

Madam Speaker, I commend Vivian Berryhill for her tireless dedication to numerous noble causes. After receiving a Jefferson Award and its accompanying \$500 gift, Mrs. Berryhill and her husband, Pastor Chester Berryhill, journeyed from Olive Branch, MS to Washington, DC and headed directly to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to distribute 500 copies of Mrs. Berryhill's original song, "Tomorrow E'vrything Will B Alright." After hearing of the conditions at Walter Reed, Mrs. Berryhill was inspired to share her music and its soul-healing effects, and immediately created 500 new copies of her song and placed them onto CDs to share with our wounded soldiers.

Upon being greeted with an overwhelming show of support and the warmest of receptions, Mrs. Berryhill and the pastors' spouses will be reproducing additional copies of this song and will return to Walter Reed in 3-4 weeks to distribute them.

Madam Speaker, it is for her noble and unflagging efforts to make this world a better place that I recognize Vivian Berryhill.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1332) to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007. H.R. 1332 is part of an ambitious legislative portfolio that will fulfill the Innovation Agenda. I was proud to help craft the Innovation Agenda, on which our Nation is dependent for its future prosperity.

Small businesses are a big part of the U.S. economy. In fact, small businesses employ more than half of all private sector employees and pay 45 percent of the total U.S. private payroll. New jobs come disproportionately from small businesses, which generated 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in the past 10 years.

Small businesses face big challenges. Too often they must depend on costly lending alternatives, including credit cards. Personal credit cards are the primary funding source for U.S. entrepreneurs. Borrowing fees and high interest rates weigh heavily on small businesses.

As presented in Rising Above the Gathering Storm, our Nation faces unprecedented challenges to its international competitiveness and quality of life. Small businesses are catalysts for technological innovation, and the entrepreneurship of small American startups occasionally has revolutionized our economy and lives. The viability of American small businesses is inextricably linked to the future prosperity of all our citizens.

This Act makes American entrepreneurship more viable. It improves the existing 7(a) (business start-up loan) program and the existing 504 (certified development company economic development loan) program to better serve veterans, rural areas, and areas lacking

sufficient medical expertise. It improves eligibility requirements for designation as a certified development company (CDC), revises procedures around the foreclosure and liquidation of defaulted small business loans, and authorizes loans for projects that reduce energy consumption by at least 10 percent.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution. This can help us gain and retain a lead in economic prosperity and quality of life.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Small Business Lending Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 1332).

The U.S. maintains its position as a world leader in technological innovation and economic prosperity largely because of the talent of its citizens, its strong educational system and the entrepreneurial spirit of its small business owners. From developing innovative solutions to our most pressing problems, to successfully introducing these solutions into local and world markets, American small business is crucial to our strength as a country.

Small businesses, however, face difficult challenges. In particular, many small businesses lack capital, making it difficult to access the financing and loans they need to succeed. With fewer assets to pledge as collateral and less reliable earnings than larger businesses, small businesses have difficulty tapping into traditional business loans.

The Small Business Lending Improvement Act of 2007 is designed to provide well-qualified small businesses with greater access to capital so they can turn their ideas into profit. H.R. 1332 will allow small business to more easily acquire 7(a) loans, which will provide much-needed capital to small business entrepreneurs. H.R. 1332 directs the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to execute rural lending outreach programs, which will aid small businesses with expenses ranging from start-up costs to equipment repairs and employee compensation. It also provides incentives to small businesses to operate in an environmentally friendly fashion.

If the U.S. is to maintain its position as a world leader in technological innovation and economic prosperity, we must do more to ensure that small businesses have the tools they need to succeed. For small businesses, access to capital is the key. It is for this reason, I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in support of H.R. 1332.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CAR- RIERS FOOD DRIVE

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication and service of the

National Association of Letter Carriers. For the last 15 years the NALC has annually conducted what has become the largest food drive in the nation. This food drive is unique because it allows anyone with a mailbox the opportunity to take part. By participating in this food drive we are all building stronger neighborhoods and strengthening our local communities. Because of this event we are given the opportunity to support those in our communities who, far too often, go without.

For the past three years the sheer quantity of food collected has been staggering. Last year 70.5 million pounds of food were distributed in communities throughout this country. That was the third straight year where the amount of food distributed has exceeded 70 million pounds. Over the past 15 years the grand total of food collected is more than three quarters of a billion pounds of food. These totals have helped make the NALC National Food Drive the largest single day food drive in the nation.

This year NALC president William H. Young has challenged all of the local branches throughout the country to increase their food totals by 10 percent. This challenge has inspired one of the largest publicity campaigns in NALC Food Drive history as well as encouraged good natured competition between regional branches. I know that the Letter Carriers of 10th Congressional District of California will make us proud.

The NALC National Food Drive is distinctive in how the food is distributed. It strengthens community ties because all of the food collected by local carriers goes back into those neighborhoods. 10,000 communities across the country will be part of this amazing event. Because every pound of food goes to local food banks, the NALC National Food Drive gives everyone the opportunity to support their community. A simple donation of non-perishable food placed in the mailbox with the outgoing mail will help change the lives of those who live and work in the area. Thanks to the NALC and due to this creative and effective strategy, getting involved has never been easier.

Again, I want to congratulate the NALC for conducting such a remarkable event and I am proud to say that I will be leaving food in my mailbox on May 12th.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNUAL MAIMONIDES HEBREW DAY SCHOOL'S SHINING EXAMPLES TRIBUTE DINNER

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, the 27th Annual Maimonides Scholarship Shining Examples Tribute Dinner will be held this evening in Albany, New York. The Maimonides Hebrew Day School of the Capital District in Albany, New York has been providing quality Jewish and General Education in the Capital Region, Albany, NY since 1980. It is a beneficiary of the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York and has partnered with numerous area organizations and institutions over the years. Its motto is "A Beautiful Blend—Torah and Worldly Experience" following its namesake, Moses

Maimonides (the Rambam), the great scholar, codifier, physician and philosopher.

The Maimonides School will present Abraham "Avi" Losice the Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award. The Berger Award is presented annually to an outstanding individual who combines Torah with worldly excellence.

In addition, the Maimonides School will present Zahir awards to the following persons: Dr. Joe Adler, Lori Calka, Phil Chandler, Salia Galitz, Judy Kaskel, Rivka Kochman, Dr. Michael Lozman, Thomas Nathan, Raizel Neiman, Barbara Scher, Tanya Schwartz, Rita Shachne, Chana Sidi, Jack Sissman, and Rachel Weitz.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, an occasion to celebrate unique and beautiful cultures that enhance all of our lives, but also to highlight how Americans of all different backgrounds are inextricably linked in our effort to build a better future for our country and a better life for our children.

Finding unity in diversity is at the very core of what makes us Americans.

I have the good fortune of representing a very diverse region in the Bay Area—the Peninsula and part of San Francisco. With well over 100,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and generations of their descendants, we have all seen first-hand the stunning contributions of these Americans to our community, and we owe them our thanks. In fields as varied as the arts, health care, business and military service, Asian Pacific Americans are central to our quality of life.

I have personally had the honor of participating in a wide variety of cultural celebrations, such as the Chinese Lunar New Year ceremony in San Francisco this year, and a Japanese tea ceremony that I am hosting for my colleagues in Washington next week. Events like these not only help preserve Asian and Pacific Island heritage, but enrich our entire community and remind us all that there is more to our world than what lies between our shores.

As we begin the celebration of this Heritage Month, it is important to take note of this year's theme: "Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007." We do face serious and urgent challenges, including the need to secure the benefits that our Filipino-American veterans so richly deserve.

I myself am an American by choice, and I understand what it means to come to this country with nothing more than an unwavering commitment to give your children the broadest possible set of opportunities. Immigration has played a vital role in the success of this nation. Yet sadly, as many as 1.5 million Asians are currently caught in an immigration backlog for family visas, and continue to spend holidays and special occasions far away from their loved ones. The Democratic-led Congress is leading the way toward comprehensive reform that not only addresses our nation's real security needs but protects and unites families.

Once Asian and Pacific Islander Americans arrive in this country, it is our vital responsibility to protect and defend them, along with all victims of malicious, hate-motivated crime. In 2005, at least 199 people were victims of anti-Asian violence—each act a crime not only against the individual but against our country as a whole. Democrats in the House will act on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act to give the Justice Department authority to prosecute hate crimes in which the victim was selected because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Democrats in Congress are taking seriously their responsibility to stand up for Asian Pacific American families. We are hard at work on issues that affect Asian and Pacific Islander families and all American families—critical issues such as education, health care, proper training and equipment for our troops and quality care for our veterans. We are committed to ensuring that these issues remain top priorities in the coming months.

Asian Pacific Americans in our community have proved to all of us that the American dream is vibrant, and that its great promise is kept alive when we join together to celebrate our diverse heritage. Americans' ability to not only tolerate our neighbor's different cultural background, but to embrace it, as we do this month, is at the heart of what makes the United States truly the greatest nation in the world.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DANIEL MACLEOD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the exemplary career of a constituent and fellow Coastie.

After 26 years of service, Captain Daniel MacLeod, originally of Hanover, Massachusetts, will be retiring from the United States Coast Guard on June 29, 2007. Captain MacLeod's extended résumé boasts an impressive list of accomplishments.

After Graduating the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1981, Captain MacLeod served as First Lieutenant aboard USCGC VALIANT and then as a Navy Exchange Officer aboard USS GRIDLEY. Captain MacLeod then served as executive officer of TACLET Miami conducting counter-drug operations. While serving as Operations Officer for USCGC RUSH (WHEC-723), Captain MacLeod received TAD orders to the Persian Gulf with the first group of Coast Guardsmen to participate in Operation Desert Shield. After a tour at Coast Guard Headquarters as part of the Deepwater Mission Analysis Staff, Captain MacLeod spent two years as Executive Officer of CGC TAMPA (WMEC-902). Then, in January of 2000 Captain MacLeod was assigned as Commanding Officer of USCGC FORWARD (WMEC-911). Both the TAMPA and FORWARD completed numerous counter-drug, homeland security, alien migration interdiction operation patrols.

In June 2002, Captain MacLeod was assigned as Chief of the Marine Protected Spe-

cies Division. While assigned, Captain MacLeod headed up the Maritime Homeland Security and General Law Enforcement Division. On October 1, 2007, Captain MacLeod will be retiring from the United States Coast Guard as Chief of the Deepwater Human Systems Integration Office.

As a former Coast Guard Reservist and co-chair of the Coast Guard Caucus, it is an honor to recognize Captain MacLeod's many years of admirable service. I wish him all the best in his retirement and know that his courage and leadership will be missed.

HONORING CORPORAL NICK S. POLIZZOTTO OF THE SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal Nick S. Polizzotto, a nine year veteran of the South Bend Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty. For the people of South Bend, Indiana, Corporal Polizzotto was, indeed, a hero.

On April 24, 2007, a report of gunshots brought Corporal Polizzotto and his partner, Patrolman Michael Norby, to a local motel. There, at 1:37 a.m., an armed suspect shot both policemen, killing Corporal Polizzotto. Patrolman Norby credits Corporal Polizzotto with saving his life.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, a generous friend, a devoted father and a dedicated protector. Often described as having a heart of gold, he proudly wore his uniform and bravely patrolled the streets of our city until making the ultimate sacrifice.

Born and raised in South Bend, Nick always wanted to be a police officer and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Criminal Justice. During his many years as a Southeast South Bend beat officer, he received 18 commendations and was Officer of the Month in 2006.

Corporal Polizzotto leaves behind his parents, his son, Joseph, a brother and sister and countless relatives and friends who loved him. South Bend has lost a brave guardian.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for our hero, Corporal Nick Polizzotto. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

IN CELEBRATION OF FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor California's Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County leading the way as the most productive agricultural county in California. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 350 different crops, valued at nearly \$5 billion annually to the California economy. These crops, many of which