

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE'S (USPTO)
NATIONAL TRADEMARK EXPO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) National Trademark Expo. In a time of great challenges for the American and global economy, I want to join the USPTO in its efforts to recognize the vital role trademarks play in the economy.

The 2008 National Trademark Expo was a great success and was attended by more than 7,000 from the trademark community as well as the public at large. This year's 2-day event will be held on Friday, May 8th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, May 9th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The purpose of the Expo is to educate the public about the value and important role trademarks play in our society and the global marketplace.

Trademarks are words, names, symbols, sounds, or colors that identify and distinguish the goods and services of one party from those of others. The Trademark Expo will highlight the different types of trademarks including trademarks that identify shapes and configurations of products, century-old registered trademarks, the historical evolution and transformation of trademarks, and the history of people behind certain trademarks.

The USPTO campus will turn into a "Trademark Theme Park" featuring company booths, themed displays, costumed characters, and inflatables. Additions to this year's Trademark Expo include guided tours, activities for children, and educational lectures on anti-counterfeiting, how to file a trademark, and "Trademarks 101." A large cast of costumed characters masquerading to tunes played by the United States Air Force Band's brass quintet promise a festive introduction for speakers at this year's opening ceremony.

During the Trademark Expo, costumed trademarked characters that the public has come to associate with particular goods and services, including the Pillsbury Doughboy®, Sprout®, Hershey's Kisses®, Maisy®, Curious George®, Peter Rabbit®, Energizer Bunny®, Mr. Jelly Belly®, and The Grinch®, among others, will parade about the USPTO campus, and large inflatable characters, including The Cat in the Hat®, Thomas the engine from Thomas & Friends®, and Green Giant®, will decorate the grounds. Costumed characters in the shape of crayons from Crayola®, displayed in a spectrum of colors, will escort children through the educational activities including a story time featuring literary trademarked characters sponsored by Hooray for Books!, a local children's bookstore. The Hershey's Kissmobile® and a UPS® truck will help tell the story of the prevalence of trademarks in our daily lives and their value as source indicators.

On average, people are exposed to 1,500 trademarks each day and more than 30,000 if they make a trip to the grocery store. In a time of globalization, counterfeit goods pose an increasing threat to American businesses, and

trademarks assist the public in discerning between authentic and counterfeit merchandise.

Some of America's leading large corporations, small businesses with unfolding success stories, governmental agencies, and non-profit corporations will highlight the various types of trademarks and the benefits of Federal trademark registration. The exhibitors include Bridgestone Corporation, Burberry Limited, Callaway Golf Company, CMG Worldwide, Inc., Fred Gretsche Enterprises/The Bigsby Company, Galaxy Systems, Inc., International Trademark Association (INTA), Internet Keep Safe Coalition, The Hershey Company/Hershey Chocolate & Confectionery Corporation, The Pepsco Group, Inc., The Travelers Companies, Inc., United Parcel Service of America, Inc., Urangatang Web Design, LLC, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Department of Energy.

The Trademark Expo will emphasize the essential role the USPTO plays in reviewing applications for trademarks and issuing federal trademark registrations. An award-winning leader in handling electronic filings, the USPTO will also showcase its electronic trademark application system.

During these uncertain economic times, I applaud the USPTO for its continued efforts to educate the public on the role of trademarks through the National Trademark Expo. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the USPTO, at this time when trademark protection and intellectual property rights play an increasingly important role in our global economy.

MOMMA HARRIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in recognition of this Mother's Day, I rise to honor a special mother and grandmother, Sandra L. Harris—or Momma Harris as she is more affectionately known.

Sandra grew up in Cartersville, GA where she spent a good bit of time up on Red Top Mountain State Park. From a young age Sandra knew the value of a day's pay as she worked in the concession stand and as a lifeguard at the park.

Sandra would later meet Charles Harris from Cassville, GA and the two would become married. Sandra relocated with him to San Antonio and Wichita Falls, TX while he served in the military. In her personal career Sandra has worked in various occupations through the years including a bank teller and salesperson, but her passion lies in the real estate business where she has been quite successful.

After leaving Texas and moving back to Georgia Sandra had two sons, Chuck and James Harris. Momma Harris has taught her boys work ethic, faith, and the strength and character only a southern woman can instill into her sons. In addition to her two sons, Sandra has a vibrant grandson who she loves deeply, Wyatt Harris, who calls her Granny Harris.

Momma Harris is a woman of deep love, faith, and generosity. She is the type of person that anyone could hope to have for a mother. You can just ask anyone in Cartersville, GA and they will tell you that San-

dra Harris will leave a lasting impression on anyone that spends just a few minutes around her.

Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the best to Sandra Harris, and thank her for representing the ideals of a loving and supporting mother on this Mother's Day. Let her commitment to her family serve as an example to us all. Sandra is a great American and I wish her a very happy Mother's Day with many more to come.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING THE MIDLAND
NORTHSTARS PEE WEE AA
HOCKEY TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the team members of the Midland Northstars Pee Wee AA hockey team on winning the USA Hockey Tier II 12-and-under Youth Nationals on Sunday, April 5, 2009. They have represented the state well with their perseverance and athleticism, and we are very proud of their national accomplishments.

The Northstars' 6–3 win over the East Coast Eagles of Raleigh, NC completed a six-game unbeaten run through the national tournament.

The Northstars—a travel team from the Midland Amateur Hockey League located in my district, outscored their opponents 36–7 in the five-day national tournament.

Team members include Turner Anderson, Tyler Angers, Samuel Brushaber, Drake Cerngul, Cam Fisher, Andrew Healey, Matthew Lee, Michael Leslie, Jacob Mackie, Travis McNally, Zachary Paisley, Steven Roberts, Joshua Ruthig, Derek Striker, Jacob Swartz, Brandon Veihl, Colin Walters. The team is Coached by Gregory Walters, assisted by Scott Cerngul, John Hollingsworth, Terry McNally, and James Roberts. The team manager is Kent Striker. The Northstars are also two-time Michigan state champions.

I am honored today to recognize the Midland Northstars Pee Wee AA team for their accomplishments, and congratulate them on their outstanding performance.

HONORING TAYLOR COURTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Courter a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Courter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1913, the "Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009." According to FBI statistics, 118,000 hate crimes have been reported since 1991. During the same period of time, reported bias motivated crimes based on sexual orientation has more than tripled, yet the federal government currently has no jurisdiction to assist states and municipalities in dealing with even the most violent hate crimes against gay and lesbian Americans. The FBI's 2007 Uniform Crime Reports showed that reported violent crimes based on sexual orientation constituted approximately one out of six hate crimes committed in 2007, with 1,265 reported for the year.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and amend federal law to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of violent, bias-motivated crimes. This important legislation is backed by a number of major law enforcement organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Sheriffs Association.

This bill will strengthen existing federal law by expanding its jurisdiction to provide protections for crimes directed at individuals because of their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. The bill only applies to bias-motivated violent crimes and does not impinge public speech or writing.

This bill includes an explicit First Amendment free speech protection. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, and religious leaders cannot be prosecuted for the content of their speech. Many religious groups have expressed support for the bill, including the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Interfaith Alliance, the Presbyterian Church, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the United Methodist Church, and the Congress of National Black Churches.

I am proud to support the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 because it is grounded in fundamental American values: recognizing the dignity of every person, protecting religious freedom, and freedom of speech. This legislation protects people from violence based on who they are, and has explicit protections to ensure that the law does not punish what people think, feel, or believe, but rather actions that physically harm others. I urge passage of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009.

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE BUFFALO AU-
DUBON SOCIETY**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate the Buffalo Audubon Society on the occasion of their centennial of exemplary service to the communities of Western New York and New York State.

Established in 1909, the Buffalo Audubon Society is the oldest Audubon chapter in New York State and one of the four oldest Audubon Chapters in the United States serving the counties of Erie, Wyoming, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee and portions of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany.

This outstanding organization is a membership-based not-for-profit that provides an invaluable contribution to our community as it continues to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world through education and stewardship.

Its educational experience credentials remain exemplary as The Buffalo Audubon Society provides nature and environmental education to as many as 35,000 children and adults each year through classroom presentations, field trips, workshops, festivals, and excursions and has inspired a deeper appreciation of nature among hundreds of thousands of children and adults over the last century.

The Buffalo Audubon Society's stewardship is best exemplified by its ownership and maintenance of six nature preserves in Western New York, whose total acreage exceeds 1,000 acres, including Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, the most active nature education center in upstate New York.

The Buffalo Audubon Society is and will remain a leader in building partnerships and collaborations with other environmental nonprofits, state and local governments, and businesses throughout the region to affect positive changes in the natural environment of Western New York.

Tonight, the community will come together for a Centennial Gala at the Buffalo Zoo celebrating a century of nature education, environmental advocacy and accomplishments. I am pleased and proud to ask that my colleagues join with me in adding the congratulations of the United States House of Representatives and extending our deepest appreciation for 100 years of caring for the environment.

We also add best wishes to the Buffalo Audubon Society for every success in its next century of service as it continues its dedication to work as a strong and effective voice for the protection of natural wonders and environmental quality in Western New York.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK
LEONHARDT, MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF WINDCREST**

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate Mayor Jack

Leonhardt on the occasion of his retirement as Mayor of the City of Windcrest.

First elected Mayor of Windcrest on May 5, 2001, Mayor Leonhardt has been consecutively elected to four terms. He announced his retirement in May 2009. As Mayor, he served as Chairman of the Alamo Area Council of Governments, President of the Texas Municipal League Region 7, Treasurer of the Greater Bexar Council Council of Cities and was appointed by Mayor Phil Hardberger and Judge Nelson Wolff to the Transportation Task Force.

Mayor Leonhardt is a member of the Windcrest Lions Club, the Windcrest Optimist Club, the Northeast Partnership, the Greater Randolph Chamber of Commerce, and serves as an elder at John Calvin Presbyterian Church. He also served in the United States Air Force from 1966 until 1987 when he retired as Lieutenant Colonel.

He is married to Barbara and has two daughters, Jacqueline Denham and Joanne Brickson, as well as four grandchildren.

He has done an exceptional job as Mayor and we are all grateful for his service to his community.

ROBERT KNISELY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Robert Knisely, a friend to all of Nebraska and a man whose philanthropy over the years—many times anonymous in nature—will be missed.

Born in Shubert, Nebraska, Bob served our country honorably during World War II, captaining B-17 and B-29 bombers in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

After the war, Bob founded Midwest Construction Company which became a nationally recognized heavy construction contractor for more than 56 years. He did not rest on his laurels, instead earning a reputation for a man who loved and lived his work. He returned this success to the State of Nebraska not only through private philanthropy, but also by working to make our State a better place.

Bob's strength was his ability to tap into the humor, empathy and charm which made him well-liked by everyone who knew him.

A driven man, a passionate Husker fan, and a loving husband, father and grandfather, Bob will be missed. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family.

**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a time when we reflect on the contributions that Asian Pacific Americans have made to our country.

I would specifically like to take this opportunity today to speak briefly about the Asian