation creates and find a constructive way to deal with the carrier liability issue.

Therefore, while I do intend to support the underlying legislation when faced with an up

or down decision later today, I oppose this closed rule, and urge the leadership of both Houses of Congress to work together during the conference process to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this closed rule.

HONORING T.J. LEE ELEMENTARY AND IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERV- ICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to T.J. Lee Elementary and the Irving Independent School District Food Service Department upon receiving the first coveted United States Department of Agriculture Gold School award in the state of Texas.

This honor was bestowed on Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service because of their strong commitment to the nutritional and physical well being of their students. Before an elementary school is granted this prestigious award, a stringent HealthierUS School challenge criteria must be met. Providing USDA nutrition standard school lunches, nutrition education to students, regularly scheduled physical activity and other lunch menu criteria are just a few of the measures required to obtain this recognition.

Fighting obesity in school children in the United States is of utmost importance. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service Department are to be commended for their commitment in improving the health and well being of their students. The leadership they have shown helping students learn healthy eating habits and maintain an active lifestyle is an example to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor T.J. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Department for earning the United States Department of Agriculture Gold Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE "BLACKIE" EVANS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Claude "Blackie" Evans, who passed away on September 28, 2007.

Claude "Blackie" Evans was born on November 11, 1935 in Joplin, Missouri. He moved to Nevada with his wife in 1953. Initially, Blackie worked as a laborer and lathe operator at Titanium Metal Corporation. He then went on to work as a shop steward with the United Steelworkers of America #4856. There he was elected as the president of his local union and the youngest person to ever be elected to that position. After years of involvement and dedication, Blackie became the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO. He served as liaison to the National AFL-CIO, National Labor Relations Board, and 150 affiliated local unions. In 1998,

Blackie reached the pinnacle of his career serving as a member of the General Executive Board of the National AFL-CIO.

Over the years, Blackie was an integral part of our community. His commitment to his community extended beyond his experience with the AFL-CIO. He was a member of the State Mine Safety Advisory Board in 1969, and the State Job Training Board from 1979 to 1982. Additionally, he served on the state of Nevada's Vocation Education Training Board from 1980 to 1983, the State Industrial Insurance System Board of Directors from 1979 to 1993, and the Federal Solar Energy Education Board in 1994.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Blackie Evans. His dedication to his community should serve as an example to us all. I send my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. His passing is a tremendous loss to Nevada.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER DANNY PHILLIP DIETZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and NAVY SEAL from my district, Petty Officer Danny Phillip Dietz of Littleton, Colorado. Petty Officer Dietz was killed two years ago during combat operations in Afghanistan.

On June 27, 2005, Petty Officer Dietz's four-man SEAL team was inserted into Afghanistan's remote Hindu Kush Mountains. His comrades included Petty Officer Matthew Gene Axelson of Cupertino, California, Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell of Huntsville, Texas, and Lieutenant Michael Murphy of Patchogue, New York. In the heavy fighting that followed the four men, experts not only in warfare but friends and members of a close-knit team, all faced the enemy opposition with inspiring valor and determination. Together they faced incredible odds, determined not only to do their duty but to give all that they had, each in the defense of the others. Ultimately overwhelmed, only Petty Officer Luttrell survived, and then with grievous wounds, to be rescued after several days of escape and evasion during which he continued to battle the enemy.

As Navy SEALs these four men exemplify the very best of America's young men and women, many of whom continue the battle on foreign shores or serve at home to protect our homeland. As valiant warriors they serve to inspire us in understanding not only the importance of Duty, Honor, Country, but also the importance of the unity of teamwork against all odds, regardless of our differences or where we are from.

Danny Dietz is not forgotten in his home town of Littleton, Colorado. This year on Independence Day, a large bronze statue was unveiled in Littleton's Berry Park to ensure that future generations will never forget his uncommon valor and selfless sacrifice. The citation awarding him the Navy Cross notes: "Demonstrating exceptional resolve and fully understanding the gravity of the situation and his responsibility to his teammates, Petty Officer Dietz fought valiantly against the numerically superior and positionally advantaged enemy