

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.

Over the past half century thousands of people have participated in the Chapter's "Outings" programs, which includes over 6,000 hikes, nature walks, backpacking journeys, canoe trips within the Chapter and elsewhere in California, as well as hundreds of trail building projects and other service activities.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to imagine what this area would be like without the Redwood Chapter's passionate resolve to protect the land and life that sustains us. What if there was no wilderness retreat in our coastal headlands? What if our cities were merged in endless sprawl? What if our pure rivers and streams were diverted, degraded and disrespected? We can be thankful that is not the case, and largely because the members of the Redwood Chapter have been such effective advocates for the environment.

So today, Congresswoman WOOLSEY and I congratulate the members of Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on their achievements in their first fifty years. And we look forward to the Chapter's continued active participation in public policy debates and to hearing their member's loud, clear, reasoned voice for a healthy, vibrant, natural world.

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

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON, 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.

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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.

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TRIBUTE TO THE BOONE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great achievement by the Boone High School Girls' tennis team in Boone, Iowa. BHS won the 2008 Iowa Class 2-A State High School team championship.

The Toreadors completed a perfect season with a record of 15-0. In addition, senior MaryPat McMullan is the class 2-A Girls State Singles champion, and the Toreador doubles team of Maggi Schutte and Traci Moglestad is the Class 2-A third place doubles finisher. The example set by these young ladies and their coach, Shawn Latimer, demonstrates the

rewards of hard work, dedication and determination. They scored victories on the court and have positively represented their community and school off it as well. Their triumph is an honor that we all can admire and be proud of.

I am honored to represent the members of the BHS varsity girls' tennis team: MaryPat McMullan, Maggi Schutte, Traci Moglestad, Lindsay Greiner, Hannah Worall, Julia Stockhausen, Corinne Frei, Jorden Foster, Leah Redeker, Rachel Hinds, Emily Boehm, Audrey Reinken and their coach, Shawn Latimer in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating the Toreadors on their State championship and wishing all these young ladies continued success in their future endeavors.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly supported H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. Buried in the provisions of this bill, however, in section 3082, on page 680, is an expansion of the Gulf Opportunity Zone to two additional counties in Alabama. One of these counties is nearly 300 miles from the coast. This section doesn't have much to do with housing.

This expansion is designed to provide a subsidy for National Steel Car, a Canadian rail car manufacturer. This subsidy is unnecessary for two reasons. First, the plant is already under construction and will be operational by this time next year. Second, Alabama was under a contractual obligation to provide the subsidy itself if Congress did not.

The United States has a domestic rail car industry, with plants and facilities around the country. In fact, one borders my district, and it recently laid off over 100 employees because of the economic pressures on the industry. That company also has a facility in Alabama, but it won't benefit from this tax provision.

In Congress, we often talk about not picking winners, of letting the market make these decisions rather than the Congress, of leveling playing fields rather than tilting them. But here we picked a winner. We held a secret bidding process and a Canadian company won, despite the fact that they would have made this investment anyway. The longer we pursue this method of doling out tax breaks, the harder real reform will be.

The legislation I introduce today will ensure that these Alabama counties are able to benefit from the expanded GO Zone. The legislation also ensures, however, that taxes paid by the domestic rail car industry do not go to subsidizing their competitors and that we remove this rifleshot from the tax code.