

Monthan AFB, Arizona; Zaragoza Air Base in Zaragoza, Spain; Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma; and Williams Air Force Base, Arizona. His final assignment was Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska where he served from 1984 until retirement in 1991.

Royce is also a key figure in the community. He is a member of the Optimist Club of Fairbanks, has served on the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board for 9 years (1997–2006) and is currently sitting on the Fairbanks “Kids Voting” Board of Directors.

Royce has been an integral part of my “Alaska team” for many years and it saddens me to see him leave. He has used his skills in communication and management to help me better serve the people of Alaska. His outgoing personality, confidential counsel and comprehensive evaluation of situations, have allowed him to do his job to the fullest and for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Royce is a Great Alaskan. I wish him and Carolyn all the best and continued good health as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT
EMERITUS DANIEL RUPP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of President Emeritus Daniel Rupp, for his 28 years of service as an officer of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 40, where he devoted himself to the concerns and needs of the American worker.

For 15 years, Mr. Rupp was the Administrative Vice President of the NALC. His continuous work and never-ending desire to support the labor community earned him the respect of his peers. Mr. Rupp served his position with dignity and honor. It was no surprise when he became the Executive Vice President, and then the President of the Cleveland Postal Employees Credit Union (CPECU).

During the time Mr. Rupp was the President of the CPECU, he remained dedicated to addressing the concerns of the union while preserving the rights of the members. In addition to his tireless work with the CPECU he was a National Trustee delegate, and Branch 40 was well served by his leadership.

Committed not only to the union, Mr. Rupp devoted himself to his family with the same intensity he had when representing the members of the NALC. He and Barb have been married for 45 years, and together they have raised four sons and a daughter. Now, they have the unending joy of doting upon their nine beautiful grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring President Emeritus Daniel Rupp for his enthusiasm and devotion to the American worker. His integrity, commitment to his brothers and sisters, and tireless work with the community have made an indelible mark on northeast Ohio, and we are grateful for his dedication.

IN HONOR OF THE 120 YEARS OF
COMBINED PUBLIC SERVICE OF
NORTHVALE FIREMEN ARTHUR
BODRATO AND FRANK
BUONOCORE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the extraordinary public service of two firemen who have each served the community of Northvale, New Jersey for 60 years. Arthur Bodrato and Frank Buonocore joined the company in 1947, a mere 41 years after the company was even founded. Their lives stand as a testament to how just a single life of volunteerism can make a profound difference in the lives of so many.

Not content to merely serve their neighbors in this brave role, both men took on extra responsibilities in the Northvale Fire Department and Northvale Fire Association to help their fellow firefighters. Frank Buonocore served as the Fire Association Treasurer for 18 years and as a Relief Association Officer. He also served as Lieutenant, Captain, and Chief of the Department. Arthur Bodrato served as Financial Secretary for the Fire Association and is the current President of the Northvale Fire Department Exempt Fireman’s Association. He also served as a Lieutenant in the Fire Department.

As if to demonstrate the example these men have provided to their community, they have inspired a legacy of service. Arthur Bodrato’s son, Bryant is the current Chief of the Northvale Fire Department, and I look forward to returning to the floor some day to honor him for his service to Northvale as well.

THE GLOBAL THREAT OF DRUG-
RESISTANT TB

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the important and timely global health issue of drug-resistant tuberculosis. It is shocking that this disease which is curable continues to kill about 2 million people each year. Perhaps the reason for this apparent contradiction is that the vast majority of those who die from TB—98 percent—live in the developing world, and are from the poorest and most marginalized sectors of society. TB is particularly pernicious in that it targets young adults who are just starting to form their families and who are the producers and sustainers of their societies. The emergence in recent years of drug-resistant TB has raised the specter of higher death rates, more children who will lose their parents, and communities that will fall deeper into poverty and despair.

Combined with the fact that TB is the leading cause of death of persons with HIV/AIDS, this disease is having a particularly devastating impact on Africa. However, it is important to note that no region—indeed no country,

including our own—is immune from the effects of tuberculosis. We should all be alarmed that strains that are resistant to a single drug have been documented in every country surveyed by the World Health Organization. Given the ease with which TB can be spread, TB is truly a disease without borders, and it is in our national as well as humanitarian interest to seek its eradication.

Therefore, it was highly appropriate that the subcommittee on global health commemorated World TB Day 2007 with the rest of the world, and raised our voices with that of others for an emergency response to this increasingly dangerous threat to global health. I agree with my colleagues here in Congress who are advocating for significantly more resources to be directed towards TB prevention, detection and treatment, and research for new drugs. In addition, the hearing provided us with the opportunity to examine the best means for directing our resources.

The World Health Organization recently came out with an interesting study entitled: “Appreciating Assets: The Contribution of Religion to Universal Access in Africa.” The study was focused on the treatment of HIV/AIDS, and utilized Zambia and Lesotho as the two study sites, but the findings provide useful indications for addressing other health issues, including tuberculosis, throughout Africa. The study found that approximately 30–40 percent of national health services were provided by faith-based organizations. In some areas, those percentages went as high as 65–70 percent.

The benefits of a faith-based infrastructure for addressing HIV/AIDS would seem to apply also to tuberculosis. For example, assisting and monitoring adherence to the drug regimen could be overseen by the volunteer community, as well as education of the general public. Since churches, mosques and synagogues are being encouraged to undertake HIV/AIDS initiatives, TB can readily be included.

It is well-known that the Global Fund is a major contributor to TB detection and treatment programs around the world. The United States has given over \$2 billion to the Global Fund, or just over 30 percent of the Fund’s revenues. I was disturbed to read reports earlier this month that the Global Fund has permanently terminated two grants to Uganda for malaria and tuberculosis. When I visited Uganda in January 2006, a suspension of 5 Global Fund grants due to gross mismanagement had just been lifted and I was informed that the problems appeared to have been resolved. The fact that this now turns out not to have been the case, and that several other countries have also had Global Fund grants terminated, raises serious questions about how the Global Fund is operating.

I know from my visits to Africa and from the numerous reports we receive in Congress how well our bilaterally-funded PEPFAR programs are performing. The information and accountability that Congress has come to take for granted through these bilateral programs are not available through the Global Fund. And yet many of the primary recipients of Global Fund grants are governments with a history of corruption and fraud, and/or limited capacity to properly manage large sums of money in their health sectors. One could argue that the absence in the Global Fund of a robust reporting and monitoring mechanism at both the primary and sub-recipient levels is an open invitation

for waste in these countries, and a tragic loss of opportunity to save lives. The implementation of a system that provides accountability and transparency would seem vital to continued and expanded donor support of the Global Fund in the future.

HONORING COMMUNITY SMILES
FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wonderful volunteer organization in my congressional district, Community Smiles/Dade County Dental Research Clinic. Community Smiles was established by a group of dedicated dentists in 1946 as the Dade County Dental Research Clinic. Their guiding principles are: to provide quality dental care, provide professional improvements and post-graduate education of dentists, and provide training to dental assistants for certification.

Community Smiles is a non-profit, community center that treats indigent populations in need of care. This clinic is celebrating 60 years of committed volunteer service to Miami-Dade County, during which thousands of patients have been treated pro bono. A remarkable record! The service this prestigious organization provides is invaluable to our community.

In 2006, more than 2,400 disadvantaged patients received services from 138 dentists, including major reconstructive treatment. As they begin this new year, they are ready and prepared to continue to provide an increasing number of patients with the best healthcare service possible.

I would like especially to recognize the current president, Dr. Robert Perdomo, III, for his leadership and dedication, and the immediate past two Presidents, Dr. Armando Paz & Dr. Shari Witkoff. Their unwavering pursuit of excellence has been an inspiration to the entire organization. It is their passion, talent, and service to the community of South Florida that makes our lives richer and Florida stronger.

Once again, I would like to thank Community Smiles/Dade County Dental Research Clinic for their continued commitment to the promotion of dental care. I congratulate Community Smiles on its achievement and service to the community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CSRS
RETIREMENT REPAYMENT TECH-
NICAL CORRECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the CSRS Retirement Repayment Technical Correction Act of 2007. This bill would correct an unintended consequence that followed the enactment of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508) on November 5, 1990, and provide relief for Federal employees who were adversely affected by that enactment.

The Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990 made retroactive changes to the rules related to separating Federal employees. While the rules were made retroactive to October 1, 1990, the implementing regulations were not promulgated until February 1991. This four month period between the enactment of the law and the promulgation of the implementing regulations has adversely affected any Federal employee who withdrew their retirement contributions during this period.

This matter was brought to my attention by Sandra Schatz Landis, my constituent who was on maternity leave from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), a former bureau of the Department of Justice at the time in question. On November 5, 1990, Ms. Landis withdrew \$24,439.00 in retirement contributions and was advised that if she later re-entered federal service, she could re-deposit the withdrawal without paying interest and not suffer any adverse consequences.

Unbeknownst to Ms. Landis and the personnel specialists at INS who were advising her, because of the enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 that occurred on that very same day, November 5, 1990, employees who withdrew their retirement contributions as far back as October 1, 1990 were suddenly required to repay their withdrawn contributions with interest in order to have the prior service included in their annuity calculation. What is unfair about this is that employees had no warning that the rules under which they were making major financial decisions were changing. If Ms. Landis were to make this repayment today, she would have to refund over \$58,000 of which \$34,000 is interest. This is just one example of an unintended injustice that must be corrected.

The CSRS Retirement Repayment Technical Correction Act of 2007 will provide relief

to those who withdrew their retirement contributions between Oct 1, 1990, when the Omnibus Reconciliation Act was enacted, and February 1991, when implementing regulations were promulgated. It is fair and reasonable legislation that needs to be enacted into law.

RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURAL
VEGAS GRAND PRIX RACE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Inaugural Vegas Grand Prix Race that will take place April 6-8, 2007, in Las Vegas, and as such is scheduled to be the first of the 2007 Champ Car World Series. The inaugural Champ Car race in downtown Las Vegas marks the rebirth of world-class open-course auto racing within the city, in the great tradition of the legendary Mint 400 and the Caesars Palace Grand Prix.

The internationally televised Vegas Grand Prix will cap an action-packed, three-day festival of concerts and public events and a free street party downtown at Fremont Street. It is expected to be one of the largest events in the history of downtown Las Vegas and will be held on a 2.44-mile temporary street circuit through the heart of "Glitter Gulch" in downtown. The course includes 12 turns winding through Main Street, Carson Avenue, Casino Center Boulevard, Ogden Avenue and Grand Central Parkway.

Besides attracting racing fans and visitors from around the world to Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Grand Prix joins the distinguished list of 2007 Champ Car World Series events currently scheduled throughout North America including: Long Beach, California, Portland, Oregon, Cleveland, Ohio, San Jose, California, Denver, Colorado, Houston, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, Mexico City, Mexico, and the Canadian cities of Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal. A race will even take place on the Gold Coast of Australia.

Madam Speaker, may my colleagues join me in recognizing this momentous occasion for Las Vegas, my constituents and race fans around the world.