

our children from using these products. Approximately 90 percent of all adult smokers began their habit while in their teens, or earlier, and two-thirds become regular, daily smokers before they reach the age of 19. According to the American Medical Association, each day, about 4,000 children try smoking a cigarette for the first time and another 1,000 become new, regular, daily smokers. This means that one-third of these children will die prematurely.

Despite their claims to the contrary, the tobacco companies continue to market their products aggressively toward children. This bill will give FDA the authority to impose marketing restrictions, labeling requirements, as well as to ban candy flavored tobacco products in order to prevent tobacco companies from addicting children to tobacco.

I am also pleased that the bill before us includes language that maintains the same role of the Appropriations Committee with regard to the fees in this bill that the Committee has with regard to other FDA user fees.

This bill has strong bipartisan support, and is endorsed by key groups including the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6073, "To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically." First, I would like to thank my colleague, VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina, for introducing this important legislation. This bill will allow all Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer to receive their pay stubs electronically. This will bring much needed reform to a system that has become less transparent due to the advent of electronic, online banking. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

H.R. 6073 is important because of the need to create a streamlined, direct pay system that is at the same time transparent with clear authentication, allowing the over 1 million Federal employees to be able to back up their electronic funds with electronic pay stubs. These pay stubs will provide a necessary, substantive back-up to ensure that the many employees using electronic funds transfer have the same access to a transparent financial record.

H.R. 6073, "To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically," is a fair, equitable step that will bring the Federal Government toward a clearer, more direct standard for all Federal employees using electronic funds transfer.

Upon enactment of the act, the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, would be re-

quired to provide Federal employees that receive their pay through electronic transfer with the option of also receiving their pay stubs electronically. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementation of this act will have no effect on the budget, and this act does not contain any intergovernmental or private sector mandates, and hence does not apply to local or State governments.

This bill will benefit the many thousands of Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer by giving them the option to receive their pay stubs electronically. This option will provide greater authentication and transparency, without costing taxpayers, and without affecting private businesses, and State and local government.

This bipartisan bill will benefit the many Federal Government employees in Houston, Texas, and the Nation as a whole, while coming at no cost to the taxpayers of Texas' 18th. This simple reform should create an improved electronic pay system, benefiting countless Government employees.

#### IN HONOR OF ADRIAN MALDONADO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Adrian Maldonado on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity in Cuyahoga County. His vision, leadership and commitment to his work has had a profound impact on developing Cuyahoga County and on the Greater Cleveland community.

Adrian Maldonado began his career in public service twenty-seven years ago, when he was hired as a personnel interviewer at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Four years later, in 1985, he began working for the State of Ohio in the Department of Administrative Services as a minority business specialist. For fourteen years, he worked tirelessly with minority business entrepreneurs in my district, helping them secure contracts under Ohio's HB584 Minority Set-Aside program after almost eleven years, he is retiring from his position as the Director of Diversity and Procurement in Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Maldonado's leadership and vision as Director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity for Cuyahoga County changed the county immensely. He and his staff worked diligently to improve the county's purchasing operating system and its purchasing and operating procedures, leading the county to be recognized by Purchasing Magazine as one of country's top Big 20 Purchasers. Under his leadership, the Office of Procurement and Diversity created a small business enterprise program which assists small businesses in procuring county contracts. Since implementing this program, Cuyahoga County has consistently met or exceeded the 30% subcontracting goal for all county contracts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Adrian Maldonado, and in recognition of his leadership, vision and dedication to his work and to the community.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MICHAEL WORLEY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career and accomplishments of Steven Michael Worley of Cabin Creek, West Virginia.

For the more than 33 years, Michael Worley has been a leader of several personal and professional development opportunities across many states, including the great state of West Virginia. A graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, Michael began his career with the Relocations Branch of Engineering Division, where he worked on a variety of major reservoir and local protection projects in relocating public facilities from the construction work areas. Over the next 20 years, Michael's professional career consisted of working with Planning Division and serving as project manager for a variety of inland navigation, riverfront park, and nonstructural flood protection projects. Since 2001, Mike has served as the Chief of Planning Branch.

For all of his service, Michael has received numerous awards. He was selected as Ohio River Division Civilian of the Year in 1993 as well as Corps-wide Civilian of the Year in 1993. He was also honored with the J.W. Morris medallion. Michael received the National Performance Review, awarded to the Section 202 Non-structural Flood Proofing Team, from Vice President Al Gore. In 2004, he was named Special Emphasis Program Supervisor of the Year. These are just a few of the mentionable awards Michael has received for all his leadership and hard work.

He and his wife, Katie, have been married since 1975, and have raised two children, Erin Worley Haughey (married to Andy Haughey) and Ryan Worley. Katie is the Office Manager for Huntington Physical Therapy in Charleston. Erin Worley and her husband are owner/operators of four McDonald's franchises while Ryan Worley is owner of Epicenter Art Studio.

Michael represents the true calling of public service. It is an honor to work with such a distinguished citizen who has contributed so much to our great state. I'm proud to call Michael Worley a friend and a fellow West Virginian. I wish him all best in his retirement.

#### IN HONOR OF MS. MARGI PRUITT CEO OF THE DELMARVA PENIN- SULA CHAPTER OF THE AMER- ICAN RED CROSS

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Margi Pruitt for her dedication and service to the American Red Cross. She will retire from her post as CEO of the Delmarva Peninsula Chapter of the American Red Cross in October after thirty five years of excellent work helping Americans in need.

Margi began working for the Delaware Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1973,

immediately after graduating from college. Following service to the American Red Cross in seven different states, Margi returned to the same branch—now known as the Delmarva Peninsula Chapter—and has remained there for the past twenty years. During this time, she has worked to orchestrate relief efforts for large disasters such as flooding in the Elsmere region of northern Delaware, several winter storms along the east coast, a tornado in Smyrna, Delaware, and most recently, substantial flooding in Kent and Sussex Counties following a series of severe thunderstorms. In addition, she led volunteers in the relief effort for victims of both Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Katrina. Her dedication and compassion have helped the American Red Cross reach countless people affected by natural disasters in the Delmarva region and throughout the United States.

I, along with the rest of the Delaware Congressional delegation, have had the personal privilege of collaborating with Margi on several occasions, and we have witnessed her untiring dedication to strengthening the American Red Cross's presence in our state. Margi has worked to build strong partnerships with emergency management throughout the state of Delaware. Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, she was instrumental in launching a public awareness campaign to help those in the community better understand the assistance that is available to them through the American Red Cross.

I acknowledge and thank Ms. Margi Pruitt for her commitment to the American Red Cross. The entire State of Delaware has benefited from her innumerable contributions to help people manage the most difficult and trying of situations. I am confident that her kind and diligent presence, though it will be missed by her colleagues on the occasion of her retirement from the American Red Cross, will remain an active influence in our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB OWENS

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob Owens of Jefferson, Iowa, on earning the Meritorious Achievement Award of 2008.

Bob Owens is a consul and charter member for the Greene County chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. He is one of the original 43 members who met in 1992 in Ogden, Iowa, to recognize the National Lincoln Highway Association for the first time since 1915. Today, the national organization has over 1,900 members due in no small part to the dedication and commitment Bob has given to the organization.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Owens for his leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in the Lincoln Highway Association. I consider it an honor to represent Bob and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. This measure will improve and reform the Nation's consumer product safety system by restructuring and increasing resources for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which has long been underfunded and stretched too thin.

Unfortunately, this past year we learned the extent to which the CPSC had failed to protect the American consumer by the high volume of recalls, including children's toys and cribs. To help get this agency back on track, H.R. 4040 provides a comprehensive response to the toy safety crisis by creating the toughest lead standard in the world for children's products and helps ensure consumers know when products are recalled. This legislation also strengthens the currently underfunded and understaffed Consumer Product Safety Commission and significantly increases CPSC resources to hire additional staff and for laboratory renovations.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act also creates new authority for the CPSC to immediately share information about dangerous products with the public and ensures State public health agencies are kept informed. Finally, the bill requires manufacturers to place distinguishing marks on products and packaging to aid in recalls of products.

I am confident that this bipartisan bill will take great strides in protecting consumers and children.

#### CONGRATULATING MYRA THOMPSON

#### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to offer congratulations to one of my constituents, Ms. Myra Thompson. Ms. Thompson, an exceptional graduate of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, recently received the prestigious Fulbright Award. This award gives Ms. Thompson the opportunity to travel to Moscow, Russia to continue her talented work in creative writing.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Approximately 1,200 Fulbright fellowships are awarded each year to promising individuals who have proven themselves as leaders in their field in order that they may pursue their academic and cultural endeavors abroad. Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has provided avenues of academic exchange in more than 150 countries worldwide.

I offer my best wishes to Myra Thompson in her endeavors both here and abroad and look forward to seeing great work from her in the future.

#### HONORING THE REDWOOD CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague LYNN WOOLSEY, I rise today to congratulate the more than 10,000 members of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Named after *Sequoia sempervirens*, the Coastal Redwood, whose greatest forests are along the North Coast, the Chapter remains true to the visionary environmental ethic of Sierra Club founder, John Muir, striving daily to preserve and protect our lands, waters and wildlife.

The Redwood Chapter, founded in 1958, is one of the earliest regional entities of the Sierra Club. With six local Groups in nine Northwestern Counties, it is a potent force for the environment.

Over the years, the Redwood Chapter has marshaled grass roots forces to focus on forest preservation, protection of our spectacular coast, free-flowing rivers and verdant watersheds, sustainable growth management, endangered species protection, and the multifaceted challenge of global climate change. The Chapter played a strong supporting role in Sierra Club national initiatives to protect national environmental treasures like the Grand Canyon while safeguarding our water and air, and battling environmental rollbacks.

Within the Chapter's 25,000 square miles, it has been particularly effective, playing major roles in the creation of the Redwood National Park, design and construction of the Coastal Trail, designation of Federal wilderness areas, including the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, Snow Mountain, Yuki Sanhedrin, Cache Creek, King Range and Cedar Roughts Wildernesses; designation of numerous State and Federal designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, including portions of the Smith, Klamath, Gualala, Black Butte and Eel Rivers; preservation of the 7,400 acre Headwaters Forest; implementation of conservation management strategies on public lands; and development of recovery strategies for endangered and threatened species, including the marbled murrelet, the spotted owl and coastal salmon.

In recent years, legislative achievements include the passage of the Cache Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (2005). I am especially grateful for the Redwood Chapter's support for my Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, which was enacted in 2006, and Congresswoman WOOLSEY's Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, which was passed by the House this year.

Members of the Redwood Chapter have also had a profound influence on local politics and policies, through its participation in initiatives to protect open space and agricultural lands, create trails and community separators, protect coastal forests, provide new low carbon transportation alternatives and promotion of smart growth management and climate protection.

The Club also has played a vital educational, service and recreational function.