

TRIBUTE TO MARY GLESE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Mary Glese, principal at Hogan Elementary School in Marshalltown, Iowa, on the occasion of her retirement. I also wish to express my appreciation for Mary's dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the past 39 years, Mrs. Glese has contributed her time and talents to improving youths' lives through education and mentoring. She grew up in Ames and graduated from Iowa State University before obtaining her master's degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder. During her career, Mrs. Glese also worked at schools in Minnesota and Mason City as well as a consultant for the Area Education Agency.

Mrs. Glese has truly made a lasting impact on students, family and faculty throughout her illustrious career, and her leadership at Hogan Elementary will certainly be missed by everyone. I consider it an honor to represent Mrs. Mary Glese in the United States Congress, and I wish her and her husband David a happy and healthy retirement.

MR. JAMES STRAYER**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. James A. Strayer on his retirement from his position as the Business Manager for the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council. Jim, a member of Ironworkers #395 for many years, has dedicated his life to the interests of his fellow tradesman and the entire community in Northwest Indiana. For his lifetime of service to the Ironworkers and the Building Trades Council, Jim will be honored at a retirement dinner taking place at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana, on August 1, 2008.

Jim Strayer has been a member of the Ironworkers #395 for the past 39 years. During that time, he has held numerous positions. After six years as an Ironworker, Jim became an Apprentice Instructor, a position that allowed him the opportunity to pass on his immense knowledge to some of his younger counterparts. For five years, he fulfilled his duties in this capacity with the determination and enthusiasm that would foreshadow what was to come in Jim's career. As his commitment to leading his union remained, Jim would later be named Business Agent for Ironworkers #395. From there, Jim went on to become the President of the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council in 1990. After six successful years in this capacity, Jim was named Business Manager for the Building Trades, the position he has excelled at for the past twelve years.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. For many years, Jim Strayer has displayed this unwavering dedication to the

members of the Building Trades, and his numerous positions have allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of countless individuals. Not only has Jim served his local tradesman, but through his work with the Building Trades, he has been a remarkable example of just how much good an organization can do for a community. When it comes to serving those in need throughout the community, the Building Trades has long been one of Northwest Indiana's most generous organizations, as well as one of its greatest assets.

Although Jim has served the Building Trades and his community with complete dedication, it is his commitment to his family that is most impressive. Jim and his devoted wife, Pat, have two sons, Doug and Andy, and one daughter, Rebecca.

Madam Speaker, James Strayer has given his time and efforts selflessly to the tradesmen he has worked with and represented, as well as to the people of Northwest Indiana through the many charitable efforts of the Building Trades Council. He has been a true role model to his peers and a true friend to Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Jim for his outstanding contributions and in wishing him well upon his retirement.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ALVIN AILEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alvin Ailey, a pioneer in the art of modern dance whose work is renowned throughout the world and beloved in his hometown of Harlem. This year, the Dance Theater celebrates 50 years of enriching the lives of audiences throughout the world. The group has since won critical acclaim and has been called an ambassador of American culture.

Today, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed in 48 states and 71 countries for an estimated 21 million people. By integrating African-American tradition with classic modern dance, Ailey's Dance Theater has created a unique experience that speaks to audiences all over the world.

The innovation and freshness that Alvin Ailey brought to the world of modern dance has forever elevated the standard for performance art and has effectively engaged people of all backgrounds and world views with the Theatre's legendary "Revelations." After 50 years, it is true now more than ever that to watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is to watch art come alive.

TRIBUTE TO PETER FAUST

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Peter Faust for his longtime dedication to helping persons with disabilities, being an inspiration in his commu-

nity of Clear Lake, Iowa and earning the American Network of Community Options and Resources' (ANCOR's) Direct Support Professional (DSP) of Iowa Award.

Pete has been working at Opportunity Village for 31 years and is the only employee to work with the agency for more than 20 years. In 1994, Pete earned the Shirley Echelbarger Award, which is the highest honor an employee at Opportunity Village can receive. Although Pete must work extra hours just to pay his bills, he continues to work at Opportunity Village because he understands that consistency and familiarity are what his clients need.

Pete's sacrifices and dedication to his clients go above and beyond what we are asked as citizens of this country. His willingness to give a part of himself for the betterment of others illustrates the compassion of Iowans, and for this I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks. I consider it an honor to represent Peter Faust in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best in his future work serving others.

DTV TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for the passage of S. 2607, the DTV Transition Assistance Act, which will aid rural communities by ensuring that low power translators get the funding needed for digital equipment upgrades. This bipartisan legislation is critical to rural Americans that rely on over the air broadcast television as their main conduit to entertainment, news and even lifesaving information in emergency situations. That is why I joined with Representatives Walden and Boucher, the Co-Chairs of the DTV Caucus, in introducing similar legislation.

Under current law, \$65 million has been set aside for the upgrade of low powered translators for the DTV transition. In Oregon alone there are over 400 stations that broadcast over these low powered translators. While this money has been set aside to assist in upgrading these translators, the wording of the statute did not allow the money to be spent until September of 2010, almost 2 years after the transition. This bill would make these funds available on the day of the transition in February of 2009. It would also give the NTIA the authority to use leftover funds from section 3008 of the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 for grants, contracts, and assistance programs to assist seniors, rural residents, and minorities.

The Digital Television transition is the most sweeping and fundamental change to the television landscape since the advent of color. The advent of color television however, did not require millions of Americans to buy a new television or converter box or risk losing their picture. That fact alone makes the transition to digital television in February of 2009 a tectonic shift in broadcast television.

While this bill is an important fix, many problems still remain. The auctioning off of the newly available spectrum being vacated due to the digital transition has made the government over \$19 billion. Despite this massive

collection of funds, the government has only allocated \$5 million to educate the public about the transition, which is less than 0.03 percent of the \$19 billion in revenue from the auction. The results have been as obvious as they have been preventable. A December 2007 survey by Consumer Reports found that 36 percent of respondents were completely unaware of the transition. How can we tell our constituents that we did everything we could when we spent next to nothing on educating them about the transition?

Instead the Bush Administration has privatized the outreach aspect of the transition, relying on private industry to inform viewers. The results have led to a jumble of different messages from different industries, all looking to benefit from the transition. There are examples of public service announcements supposedly made to inform consumers about the transition instead being thinly veiled advertisements for their own products.

The problems do not stop there. With only a 90 day window to buy convertor boxes before their coupons expire, many rural customers are finding that many stores either do not carry any convertor boxes or they are not carrying a pass through capable convertor box that the customer will need in order to get all of their channels. These customers should not be penalized because of where they live.

Madam Speaker, this bill is an important step but it is only a step. We must do more to ensure that when Americans wake up on February 17th 2009, they are not left in the dark.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3999) to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve the safety of Federal-aid highway bridges, to strengthen bridge inspection standards and processes, to increase investment in the reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges on the National Highway System, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3999, the National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act.

In February, I joined experts from the Delaware Department of Transportation for a tour of some of the most heavily traveled roads and bridges in Delaware. I have often heard Delaware referred to as "The East Coast's Main Street"—and it is true. In fact, during our tour, we visited construction sites where men and women were working diligently on important highway, infrastructure, and bridge projects that are utilized by an estimated 230,000 vehicles every day.

Over the next 50 years, the United States is projected to add 150 million new residents, representing a 50 percent increase over our present population. This population surge will put a greater strain on our transportation system—particularly at key chokepoints in dense areas like the northeast corridor. And last Au-

gust, the tragic Minneapolis bridge collapse, which killed 13 and injured 145, underscored the serious safety implications of this dramatic increase in highway users when combined with severely aging infrastructure.

Clearly, this situation will continue to deteriorate unless we act soon. For this reason, I support passage of H.R. 3999 and I believe it is vital that we identify and prioritize funding to repair structurally deficient bridges to ensure the safety of all travelers. I also feel strongly that the Federal Government must allow States the appropriate flexibility to allocate these resources as efficiently as possible. I am hopeful that we will make progress in improving these provisions and reducing burdensome spending requirements when this legislation goes to conference with the U.S. Senate.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Act of 2008. I salute Chairman FRANK, Chairman RANGEL and Senator DODD for their leadership and their efforts to pass this crucial legislation at a time when American families desperately need our help.

Families across the country are hurting. They're being squeezed by the price of oil, rising food costs, higher education costs and now the struggle to hold onto their homes. For most Americans their main asset is their home. That's why it is critical to end the foreclosure crisis which is fundamental to the recovery of our economy.

My home State of California has been affected as badly as any State in our country. Foreclosures in the Bay area are at a 20-year high, and in Santa Clara County foreclosures are up 512 percent from a year ago. These troubling figures must change and that's why I support this legislation.

H.R. 3221 aims to bolster American homeownership by helping families across the country facing foreclosure keep their homes. It also takes steps to ensure that homeowners do not face foreclosures in the future. Affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families and seniors are expanded through the modernization of the Federal Housing Administration, with FHA loan limits raised to create affordable mortgage loans for moderately priced homes. A permanent Affordable Housing Trust Fund is also created in this bill which will fund building projects throughout the Nation to increase the stock of affordable housing in both urban and rural areas. Tax credits for first time homebuyers and low income homeowners are also included in this legislation and all of these items are accomplished without creating any new burdens to the taxpayer.

The bill provides a new and substantially strengthened regulator to oversee Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. It gives stand-in authority to the Treasury Department in case the Government Sponsored Entities, such as Fannie Mae, re-

quire temporary federal financial intervention without placing any new risk on the American taxpayer. This is not a bailout. Taxpayers will be the first in line to be paid back before any shareholders are. Restrictions have been placed on the stock gains for shareholders and on compensation for the executives of the Government Sponsored Entities until taxpayers are fully reimbursed.

I'm proud to support this bill and I urge a "yes" vote on the underlying legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREVENTION OF EQUINE CRUELTY ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008," along with Representatives BURTON, RAHALL, WALTER JONES, MORAN, CHABOT, GRIJALVA, BOBBY SCOTT, CHRISTOPHER SMITH, SCHAKOWSKY, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, NADLER and SUTTON. This bill criminalizes the possession, sale and transport of horses in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of slaughter for human consumption. I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

Horses have played an important role in the development of our country. They still fill the role of workhorses, racehorses, rodeo horses and pets. Unlike cattle and other livestock, horses in this country have never been raised as a human food source.

The United States does not have a single plant where horses are slaughtered for human consumption, but such slaughterhouses operate across our borders in Mexico and Canada. Horses are bought at auctions within the United States and then transported to these foreign slaughterhouses for hours in packed and hot trailers without water, food or rest. The slaughter process that awaits these horses in many of the foreign plants is cruel and barbaric, and exists beyond the reach of United States law.

The only way to prevent horses from suffering this fate is to stop the sale and transport of horses to these foreign slaughterhouses before they leave the United States. This bill will do that.

Again, I thank the bipartisan coalition of Representatives who have joined me in introducing this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to thank the men and women of the Bureau for their dedicated service to the American people. Over the last century, the FBI has been