

the Courthouse on October 28th, 2008. A special ceremony will take place to honor the history and tradition of the County Courthouse that has existed since 1863.

The Atchison County Courthouse is located in the county seat Rock Port, Missouri. Atchison County is named after former United States Senator, David Rice Atchison. The Courthouse is home to various county government offices and is the location Atchison County residents venture to conduct county business.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Atchison County Courthouse, an architectural blessing to the citizens of Atchison County. It is truly an honor to serve my home county, Atchison County Missouri in the United States Congress.

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IN HONOR OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT ASSEMBLYMAN GENE MULLIN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, as happens too often in this age of legislative term limits, the state of California is losing a wise, dedicated and accomplished public servant. Assemblyman Gene Mullin, who was first elected on November 5, 2002 to represent the 19th District of California, will retire at the end of this year.

Assemblyman Mullin represents a district that I, too, once served. I know the people there and I know that no one could serve them better than Gene. I cannot overstate my fondness and admiration for this man. He went into public service for the right reason: To serve. Any conversation with Gene is never about Gene. While many are called "selfless", with most it's just a word. Gene truly does put others first—constituents, family, students, even strangers. All who come into contact with him know that when Gene Mullin gives you his word, you can take it to the bank.

Gene served his community long before they chose him to represent them in the legislature. For 32 years, he taught government and coached basketball at South San Francisco High School. In the 1970s, he was tapped by city leadership to serve on the town's Planning Commission, where he was instrumental in attracting Genentech to the city in 1976. This started a bio-tech boom in South San Francisco and is a major reason why the city is on better financial footing than other municipalities. In 1979 the City Council named Gene Mullin "Citizen of the Year."

In 1995, Gene Mullin joined the South San Francisco City Council, where he served for seven years, including two terms as Mayor. Upon his election to the Assembly, Gene quickly made a name for himself as a quick study, hard worker and consensus-builder. He retires as Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Education and previously served as Chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development.

Assemblyman Mullin has worked to ensure education funding for students and teachers. He authored bills to restore the \$500 million borrowed from the California State Teachers

Retirement System and has pushed programs to assure the quality of child care services. He has also been instrumental in efforts to provide affordable housing for all Californians.

Prior to his government service, Gene was a gifted and much-loved educator. Not only do many of his students still mention him as a favorite teacher and role model, but he was honored as San Mateo County's Teacher of the Year in 1991 and the California Teachers Association's 1996 State Teacher of the Year in Politics.

Gene Mullin graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of San Francisco in 1960 and holds a Lifetime Secondary Teaching Credential, also from USF.

Madam Speaker, our state is in serious need of dedicated and intelligent public servants in our legislature. Gene Mullin will be sorely missed in Sacramento, but our loss is his family's gain. A dedicated father, husband and grandfather, Gene can now spend more time with his lovely and vivacious wife, Terri, his two children, Jennifer and Kevin, and three grandsons, Austin, Jonathan and Colton.

Gene has lived his entire life in the Bay Area and we are all richer because of it.

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HONORING SISTER JUDY GARSON FOR HER LEADERSHIP OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE ASSUMPTION FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Judy Garson for her 24 years of service with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services. Sister Judy has been an extraordinary leader, ably directing the expansion of the services provided by the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service and ensuring that the organization continues to be a vital force in the community. After nearly a quarter of a century in dedicated and effective service to others, Sister Judy Garson is embarking on a well-deserved retirement.

The devotion of the Little Sisters of the Assumption to the well-being of families with children in East Harlem is truly remarkable. Since its founding five decades ago this year, the Sisters' Family Health Service has offered community-based health services to historically underserved local residents of "El Barrio". Through a broad range of services, including parenting classes, summer day-camp trips for children in the community, and day-care services, the Little Sisters of the Assumption have made an enormous and enduring difference in countless lives.

In her nearly quarter century of service at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, Sister Garson has seen its full-time staff expand from 30 to more than 60 employees. Under her guidance, the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services has evolved into a highly successful, independent organization that will continue to serve the East Harlem community for generations to come. During her distinguished tenure at the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health

Service, Sister Judy Garson has been at the forefront of the valiant effort to combat HIV and AIDS in a community that has widely been considered an epicenter of this lethal epidemic. With courage and compassion, she reached out to those suffering from HIV and AIDS at a time when misinformation and a lack of public awareness created an impenetrable stigma around those infected with the virus. Her educational outreach offered a shining example of her distinguished and effective service.

Perhaps the most remarkable facet of Sister Garson's 24 years of service with the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services is the patient and considerate attention that she pays to each and every family in her organization's care. She and her staff do more than identify clients' problems and offer assistance; they take the extra step to help families obtain enduring ways to overcome the obstacles in their lives.

Sister Judy Garson's leadership skills were apparent from the beginning of her career. After completing her bachelor's degree, Sister Judy accepted a prestigious position in Rome as one of five board members responsible for the administration of the Society of the Sacred Heart and its numerous chapters in more than 33 countries around the world. She drew upon the invaluable experience she gained at the Vatican when she returned to the United States, where she brought to bear her inspirational and effective leadership and management skills in our nation's greatest city.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the well-being of the people she has served and her extraordinary leadership of the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sister Judy Garson, an outstanding and compassionate leader who has dedicated her life to serving others.

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NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3197, the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008." This bill is important because it liberalizes the debt relief standard for those persons who are most deserving, our nation's heroes that serve in the National Guard.

This bill is important because the President has made it more difficult for people to claim bankruptcy. Specifically, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (2005 Bankruptcy Act) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 20, 2005. The 2005 Bankruptcy Act is the most comprehensive overhaul of bankruptcy law in more than 25 years. The 2005 Bankruptcy Act makes particular changes to the consumer bankruptcy. The changes to consumer bankruptcy included, among other things, the establishment of a means testing mechanism to determine a debtor's ability to repay debts. Under this test, a chapter 7 bankruptcy case is presumed to be an abuse if it appears that the debtor has income in excess of certain thresholds.

S. 3197 would exempt certain qualifying reserve component members of the Armed Services and National Guard members from the means test's presumption of abuse. This bill responds to the fact that some who serve in the National Guard and the Reserves encounter financial difficulties and that they should not be subject to the additional proof requirements of the means test.

Members of the armed services, National Guard, and reservists find themselves in a precarious economic situation. Before they are deployed they have stable employment and they expect a set amount of money. However, deployment brings with it change in livelihood and lifestyle. When a spouse is deployed, the spouse that remains behind must now work, find baby sitters, and are subject to a myriad of life-altering financial changes. Sometimes houses have to be sold and deployment can cause all sorts of financial hardships. Simply put, the armed services, National Guard, and reservists should not be penalized.

I cosponsored the House version of this bill H.R. 4044, and I urge my colleagues to support it. This bill makes sense because often armed services personnel and reservists receive high compensation when they are away on hazardous tours or combat zones. However, when these individuals return, their income is not as high. Therefore, it is unfair to subject these individuals to the means test. Simply, the means test is whether the person has the means to pay his or her debts. Hazard pay and temporary high pay for combat work is not necessarily a good indicator of person's means or ability to pay. These individuals are serving our country and have legitimate financial concerns. I do not believe that they should be penalized. I believe we should help our armed services personnel for giving so much to fight for and protect this country. The least we can do is help them.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our National Guard and reservists, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to ensuring that we demonstrate our respect for them. The National Guard and reservists have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love.

As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

We must always remember the debt that we owe our National Guard and reservists that are willing to lie down their lives for us and render the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and security. Our gratitude must continue to be unwavering.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## MANUFACTURERS KNOW ALL ABOUT ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a commentary from the recent edition of *Manufacturing & Technology News* by its editor Richard McCormack. He writes that manufacturers in this country know about economic collapse because that sector of our economy has been on the downward slide for years and that their experience should be a lesson for this Nation's leaders who are trying to find a way to turn around the economy. His article follows:

[FROM THE MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY NEWS, SEPT. 30, 2008]

COMMENTARY: MANUFACTURERS KNOW ALL ABOUT ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

(By Richard McCormack)

It is sad what has happened to the United States.

For years, as editor of *Manufacturing & Technology News*, I have heard dozens of domestic manufacturing company CEOs talk about an impending "collapse" of the U.S. economy. These were the men who were in the unenviable position of having to close their companies or shut down factories and watch as most all of their competitors did the same thing.

These were the men who implemented Six Sigma, lean, ISO 9000, and the Baldrige National Quality and Shingo Prize criteria. They were leaders who agonized over having to move the world's most efficient production capacity from the United States to Mexico and China in order to stay in business, because no matter how good they were, it wasn't good enough to survive. They could compete with other companies, but they could not compete against other COUNTRIES—countries that cheated in every way imaginable.

These manufacturing company CEOs were men who loved their employees. Who grew up with their employees. Who knew their families. Who knew in their hearts the economic, cultural, moral and physical destruction that was being wrought upon their communities.

U.S. manufacturing company CEOs died many deaths, watching as Wall Street mavericks and their economic ideological apologists in the U.S. federal government, in Congress and their high-paid agents in Washington, D.C., forced hundreds of thousands of dedicated, hard-working Americans into the street, to fend for themselves in a game that was rigged against them.

Has the financial class driven through the heartland of America lately? Have they not taken AMTRAK between New York City and Washington, D.C., passing through the industrial back lots of Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Trenton and Newark? Have they not seen an American landscape stretching for thousands of square miles that looks like it has been bombed out?

There are places in America that are "healthy," but these places are even worse: shopping and strip malls located on the edges of America's deteriorating towns and cities, lined with vast parking lots and national chain stores: Applebees, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Wendy's, Days Inn, Outback Steak House. They are soul-less places—"Anywhere USA"—as depressing as the crumbling inner city cores of hundreds of American cities and towns. This is what has

become of America. Wall Street had a lot to do with this. As part of the financial bailout bill, they needed to include a provision on teaching ethics and civics.

The heroic men running companies that made durable goods wept on the phone when I called to ask about why they closed their factory after it had been in operation for 80 years or more.

These people were not selling financial paper or making products that were obsolete and no longer in demand, like buggy whips. And yet when I speak with economists about manufacturing, they invariably rationalize the loss of America's wealth-generating sector by claiming the companies that are dying are making "buggy whips." It is wrong and it is infuriating. We're talking about the United States economy, which has just suffered a massive financial heart attack.

I remember writing about the manufacturing job situation in early 2004. It was the 35th consecutive month of manufacturing employment layoffs, with the latest BLS figure coming in at 135,000 production workers being told to go home and not ever come back. This was a crisis. I wondered why in the hell not a single person in the Bush administration and only a handful of people in Congress cared about the collapse of the wealth-generating sector of the American economy. As is happening with the financial sector today, manufacturing five years ago was being disassembled in front of their eyes. There were no bailouts—manufacturers weren't looking for them—there weren't even bromides.

I remember thinking as Bush invaded Iraq that it was America's last great hurrah. As America's military hardware was being shipped to the Middle East, America's industrial base was being shipped in the opposite direction to China. The war was happening at the same time that "outsourcing" became a big story in the media. But the business press got bored and started covering the incredible run-up of housing prices. "Whoopie," said all the journalists and economists. "Who needs industry when we've got finance and housing!"

But the manufacturing industry's plight continued. I wanted to rename my publication "One Outrage After Another." I was constantly questioning whether I should continue writing all the stories of companies dying, of industries leaving, of workers being laid off, of trade deficits skyrocketing, of China cheating, of the perverse reaction among Washington elites to rationalize the destruction. I wondered if I was the problem. If being Irish meant fixating on the negative. But I had covered manufacturing through the 1990s, and the story wasn't depressing. I even wrote a book about U.S. companies' adoption of the Toyota Production System and lean manufacturing and the good it was doing. It was not me. It was the story that could not be ignored.

I got to know other people who couldn't sleep at night fretting over what was happening to the United States industrial base. These were patriotic people who started to coalesce around these issues, who were utterly perplexed by the federal government's total unwillingness to act on behalf of American producers and their workers.

The government knew what was going on. But its political appointees made nonsensical ideological arguments concerning "free trade" and "free markets." "We've got a war going on, we can't support U.S. manufacturing" was a refrain I heard over and again by political appointees at the "Commerce" Department and White House.

Manufacturers weren't looking for a hand out or a bailout. They only wanted one thing: for the United States government to put the interests of American producers