

HONORING MR. JOHN GREGORY
ROVEDA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative PETE STARK, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. John Gregory Roveda of Alameda, California. A lifelong Bay Area resident and significant leader in our community, John passed away in his home on June 4, 2008.

Mr. Roveda was born February 19, 1938 in Richmond, California. He graduated from the esteemed St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley in 1955, and then went on to attend the University of San Francisco (USF). There he became a founding member of the Gamma Omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, International Business Fraternity. John was also involved in the Army ROTC program at USF. In 1961, John graduated with a degree in Business Administration and went on to attend the New York Institute of Finance, where he completed coursework in stock exchange and brokerage office procedure, and worked as a stockbroker.

Upon returning to the Bay Area, John joined his family's business, United Beverage Distributors, Inc., located in Oakland, California. His grandfather, Joseph Roveda, founded the company in 1933, making John the third generation Roveda to become president of the family business.

In 1990 John was admitted to the California State Bar and began to practice law in Alameda. He periodically served as Judge Pro Tempore, and in 1997 was qualified as an attorney and counselor of the United States Supreme Court. In addition, he was a member of the Italian American Bar Association.

Mr. Roveda was extremely dedicated to his community, and to the successful growth of the Greater Bay Area.

He served as president of the Athenian-Nile Club as well as the Alameda Boys and Girls Club. He was a member of the Design Review Board and Planning Board for the city of Alameda and a committee member of the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Roveda's involvement spans a long list of other organizations including the One-Hundred Club, Alameda Elks Lodge, the Rotary Club of Alameda, the Porsche Club of America, UNICO, and the Oakland Council of the Navy League.

A true Bay Area resident, Mr. Roveda had a lifelong love of the ocean and sailed in the Trans Pacific Yacht Race in 1975. He served as commodore of the Golden Gate Yacht Club and was a member of the Encinal Yacht Club. Mr. Roveda also participated in the Newport-to-Ensenada Yacht Race annually.

An energetic attorney, businessman, and family man, Mr. Roveda had an inexhaustible spirit and was widely known for his humor and joy for life in our community. Mr. Roveda will be sorely missed. However, we are thankful for the opportunities he gave us to come together and celebrate the hope and love in our lives.

John was a dedicated father, husband, and friend to many. Today, California's 9th and 13th Congressional Districts salute and honor Mr. John Gregory Roveda. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, especially

his wife of 28 years, Judith, his four children, Christine, Michelle, Jay, and John, his sons-in-law Matthew and Andrew, his nephew Stephen, and his granddaughters Hayley and Evelyn. His legacy will surely carry on through the lives of his loving family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO MORNING STAR
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church on celebrating 50 years in Tucson, AZ.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church was founded and organized by the Reverend Charlie Hunter, August 1958 in Tucson, Arizona, who served in this capacity until the 70s.

Morning Star became a steadfast church in the midst of Tucson's Southside. Members of the Hunter Family and others stood with Reverend Hunter including, Everline Hunter, Leroy Hunter, Sr., Beulah Hunter, Charles W. Hunter, Lorece Hunter, L.B. Hunter, George Hunter, Rosie Hunter, Sister Brown, Linnie Burns, Reverend and Sister Barnes, Orvie Thomas and Florence Hill in establishing the church's foundation.

In 1978, the church expanded its responsibility and established a Head Start center, helping to provide a strong foundation for the children in the community.

Over the last 50 years, Morning Star has worked to help those in need of counseling, resources, support, or the needs of the families of the community.

Morning Star has strived to be more than just a church, it has worked hard to make itself a community and home; a place where people can find help, love, and family in a time of need.

I commend the congregation and leadership at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for their work to ensure the successes over the last 50 years.

Morning Star is a testament to the very best in all of us.

THE MINNEAPOLIS INTERSTATE
35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, last August 1, 2007, at 6:05 p.m., the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River killing 13 people and injuring nearly 100 people. The 13 victims were mothers, fathers, children, workers, good people, each and all.

I ask my fellow colleagues to recognize a brief moment of silence to honor the victims and families of the tragic bridge collapse.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the conference report agreed to by House and Senate negotiators on H.R. 4040, "The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008." The final version of this Act will institute long-needed reforms to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, require toys and infant products to be tested before they are sold, ban lead and 6 toxins categorized as "phthalates" in children's toys, and provide other critical safety improvements.

This bipartisan and bicameral compromise dramatically improves the House version of the bill and adopts the vast majority of the provisions found in the much stronger Senate bill. Such robust provisions are a prudent response to the regulatory embarrassment our nation suffered in 2007, when almost 30 million toys and 15 million child products were recalled because of safety concerns. By acting today, we will ensure that our nation's mothers and fathers will never have to suffer through another year filled with such terror and uncertainty.

I have long been a supporter of strengthening the Consumer Product Safety Commission, so that it can finally serve as the first line of citizen product safety defense. Over the past three months, I have joined with a coalition of my fellow Members on two separate occasions to advocate for the strong consumer protection provisions included in this legislation.

After today, the Consumer Product Safety Commission will cease to exist as a ghost regulator; starved of the resources, authority, and transparency that an effective regulator needs. With this bill, this long-running frustration of Congressional intent will finally end.

A vote for this conference report is a vote for industry accountability, regulatory integrity, and most importantly, child safety. I encourage my colleagues to support this conference report.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAUK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S STEWARDSHIP OF THE MAN MOUND

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sauk County Historical Society for 100 years of stewardship of the Man Mound. Built to resemble a human figure and measuring over 200 feet in length, the Man Mound is now believed to be our Nation's only remaining Native American effigy mound in the shape of a human. The Sauk County Historical Society has fought for over a century to protect the Man Mound, and the remarkable survival of this relic can be largely attributed to those efforts. The historical society's work on

behalf of the Man Mound serves as an ideal example of its dedication to local communities and to the enrichment of society through historical preservation.

The society's fight to preserve the Man Mound began in 1907, only a few years after H.E. Cole founded the organization. While surveying the Man Mound, Cole discovered that the structure would soon be completely demolished and then plowed as farmland, like almost 900 other Native American mounds in the area. Cole and the historical society took immediate action to save the Man Mound by leading a collaborative, community-oriented effort. The Sauk County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Archaeological Society and the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, raised enough money to purchase the Man Mound and protect it from cultivation and further destruction. The surrounding park was then dedicated in August of 1908.

The Sauk County Historical Society's commitment to the stewardship of this landmark demonstrates an impressive appreciation of the past and of history's value to modern society. The historical society truly recognizes the importance of using resources like the Man Mound to spread knowledge and educate our society. By preserving the Man Mound, the Sauk County Historical Society allows us to connect with the past and provides us with a tangible link to the Native Americans who preceded us as stewards of this land.

Even as we take this opportunity to look back in appreciation, the historical society is planning ahead for the future of the Man Mound and Man Mound Park. With support from the Wisconsin Archeological Society, the Wisconsin Archeological Survey, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs—Wisconsin, the Sauk County Historical Society is initiating a comprehensive study of the structure and working to ensure the future of this invaluable artifact.

For their commitment to the people of Wisconsin and to the enrichment of their community through historical conservation and preservation, I congratulate the Sauk County Historical Society. The 100th anniversary of the society's stewardship of the Man Mound marks a truly remarkable, well-deserved milestone.

THANKING BRADLEY DALE
MATTAN

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 gratitude to one of my constituents, Mr. Bradley Dale Mattan of Geneseo, Illinois. I am very pleased that Mr. Mattan has decided to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador.

The Peace Corps was designed to encourage mutual understanding between Americans and other cultures of the world. For the past 47 years over 190,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in 139 countries.

In his statement upon signing the Order that established the Peace Corps, President John F. Kennedy said, "Our Peace Corps is not de-

signed as an instrument of diplomacy or propaganda or ideological conflict. It is designed to permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development." I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Mattan for his dedication to this responsibility, and for helping to restore America's image in other parts of the world. Our country has truly been enriched by the experiences of the Peace Corps volunteers.

I offer my best wishes to Bradley Dale Mattan in his endeavors both here and abroad and look forward to seeing great work from him in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAKING RESPONSIBLE ACTION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I join the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. BEAN, and 19 of our colleagues in introducing the Taking Responsible Action for Community Safety Act.

The bill will ensure that the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") has the legal authority and policy direction to deal with railroad mergers that have the potential to cause serious safety, environmental, and other quality of life problems for affected communities.

A recently filed merger application has called attention to the need for enhancing the authority of the STB.

The application was filed by the Canadian National Railway ("CN"), seeking the Board's approval to acquire control of the 198-mile Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern ("EJ&E") rail line.

Communities affected by the merger have alleged serious impacts from the new operations which are planned for the merged carrier. This acquisition could adversely impact more than 40 communities along the EJ&E line, and result in rail traffic increases of 15 to 24 trains per day. For example, in Barrington, Illinois, the number of freight trains will increase from 5 to 20. In Plainfield, Illinois, the CN train total will reach 42 per day.

The communities impacted by the proposed acquisition have raised significant concerns related to public safety, grade crossing safety, hazardous materials transportation safety, noise, and economic job loss. For example, the EJ&F line includes 133 grade level crossings that intersect with existing roadways. Increased traffic on the line may not only adversely impact motorist safety but emergency response time and vehicle access, a growing concern for many communities across the nation.

Under current law, the STB has very limited power to consider these concerns. The STB is now required to approve all mergers and consolidations between a Class I railroad (such as CN) and a Class II railroad (such as EJ&E) unless the Board finds that the merge is likely to cause a substantial lessening of competition, create a monopoly, or restrain trade in freight surface transportation in any region of the United States; and that the anticompetitive effects of the transaction outweigh the public interest in meeting significant transportation needs.

The STB does have authority to impose conditions to address community concerns on any approval of a merger between a Class I railroad and Class II railroad. However, the STB has decided to significantly limit the types of conditions it will impose. Under its regulations, the STB will not impose conditions that may "undermine or defeat" a transaction, even if those conditions are critical to ensuring the safety and health of communities.

The bill we are introducing today will enable the STB to thoroughly consider the public interest when evaluating a proposed railroad merger or consolidation which includes at least one Class I railroad.

Specifically, the bill requires the STB to consider, in a merger or consolidation proceeding, the safety and environmental effects of the proposed transaction, including the effects on local communities, such as public safety, grade crossing safety, hazardous materials transportation safety, emergency response time, noise, and socioeconomic impacts. It also requires the STB to consider the effects of the proposed transaction on intercity passenger rail and commuter rail.

The bill prohibits the STB from approving or authorizing a merger or consolidation if it finds that the transaction is inconsistent with the public interest because the transaction's impacts on safety and on the affected communities outweigh the transaction's transportation benefits. Further, the bill authorizes the STB to impose conditions to mitigate the effects of the transaction on local communities when such conditions are in the public interest.

With these new powers and policy directives, the STB will have greatly enhanced ability to protect local communities against the adverse effects of rail mergers. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EXTENDING MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO NOON ROTARY CLUB OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, A DEDICATED GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP HOOSIERS IN NEED

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the Noon Rotary Club of Muncie, Indiana for their invaluable service to the residents of my hometown of Columbus, Indiana following catastrophic flooding that city experienced in early June.

An article published in the Columbus Republic on July 25, 2008 outlined the tremendous support this group provided:

Three Saturdays ago, carloads of Muncie Rotarians descended on Eastside Community Center, determined to help prepare and deliver meals to survivors and volunteers.

"They've been coming back ever since. 'This Muncie group is awesome,'" said Celeste Racette, a member of the Columbus Sunrise Rotary Club who worked with the Delaware County group in coordinating the volunteer effort. "They not only helped prepare and deliver meals but they have kept coming back and they even set the folks at Eastside up with Gleaner's Food Bank out of Indianapolis to deliver a week's supply of food."

They'll need it. Lenore Hollowell, who is coordinating the meal delivery program