

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize an organization that is so deeply rooted in community involvement and unity. I am excited for this year's celebration and look forward to many more years of gathering in the circle neighborhoods of Santa Cruz.

H.R. 3920, THE TRADE AND
GLOBALIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Act of 2007, and commend the Ways and Means, and Education and Labor committees for their hard work on this legislation.

The health of the American economy depends in large part on trade with foreign markets. As globalization, technology, and trade agreements continue to remove barriers to free trade, we must work to ensure that our workers, farmers and small businesses do not suffer unfairly for this economic growth. This legislation moves the Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, program in a new direction with that sentiment in mind.

The current TAA program was created in a different era, and fails to address the realities of trade in the 21st century. The Trade and Globalization Act expands eligibility for TAA training programs, temporary income support and healthcare assistance to include manufacturing workers who currently are ineligible for benefits for technical reasons, and to service workers who are increasingly losing their jobs to outsourcing. It also significantly increases funding for these programs, without adding to the deficit, or raising taxes on American families. An updated TAA program will allow all trade-displaced workers to acquire the skills they need to reenter the workforce, and the flexibility to choose their most effective path.

Workers facing the loss of a good job face significant challenges beyond the loss of income. To help families prepare for their transition, this bill requires employers to provide adequate notice to their employees before a layoff, and provides an incentive for states to reform their unemployment insurance programs to realize the needs of low-income, part-time and female members of the workforce.

Additionally, this bill recognizes that trade can have significant impacts for entire regions of our country, and that American businesses are critical to helping workers adapt to the global economy. That is why this legislation provides incentives for firms to redevelop and hire workers in those communities disproportionately affected by international trade.

We owe our prosperity to our greatest national asset—our American workers. I urge you to join me in passing this much needed legislation that will assist these workers who keep America's economy strong.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, on November 9, I was on jury call in my district and missed several votes. I would have voted had I been here: rollcall No. 1077, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 809, "yea"; rollcall No. 1078, H. Res. 809, "yea"; rollcall No. 1079, approving the Journal, "yea"; rollcall No. 1080, motion to adjourn, "nay"; rollcall No. 1081, H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act, "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD-
CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF
2007

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY New York. Madam Speaker, today, on behalf of myself, Rep. YVETTE CLARKE, and Rep. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, I introduce the Childcare Affordability Act of 2007, which will create an above-the-line tax deduction for working parents of up to \$13,000 in childcare expenses for one child and a maximum of \$26,000 for two or more children. This deduction is based on the average cost of childcare in urban areas, which is \$13,000 per year—more than one quarter of the typical family's income. This bill will also make the current Dependent Care Tax Credit fully refundable and expand the qualified actual expenses—now capped at \$3,000 per child with a maximum of \$6,000 to \$13,000 for one child, with a \$26,000 maximum for two or more children. This change more accurately reflects the current costs of childcare for working families, who will now be able to choose whichever option provides them with the greatest tax relief.

Greater tax relief is an important and necessary step toward improving the lives of America's working families. The rising cost of child care is squeezing working families and the amount of assistance the Federal government currently provides to ease the burden of these expenses is inadequate. We can and should do more to support our working families. Quality childcare is essential to healthy child development. This bill will help America's families provide high-quality care for their children, which will pay off in the future by increasing productivity and economic growth, and stemming the tide of rising inequality in the United States. With this initiative, we can ease the burden on working families, while making an essential investment in the future prosperity of our Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAOR-
DINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE
OF THE BRAEN FAMILY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Braen family for its tremendous service to its community. Currently in its fifth generation of family management of its quarry and construction business, the Braen family has long typified the "good neighbor."

In addition to the commitment that the individual members of the Braen family pursue in charity work and community service, the company has initiated a program to promote volunteerism with its own employees. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. And, tonight, the Braen family and the Braen family of companies—Stone Industries, Inc.; Van Orden Sand & Gravel; Braen Supply, Inc.; and Braen Aggregates, LLC—will be honored by the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America for exemplifying that high standard.

The Braen family also dedicates itself to community-friendly business practices that not only add to the value of the local economy but also to the quality of life Braen employees, customers, and others enjoy. They have always strived to meet environmental standards long before the standards are in place, thinking first of the health, welfare, and comfort of their employees and neighbors first. They have been honored for their good work, including as New Jersey Family Business of the Year.

So, tonight, as the Boy Scouts honor the Braen family for the support they have shown Scouts and Scouting, I rise to share in their tribute and to thank the Braen family for its contribution to making north Jersey such a fine place to live, work, and raise a family.

VETERANS DAY PRAYER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as greatful Americans prepare for providing deserved tributes for our courageous veterans, I have fortunately been provided a profound poem from Clinton B. Campbell of Beauford, SC.

MY VETERAN'S DAY PRAYER

Lord, when the pull of my bed
lures me to stay another hour, please remind
me of taps being played for the fallen,
of the tears that reach my cheek
after each name is read, the ones I know personally
and the ones old-timers
talk about in awe.

After the crowd stumbles
through The Pledge of Allegiance
I want to be there
and listen with all my heart
while the winner of this year's
essay contest quiets the crowd
reminding us of why
we are paying our respects.

When the closing prayer is read
I want to look around in honor
at my fellow vets,
the men and the women
in their timeworn uniforms.
Let me see them as they were,
splendidly marching forward
with the courage that allows us to
have a choice of whether
we come here today or not.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARMEL
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Illinois, for being named a 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Nearly 1500 students, ages 13 to 18, attend Carmel Catholic High School. Carmel Catholic is one of only 5 high schools nationwide to win the Blue Ribbon School award 4 times. With a great devotion to learning and academic achievement, Carmel is a faith-based community that attributes their success to the dedication and hard work of their teachers. As a result, these students consistently score above state and national averages on standardized tests in all subject areas. In addition, it is the only high school in Illinois and one of three private high schools in the nation to be recognized.

Carmel Catholic is among 287 schools from across the nation chosen by the Secretary of Education to receive this acknowledgement. These schools have distinguished themselves by embodying the goals of reaching high standards and closing the achievement gap. Schools selected for this honor either have students from all subgroups that have demonstrated significant improvement or have students that achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on statewide tests.

This is a great honor for the 10th district and I congratulate the principal, Fr. Robert C. Carroll, the students, and teachers at Carmel Catholic High School for this achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, it gives me tremendous pleasure to share news of a special Golden Anniversary occurring in my home district in California. The City of Pacifica, a jewel along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, celebrates 50 years of incorporation as an independent municipality on Nov. 22 of this year. In 1957, people along the Coast decided that they were tired of being second-class San Mateo County residents. The seaside villages and valley communities stretching from the Daly City border south to the Devil's Slide were fearful of being used as a dumping ground by their more prosperous and established neighbors. In fact, the City of San Bruno actually wanted to annex parts of the area for landfill purposes, a notion incomprehensible today.

Madam Speaker, those fiercely strong-minded Coastsiders held meetings, hired consultants, used graduate students to prepare surveys, canvassed their neighbors, and, in short, did everything they could to assess the possibility of incorporating as a city. There was an active resistance, as well, with a strong contingent of people who wanted things to stay the same. Let me say, Madame Speaker, with no small amount of pride, that the people who live in this special area have long been known to be politically active, inquisitive and resourceful. It actually took two separate elections before a majority, of only about 500 votes to be precise, decided to incorporate.

But once the decision was made, Madame Speaker, the people in this gorgeous geographical area of California embarked on a public adventure that created one of the truly unique cities in America, if not the world. Ahead of its time in many ways, the new city was christened "Pacifica" to highlight the ocean next to it as well as the 80-foot statue by sculptor Ralph Stackpole that represented the people of the Pacific Rim at the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island in 1939 and 1940. The very first mayor was a woman, Jean Fassler, starting a city tradition of politically active women sitting on the council. While Pacifica made international news in 1992 for having an All-Women City Council, it is often overlooked that the city has never actually had an All-Men elected body.

Madam Speaker, let me paint a picture of the history of this region. In 1769, a group of explorers led by Don Gaspar de Portola viewed San Francisco Bay from a point now known as Sweeney Ridge, which is within the eastern boundary of Pacifica and is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a part of the National Parks Service system with a tremendous influence on Pacifica's natural beauty. Panoramic views of the Bay Area greet hikers who make the climb up Sweeney Ridge. The Portola Discovery Site has been designated as a National Landmark. It is my great pleasure to have had a leading role in expanding the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include this beautiful site, along with other open spaces in the region.

Starting in 1785, crops were planted in San Pedro Valley at an outpost of Mission Dolores. In 1839, Don Francisco Sanchez was given a Mexican Land Grant with boundaries similar to the present City boundary lines. In 1846 he moved into the Sanchez Adobe, which is currently maintained as a San Mateo County Museum and park on Linda Mar Boulevard.

This coastal area remained for years primarily an agricultural Eden until the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Land speculators, stimulated by the construction of the Ocean Shore Railroad, subdivided and developed a series of small coastsides communities with the hope of creating a suburban population for San Francisco. The vision then was to establish a tourist and commuter heaven along the Pacific Ocean. The Little Brown Church, Anderson's Store and San Pedro School (which later became City Hall) date from this period. In 1908, Henry Harrison McCloskey, an attorney for the Ocean Shore Railroad, built a castle-like home which still dominates a hill above Sharp Park. Mrs. Honora Sharp donated 410 acres to the City and County of San Francisco to develop a recreation area, which became the Sharp Park Golf Course and the Rifle and Archery Range.

Subdivisions were eventually created, although long after the demise of the Ocean Shore Railroad in 1921, to meet the needs of young families of returning World War II veterans. In less than a decade from its 1957 incorporation, the population had grown to 35,000 people. It has taken four more decades to increase that number by 5,000. This statistic alone points to one of the special qualities of Pacifica.

Pacifica is made up of 10 communities, including Edgemar, Pacific Manor, Manor Village, Westview, Sharp Park, Fairway Park, Vallemar, Rockaway Beach, Linda Mar and Pedro Point. Residents continue to identify with the specific personalities of their neighborhoods while maintaining a certain pride in being from Pacifica.

Green and white became the City colors and the fuchsia was designated as the City flower. "Wisdom in Progress" became the City slogan, although "Scenic Pacifica," later suggested by Carl McCarthy, is more widely used. In 1970, Balaguer, Spain, the birthplace of Portola, became the Sister City of Pacifica.

Madam Speaker, I want to share the news that in recent years Pacifica has completed a number of notable projects such as: the Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant—April 2001; Friendship Playground—June 2001; New Pacifica Police Station—November 2002; Pacifica State Beach Improvement Project; Rockaway to Crespi Multi-use Trail and Crespi to Pedro Point Multi-use Trail—October 2004; Pacifica Skatepark—December 2005; Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant Photovoltaic Project—July 2006; Esplanade 500 Block Blufftop Enhancement Project and the San Pedro Creek Flood Control Project and Fish Ladder renovation. These projects bring attention to the most successful aspect of Pacifica's existence—this is a city far ahead of its time in the way it capitalizes on maintaining strong environmental and ecological priorities.

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to have represented the good citizens of Pacifica for more than half of the city's existence. It has also been my great honor to assist the city in achieving many of its goals, most recently the construction of the \$300 million Devil's Slide Tunnels transportation project.

The natural beauty of Pacifica, with its lovely cool climate, delightful valleys and hills and most of all, its innovative, talented, active and wonderful residents, helps it stand out as one of my favorite places in the world. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the City of Pacifica and its inhabitants a Happy 50th Anniversary and a successful journey through the 21st Century.

SAUDI ARABIA IS HUB OF WORLD
TERROR

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I believe that Congress should continue to encourage an open and robust debate about the threat from radical jihadists. I found the following report in the Sunday Times of particular interest. I would like to share it with my colleagues.