I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Honey Kessler Amado and Judith Podolsky for their tireless dedication to the Los Angeles Jewish community and in congratulating them on being named Women of Valor by the West Coast Region of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL W. NAHOLOWAA ON BEING NAMED THE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. Michael W. Naholowaa, vice president of the Bank of Guam and manager of the Bank's Upper Tumon Loan Center on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration 2007 Financial Services Champion for Guam. Mr. Naholowaa is responsible for all loan activities, including the underwriting and marketing of new and prospective businesses in Tumon/Tamuning, the heart of Guam's commercial district. He is also responsible for loan administration for the bank branches in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI, and the Micronesian region.

Mr. Naholowaa is known for his concern for his customers and for making an extra effort to advise and assist those would-be entrepreneurs who wish to start a business. Mr. Naholowaa is a true mentor for Guam's youth, and his dedication is evident in his community service. As a former Junior Achievement advisor, he remains actively involved in the Guam Junior Achievement program, helping young people hone their entrepreneurial skills and providing them the tools necessary to succeed in the future.

Mr. Naholowaa earned an associate's degree in Computer Science and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Guam in 1975 and 1978, respectively. He continued his education in banking as he rose through the ranks in the Bank of Guam, graduating from the Pacific Coast Banking School of the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1988, and completing numerous Institute of Banking courses and workshops as well as Small Business Administration, RDA, and other govemment-sponsored courses and workshops.

Mr. Naholowaa is a past chairman of the CNMI Banking Association, a past vice chairman of the Guam Institute of Banking; past president and vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Saipan Junior Achievement Program. He also served in various leadership positions for the Commonwealth Development Loan Fund, the Saipan Rotary Club, the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, Bank of Guam Employee Club, Guam Lion's Club, and University of Guam Student Organization. Mr. Naholowaa currently is a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Services Committee and the Guam Junior Achievement program, and is vice president of the Alupang Cove Homeowners Association and the San Vitores Court Homeowners Association. He is also the current chairman of UOG's School of Business and Public Administration Advisory Council.

Mr. Naholowaa now joins other Financial Services Champions for consideration as the Small Business Administration's National Champion award. I wish Mike and his wife, Leah Beth, the best and thank them both for their service to the people of Guam.

EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practice during organizing efforts, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act of 2007.

This bill should be recognized for what it is: a major advance for human rights, the right ff of a worker to associate freely and to bargain collectively. The freedom to form a union is a human right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the internationally recognized standard of the most basic and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. Article 23 of this document states: ''Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.''

This Act restores and gives substance to the right to join a union. This right is a fundamental element of a healthy and vibrant economy. Further, reinforcing this right makes this prosperity accessible to working families and their communities.

Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than nonunion workers. They are 62 percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and four times more likely to have pensions. A December 2006 research study conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that 60 million U.S. workers say they would join a union if they could. Workers know that a union job means respect on the job, and a better life for their families.

Fair wages. Good benefits. Secure retirement. These are core elements necessary to build the American Dream, and this legislation is a vital step toward renewing that promise to the workers of this Nation—the men and women on the ground, in whose labor and industry we rely to make this dream a reality.

The Employee Free Choice Act preserves the option for workers to choose to vote by secret ballot, and adds the option of choosing majority sign-up as their method of gaining recognition. This bill removes the de facto veto power employers currently exercise over the option of majority sign-up. The rights and prerogatives of workers will increase.

The right to form a union in America was born in struggle, and has been under attack ever since. This bill ensures participatory democracy in the workplace and returns workers their rights. The power to organize is the most powerful tool available to workers. It empowers workers to have their voice heard.

The working families of this Nation deserve recognition for the fruits of their labor. Through this legislation, today we empower American workers to raise their voice, to reclaim their rights, and introduce a vital measure of democracy to the American workplace.

RECOGNIZING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps. For more than 4 decades, services donated by Peace Corps volunteers have played an integral role in developing countries, while fostering friendships and improving U.S. relations with their host countries. The Peace Corps' goals ultimately include promoting democratic values, peace and prosperity. More than 187,000 Americans have served worldwide in 139 countries, promoting an ethic of international stewardship and peace.

The Peace Corps was created by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961, as an international volunteer organization dedicated to serving the United States and promoting peace around the world. During that time in history, the United States was deep into the Cold War, and President Kennedy saw the need for an organization to serve as a nonmilitary response to the perceived threat of communism. President Kennedy invoked the spirit of American service in his 1960 inaugural address where he famously encouraged Americans to ''ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.'' The program has since provided volunteers who train workers in the areas of education, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, small business development, agriculture, health care and public works.

While the world has changed dramatically since the 1960s, the challenges to peace and cooperation remain. I wholeheartedly support the current mission of the Peace Corps and its role in promoting cross-cultural relationships with our global neighbors. It is a tremendous educational tool and an opportunity for professional and personal development. Americans take as much away from their experiences as do the people in other nations whose lives they touch. It is my hope that the Peace Corps remains steadfast in its mission to foster peace and knowledge around the world and preserve the vision of President Kennedy.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to acknowledge the importance of the Peace Corps organization and the commitment made by these volunteers. The Peace Corps volunteers' selfless dedication to this nation and the international community is an example to us all.