

applying his vast knowledge and determination to serve as a key voice for the fishing industry. Most notably, he worked with fishermen and researchers to develop the "Eliminator" trawl, designed to catch haddock while reducing bycatch of cod and flounder, permitting a faster recovery of depleted stocks and benefiting the entire industry. I had the opportunity to see the trawl first-hand just a few weeks ago on a visit to Galilee, Rhode Island. While there, I also had the pleasure of discussing a variety of policy matters with the Captain's son, Phil, Jr. I know his dad would have been proud of his deep knowledge and commitment to the issues that impact their industry.

Captain Phil engaged deeply in policy matters, representing Rhode Island on the New England Fisheries Management Council. He was a familiar face in my office, frequently visiting and calling to keep us apprised of the most recent developments in fisheries policy and regulations. I appreciated his advice and his counsel, and he will be deeply missed.

Captain Phil is survived by his mother, Gloria, his wife, Donna, his children Phil Jr., Roger, and Alicia, and seven grandchildren. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

With this loss, we are reminded that fishing is an important but dangerous profession. I ask that we all remember the sacrifices that have been made and that we pray for the safe return of all those away at sea.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION OF CYPRUS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the unfortunate division of the island nation of Cyprus that began 34 years ago this July.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey dispatched thousands of armed forces to the island of Cyprus. As a result of this action, Cyprus remains divided to this day. 43,000 Turkish troops still occupy a significant portion of the island nation, which is enough for one Turkish soldier per each Turkish Cypriot. The presence of these troops is in spite of the clear preference for a peaceful and mutually acceptable solution demonstrated by all inhabitants of Cyprus. Nonetheless, there are positive indications for the island's future.

The willingness of both Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot leaders to pursue reunification talks is heartening. We in the U.S. Congress were pleased to see that last Friday, July 25, leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities jointly announced that they have decided to start full-fledged Cyprus settlement negotiations on September 3, 2008, under the good offices mission of the U.N. Secretary-General.

It is essential that these talks result in the reunification of Cyprus as a bicomunal and bizonal federation that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. The removal of Turkish forces will allow this process to go forward.

I join with other proponents of a peaceful solution on Cyprus in supporting the recent

steps taken by the divided nation's leaders. However, an acceptable political solution will only be possible if the international community continues to press for more substantive reconciliatory actions in the future. While the United Nations has passed numerous resolutions condemning the division of Cyprus, Turkey continues to maintain more troops on the island than the United States has in Afghanistan. This is a clear indication that more must be done by the international community to make clear that the militarization of Cyprus is unacceptable.

As the more than 13 million incident-free crossings of the line dividing the Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot portions of the island attest, the people of Cyprus are hungry for a peaceful reconciliation of their island. So am I. The goal of the United States and of the international community must be the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus, the institution of democratic institutions and practices there, and the peaceful resolution to this decades-old dispute in a manner that respects the human and democratic rights of all the people who call Cyprus their home.

As we move into the 35th year since the division of Cyprus, I urge my colleagues to remember the tragic events of the past on this small island nation. At the same time, I pledge to the people of Cyprus that the United States stands with them in their quest for an expeditious and peaceful solution to the division of their home island.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION OF THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST CHURCH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a church whose dedication and contributions to the community of southern California are exceptional. Southern California is fortunate to have dedicated religious organizations that willingly and unselfishly give their time to make their communities a better place to live, work and worship. From August 24, 2008 to August 27, 2008 Amos Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal, C.M.E., Church in Riverside, led by Pastor Julio A. Andujo, will serve as host for the 2008 Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Church Conference.

The Conference will take place at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside, California. The Right Reverend Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the C.M.E. Church will convene the annual conference.

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church came into existence following the issuance of the historic Emancipation Proclamation, which signaled the movement from slavery to freedom, and gave former slaves the dignity and honor to worship in their own church.

On December 16, 1870, in Jackson, Tennessee, 41 delegates from the Colored Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South organized their own separate and independent religious organization, chose a name for their Church and met all the requirements of the American Methodism.

The C.M.E. Church successfully met the challenges of providing higher education by establishing such historically African-American colleges as Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, 1882; Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, 1882; Texas College, Tyler, Texas, 1884; Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama, 1905; and the Phillips School of Theology, 1958, Atlanta, Georgia.

Through the years the C.M.E. has shown a remarkable sensitivity to the spirit of changing times as evidenced by the 1954 resolution by the General Conference to change the name from the "Colored Methodist Episcopal" to the "Christian Methodist Episcopal Church."

The C.M.E. Church has continuously shown a commitment to higher education, civic pride and spiritual leadership. Under Bishop Williamson's leadership, the 9th Episcopal District has embraced his "One Church One School Community Partnership Program" which involves churches and schools in partnership to teach young people to value life and learning.

The Christian Methodist Church is truly a pillar in the community of Riverside, California and throughout the state and country. I commend the members and leadership of the C.M.E. for their dedication to worship, to their neighbors and to the Christian way of life.

RECOGNIZING THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ROUNDTABLE'S COMMUNITY SERVICE 2008 INITIATIVE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Community Service 2008 (CS08), an initiative being spearheaded by Financial Services Roundtable and its member companies to harness volunteerism in the financial services sector and improve the communities in which we all live and work.

CS08 companies will complete 1,000 community service projects between July 1 and September 30, in all 50 states with over 28,000 volunteers. In Overland Park, which I represent, a CS08 event was just completed with AXA Equitable in which employees teamed up with KVC Behavioral HealthCare to sponsor a historical tour to youth being treated there.

This expansive effort would not be possible without the strong leadership of CS08 co-chairs Richard K. Davis, Chairman, President, and CEO of U.S. Bancorp, and Don J. McGrath, Chairman and CEO of Banc West Corporation.

Now in its seventh year, the timely focus of CS08 is on financial education, and increasing visibility of financial education programs in communities. This is in addition to member companies' community service projects via blood drives, building homes, neighborhood cleanups, or even outreach to children, like in Overland Park. Roundtable member companies know that the possibilities for community improvement are vast.

I am also proud to recognize our CS08 Honorary Congressional Host Committee. 141 Members of Congress have volunteered to sponsor CS08 and I know I speak for all of the participants in thanking my colleagues in the

House and Senate for their leadership. Congratulations to all who are working to make CS08 a huge success.

CHIEF DAN PACKER: IN
MEMORIAM

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chief Dan Packer, the former Chief of East Pierce Fire and Rescue who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Northern California.

Packer, the only chief of the East Pierce district and the past president of Washington Fire Chiefs, arrived in Northern California on June 25, 2008, to assist in the Panther Creek fire as a Division Supervisor. He was called to duty by the U.S. Forest Service and immediately leaped at the opportunity to serve and protect in another community.

Chief Packer began his career as a firefighter in Burien, Washington, in 1981. In 1995, he took over as the fire chief of Bonney Lake, Washington, and transformed the department of six firefighters into East Pierce Fire and Rescue. The district now serves nearly 75,000 people in the areas of Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, South Prairie and Wilkeson; about 142 square miles total. Aside from his duties as a day-to-day leader at East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Chief Packer argued patiently, eloquently and reasonably before the State Legislature in order to make the people he served in Pierce County safer.

During a time of reflection such as this, many phrases continue to appear while describing the kind of servant Chief Packer was. I read Chief Packer was "a firefighter's fire chief," a "visionary leader," and a "great and exceptional man." The residents of East Pierce County have lost a wonderful leader and I grieve with you. To the fire personnel who worked under and alongside Chief Packer: I understand your pain. I have experienced losing a partner in the line of duty.

Most of all Madam Speaker, we grieve with the family of Chief Packer. He was a son, a husband, father and grandfather; his sacrifice was also their sacrifice and their loss. But they can live with the comfort in his spirit and the hope that his spirit lives on to inspire others with his true heroism and willingness to serve to protect all of us. That is the spirit of a first responder and the memory of Chief Packer we must always honor and never forget.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKER
SAVINGS ACCOUNT ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Worker Savings Account Act of 2008, which is designed to help Americans should they become unemployed.

American workers today are less likely to spend their careers with a single employer,

particularly as United States companies face increasing global competition. These forces—technological advances, increased trade, lower transportation costs, and enhanced communications—have greatly facilitated the movement of jobs offshore, including both services and high-skilled sectors. Corporations have sought to streamline their operations through technological innovations, outsourcing, layoffs, and moving to lower-cost locations. Not surprisingly, the total number of U.S. manufacturing jobs has fallen by 1.8 million since November 2001, from 15.8 million to 14 million.

The loss of employment is not limited to those impacted by the global economy, but is something virtually every worker could experience. In fact, 19 million Americans were laid off or discharged from their employment in 2006. A 2005 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that 85 percent of American workers born between 1957 and 1964 were unemployed at least once between 1979 and 2002.

There are a variety of benefits that may be available to Americans to help them during times of unemployment. These include those provided through the Unemployment Compensation (UC), Trade Adjustment Act (TAA), Alternative Trade Adjustment Act (ATAA), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs.

For example, the UC program is the cornerstone of the government's efforts to assist unemployed workers with their continued income needs. Established in 1935, the UC program provides critical support to covered workers who become involuntarily unemployed. In December 2007, approximately 2.7 million unemployed workers received UC benefits in a given week.

The average weekly UC recipient currently gets \$281 and monies are usually available for up to 26 weeks, although this Congress recently enacted legislation with my support to temporarily provide an additional 13 weeks. In fiscal year 2007, the average regular UC benefit duration was 15 weeks or almost four months. When one considers rising costs, particularly for gasoline and food, it is not surprising that some estimates indicate that about 42 million Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. It is clear that many of our citizens are not well prepared for periods of unemployment. This is particularly evident when one notes that financial planners often advise people to build up three to six months in emergency savings to cover necessities such as monthly mortgage and car payments, utilities, insurance, food, home maintenance, and health care.

The Worker Savings Account Act is designed to help Americans enhance their personal safety nets. The measure would allow people to establish Worker Savings Accounts (WSAs) to supplement the benefits they might otherwise receive while unemployed including assistance received through the UC, TAA, ATAA, DUA, and WIA programs. Moreover, the Act clearly states that a person's decision to have a WSA shall in no way diminish their entitlement to receive those payments.

Like traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), WSAs would have an annual contribution limit of \$5,000, indexed to inflation. However, employers would be able to provide matching contributions of up to \$5,000 annually. Contributions to WSAs would be permitted until the account owner actually elects

to take Social Security retirement benefits. At that time, a WSA account owner could choose to roll over their WSA funds into a 401(k) or IRA; alternatively, the WSA funds could be withdrawn without penalty but subject to taxation. Prior to a WSA account owner's decision to take Social Security payments, WSA funds could be withdrawn without penalty and tax-free as long as the owner lost their employment through no fault of their own or they had become disabled.

To encourage lower-income Americans to take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to WSAs, the Worker Savings Account Act would provide a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 for eligible individuals. This tax credit would be indexed to inflation and recipients could receive up to \$5,000 over the course of their career.

Madam Speaker, while this legislation would help every American build or enhance their personal safety net, it would be particularly helpful to my constituents. To illustrate, in June 2008, five of the 11 counties I represent in Northern and Central New York had unemployment figures that exceeded the national and state rates. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact the Worker Savings Account Act of 2008.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Committee, CPSC, Reform Act, introduced by Representative BOBBY L. RUSH on November 1, 2007.

The passage and enactment of the CPSC Reform Act is necessary to ensure our children's safety from unsafe products that threaten their health and well-being. Unfortunately, the year of 2007 is known as a Year of Recall, with one million toys recalled from the American market. The danger that these recalled toys posed to our children is frightening. Children suffered the threat of unnecessary deaths and injuries from contact with contaminated and poisoned toys and products. Lead, phthalate and other dangerous chemicals are widely used in products, creating a health threat for our young children and their parents.

This threat can be and must be prevented. By demanding that toy manufacturers stop using deadly chemicals and ensuring safety with legislative and governmental assistance, we can save our kids. The American government has the ability to protect our children and prevent future tragedies. The CPSC Reform Act proposes a strengthening of the authority of the Government to act to ensure safety of American citizens.

I strongly support the Reform Act. The enactment of this important bill shall not be delayed. With the holiday season coming soon, a new flow of toys and products will arrive and we need to have greater assurance of their safety. The legislation can prevent the risk, protecting our vulnerable children. We must act now, refusing any hazardous chemicals in products of our children.