

conducted at the lab did not stop on December 31, 1975, and sadly, neither did the harmful exposures to radiation that has caused many of these cancers. Post-1975 claimants have done the same work and been diagnosed with the same illnesses. These radiogenic cancers are not constrained by calendar years, and nor should be the compensation to employees and their families.

Madam Speaker, claimants and their families have made great strides in achieving some small measure of justice from the Federal Government. There are many, however, who continue to fight the battle not only with their illnesses, but with the government simultaneously. The EEOICPA program was designed to put the burden of proof on the government, not on the claimant. Unfortunately, that has not been the way the program is operating. The SEC designation for LANL was an important step towards rectifying this situation, but the Ray Ruiz Special Exposure Cohort Act will help provide much deserved compensation to the many other cold war heroes who have tragically fallen through the cracks.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO WAPSIE VALLEY
WARRIORS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Wapsie Valley Warriors football team at the State Football Tournament in Cedar Falls this past fall.

Falling short in last year's championship game, the Warriors were determined to not let history repeat itself once again. The top ranked Warriors (13-0) would not disappoint, pushing to a 22-14 win over the Lawton-Bronson Eagles. For twelve Warrior seniors, it didn't get much better than that.

I congratulate the Warriors for winning the Iowa class A state championship. This hard fought journey to the championship title gives Wapsie its fourth state title in history and its first since 1997. It is especially rewarding with the added pressure of a number one ranking from the season's outset.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Warrior football team, both on and off the field, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

COMMEMORATING DUANE
MUNFORT HILL OF UKIAH, CALI-
FORNIA FOR HIS OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFFORD-
ABLE HOUSING

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Duane Hill, affordable housing trailblazer and friend, upon his retirement after 33 years as founder and executive director of Rural Community Hous-

ing Development Corporation. Based in Ukiah, Mendocino County, RCHDC is Northern California's largest rural nonprofit housing development organization.

Duane Hill recognized the overwhelming need for affordable housing in rural areas when cities were receiving substantial housing subsidies and few resources were being distributed in rural areas. He assembled a board of influential volunteers and embarked on a campaign of community awareness and public education that led to the incorporation of the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation in 1975.

Under Duane Hill's leadership, RCHDC grew from its original \$500 investment and staff of two to its current \$3.3 million operating budget with assets worth more than \$200 million. The agency has built 19 developments from the ground up that together provide 528 affordable rental apartments. By purchasing nine large housing developments, RCHDC also preserved 400 units of rental housing that were in danger of conversion to market-rate.

The agency has provided first-time homebuyers with more than 350 self-help homes in 30 subdivisions scattered throughout rural Northern California, and has 126 more in development. RCHDC now manages 1,000 affordable housing units and serves between 1500 and 2000 people annually. The agency also has \$30 million worth of future projects in the pipeline. In 2008, RCHDC will complete rehabilitation of 144 new units in Del Norte County, one of the most underserved areas of the State, as well as an additional 50 units in Humboldt County. In Kelseyville, RCHDC's new farm worker housing will not only provide agricultural workers with a suitable place to live, but will also help to ensure the viability of agriculture as an economic, employment and cultural resource for Lake County.

Duane's steadfast resolve to see projects through to completion, coupled with his uncanny ability to build consensus and marshal both human and financial resources has created an inventory of affordable housing stock that has served as both a home and a springboard to upward mobility for thousands of low-income rural Californians.

He is on the forefront of campaigns for housing bonds and community development funding. He built his own "self-help" home and started a program for RCHDC employees to do the same. Under Duane Hill's leadership, RCHDC has become nationally recognized as an innovator in rural housing development. The California Housing Consortium inducted RCHDC into the Affordable Housing Hall of Fame. Just last month, Duane received the prestigious National NeighborWorks Association's 2008 Lifetime Achievement award

Madam Speaker, Duane Hill has earned the respect of his colleagues and community. Through visionary leadership, technical expertise and quiet persuasion, Duane Hill has invented, built and sustained the community development movement in rural Northern California. For these reasons and for the lasting impact RCHDC continues to have in rural Northern California, it is appropriate that we honor Duane Munfort Hill.

NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER
APPRECIATION DAY

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize May 9th 2008 as National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, this is an occasion to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for the children of working parents. Today, I join a chorus of state and local government proclamations, business and community events and the personal acknowledgment of providers by the parents themselves.

It takes a special kind of person to work in the childcare field, which is so critical to quality family life and the early childhood development of millions of Americans. Our Nation's childcare providers are all too often unsung heroes, making the recognition of National Child Provider Appreciation by this body that much more important.

Childcare is also an important component of our Nation's economy. The National Child Care Association has estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million childcare providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million under age 5 are in their care. Moreover, healthy families contribute immeasurably to healthy workplaces.

Many regions in my home State of Wyoming are experiencing population increases due to growth in the energy sector of our economy. Like other aspects of Wyoming's infrastructure, Wyoming's childcare community is being challenged by this growth and the increased demand for childcare services. I am proud to recognize Wyoming's childcare providers for their valuable contribution to Wyoming's communities in this time of transition.

With that, I commend our Nation's childcare providers and invite my colleagues to do the same on National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.

COMMENDING AMTRAK ON
NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of passenger rail in the United States and express my support for Amtrak in conjunction with National Train Day on May 10th, 2008.

National Train Day marks the 139th anniversary of the "golden spike" being driven into the ground at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. The "golden spike" bound the last tie connecting the last rail that united the Central Pacific Railroad with the Union Pacific Railroad, connecting the United States by rail from coast to coast.

The transcontinental railroad was born thanks to the support of President Abraham Lincoln. He, along with Civil War leaders, envisioned and planned the creation of the railroad. Not only did the completion of the railroad result in the ability to deliver goods and people across the country, it ultimately bound

the east with the west, further unifying the country as the divide between the North and the South was beginning to mend.

The transcontinental railroad was the first of its kind. It was an engineering marvel completed with great precision and speed. The railroad was an engineering wonder and it set the example for how transcontinental railroads would be built across Canada and Russia some 20 to 25 years later.

Completion of the transcontinental railroad created a new sense of wonder and enthusiasm for discovery and entrepreneurship across the country. It set the stage for a great migration of businessmen, created a new frontier for those seeking a new way of life, enabled faster movement of people and goods, and provided the country with a great opportunity to expand the economy.

Today, we are witnessing a rebirth of passenger rail in America. In the same way that the transcontinental railroad was critical to our Nation in the late 19th century, a strong national passenger rail system is vital today. In order to strengthen intercity passenger rail in this country, today I have introduced the "Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008".

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, more commonly known as Amtrak, operates a nationwide rail network, serving more than 500 destinations in 46 States over 21,000 miles of routes, with nearly 19,000 employees. Amtrak recently marked the beginning of its 38th year of operation. Our passenger rail service has come a long way since its beginnings in 1971, and has faced many challenges since, but continues to grow stronger with each passing year. Despite uneven Federal investment over the years, Amtrak has persevered, achieving many successes in improved operating efficiency, increased ridership, and higher revenue.

In fact, in FY 2007, Amtrak set a new ridership record for the fifth year in a row, exceeding 25.8 million passengers. At the same time, Amtrak increased ticket revenues by 11 percent to more than \$1.5 billion, a figure that increased for the third straight year. These successes are being enjoyed across Amtrak's entire network. In FY 2007, Amtrak held 56 percent of the air/rail market between New York and Washington and 41 percent of the market share between New York and Boston. This shows that where Amtrak is provided the resources to succeed, it provides a trip-time competitive alternative to air and car.

America needs to look toward Amtrak as we address our growing transportation needs. The Department of Transportation describes the problem of congestion on our highways and in the air as "chronic." Amtrak removes almost eight million cars from the road annually. Airports are experiencing significant delays too, with more than 400,000 flights departing or arriving late in 2006. Amtrak eases air congestion by eliminating the need for 50,000 fully loaded airplanes each year.

Amtrak is also a substantially more environmentally friendly mode of transportation than automobiles or airplanes. According to the World Resources Institute, rail transportation produces 57 percent less carbon emissions than airplanes, and 40 percent less carbon emissions than cars.

Madam Speaker, I lend my strong support to the commemoration of National Train Day on May 10, 2008, and encourage all of my

colleagues to use this excellent opportunity to reflect on the benefits that Amtrak and intercity passenger rail provide to our Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHAUNDELL NEWSOME

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Shaundell Newsome by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Shaundell Newsome, President and CEO of Newsome Marketing Enterprises, for his role in promoting excellence in small business throughout the Las Vegas community.

At the age of 14, Shaundell began his love for marketing while he was attending the High School of Graphic Communication Arts. While he served 10 years in the United States Air Force, he greatly enhanced his communication skills by becoming the Morale Welfare and Recreations Coordinator for his squadron. Following his service in the military, Shaundell joined Station Casinos' Marketing Department, where he helped to successfully launch the company's popular Boarding Pass Rewards Program. He then went on to serve as the marketing director at Sante Fe Station. Looking for a way to focus his attention on providing practical yet "outside the box" marketing solutions for small businesses, Shaundell founded Newsome Marketing Enterprises in 2006.

While working to continue his newly established marketing firm, Shaundell was often recognized for his efforts to create professional opportunities for others, particularly in the minority-business community. As a board member for the 100 Black Men of Las Vegas, he focused on creating new economic development opportunities for the non-profit organization. He also worked with Valley Center Opportunity Zone (VCOZ) to assist small minority businesses within the enterprise zone by presenting workshops, including his well-known "Marketers Anonymous—A 12 Step Plan". He often shares his expertise by giving personal consultation to various organizations and businesses. Shaundell also works closely with the Urban Chamber of Commerce and the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, playing a vital role in advocating for small businesses.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Shaundell Newsome and would like to recognize his small-business accomplishments within the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate him on receiving the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year for the 2008 Small Business Awards.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TAHIRA HIRA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Tahira Hira's appointment to

President George W. Bush's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

On January 22, 2008, President Bush established the new Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, chaired by Charles Schwab. Dr. Hira is one of only 16 members appointed by President Bush. The Council's purpose is to help keep America competitive and assist the American people in understanding and addressing financial matters. The Council will work with the public and private sectors to help increase financial education in schools as well as for adults in the workplace.

Dr. Hira came to Iowa State University in 1980. She is the executive assistant to the university president and a professor of personal finance and consumer economics. Dr. Hira has been teaching and conducting research in family financial management, consumer credit, gambling, and consumer bankruptcy since 1976. She has published approximately 100 articles and book chapters and given approximately 200 national and international presentations in her field. Dr. Hira has also received various awards for her work and serves on several national committees and boards.

Dr. Hira's list of awards and accomplishments represents the valuable resource she has provided to Iowa State University and financial education in America. She certainly has earned her position on the President's Advisory Council, and I know she will excel in her special advisory role.

I commend Dr. Tahira Hira for her longstanding dedication and diligence to her profession and for her efforts to improve our Nation's financial literacy. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Hira in the U.S. Congress, and I wish her the best while serving on the President's Council and in her future work.

CONGRATULATING NURSE SUSAN COBB

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susan Cobb of Lewisville, Texas. Ms. Cobb has been named one of the Great 100 Nurses of 2008 by the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives. She is a nurse at the Medical Center of Lewisville.

The Medical Center's mission is to consistently provide high quality health services, information and education in an environment that is compassionate, professional, and responsive to its patients, physicians, and associates. Ms. Cobb is an excellent embodiment of this which her passion and commitment demonstrate.

Each year this recognition is bestowed on nurses who embody excellence in the science and art of nursing. The chosen honorees belong to an array of professional organizations and work in a wide variety of clinical specialties. This is the 18th consecutive year that the Texas Nurses Association, Districts Three and Four, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have recognized area nurses for their compassion and dedication. The recipients will be honored at a gala event on Monday, May 12, 2008.