

under the strong leadership of Chairman JIM OBERSTAR has already taken the first important steps to include training as an essential part of building our infrastructure when he included, at my request, \$3 million specifically for training in the General Services Administration stimulus authorization this year. He also included \$20 million for federal highways training programs.

Today, the official unemployment rate already is at 15 percent for blacks and 8 percent for whites, a typical gap throughout economic cycles. Most analysts predict that there is more unemployment to come. This surface transportation reauthorization is also necessary to finally afford the opportunity for minorities and women to gain their first foothold in the high-wage construction industry.

More than 25 years ago, the federal government abruptly ended the government-sponsored labor-management remediation program designed to address training and exclusionary practices in the construction industry. Although deliberate exclusion has largely receded, elimination of this program has left a significant training deficit for workers in skilled construction trades, which is largely responsible for the white male profile of the construction industry today. This training deficit guarantees that infrastructure jobs will continue to go to trained, mostly white male construction workers, who now have faced a long period of unemployment and job scarcity. Particularly considering a steep rise in unemployment for minorities and whites alike, this bill will also help avoid racial tension.

Because of the scarcity of trained workers during boom times, a few union programs had even begun training ex-offenders as pre-apprentices and apprentices to do construction work. This bill will mount a major national infrastructure program focused on job creation with a well-designed component of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that can lead to high-paying journeyman jobs for the new workers who will be needed in the future. And it will assure compliance with the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bar discrimination in the use of government dollars.

More than 25 years ago the federal government prematurely ended the successful government-sponsored labor-management remediation program that addressed exclusionary practices and lack of training in the construction industry. Without a significant and systematic government effort, a serious training deficit has remained and continued to build. This training deficit is largely responsible for the white male profile of the construction industry today. Unless training is a strong component of the highway and transit reauthorization, underrepresentation of minorities and women will deepen.

Training is a major barrier, particularly for African Americans and women in construction. Congress recognized the training deficit and encouraged the use of one half of one percent for training in the use of highway funds. Because use of federal funds was not mandated for training, only 17 states have chosen, intermittently, to fund training programs, since the program was authorized in 1998. Without appropriate training, federal funds will exacerbate the training deficit among previously excluded groups and others who have not had access to training in the construction trades.

A recent study of African Americans, in particular, in the construction industry in eighteen

metropolitan areas found that they are underrepresented in construction jobs. If African Americans were employed in construction at the same rate that they are employed in the overall workforce, the study estimated that 42,700 more African Americans would be employed in construction in the eighteen metropolitan areas.

The official unemployment rate as of April 2009 already is 15 percent for African Americans and 8.8 percent for whites. This disparity has been typical throughout economic cycles.

A major, well-designed component in the surface transportation reauthorization bill for pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs can lead to high-paying journeyman jobs, where, in good times and scarce, labor supply has developed.

Congress must assure compliance with the 14th Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bar discrimination in the use of government dollars.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the House Resolution celebrating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

As we continue to struggle through one of the deepest economic crises in recent history, we must not forget to recognize and appreciate the contributions of the Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities of our great country.

If one looks at the long history of the Asian American experience, they will undoubtedly see a collective story of perseverance and triumph. They will also see that this story is ongoing, and is defined by the tremendous contributions that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to make.

They will see the earliest Asian immigrants, who in spite of being completely excluded from American citizenship and its basic protections, shouldered the labor to build a railroad system and support a growing agricultural sector that changed the face of America.

They will see the countless Japanese Americans, who despite being interned, stripped of their hard-earned wealth and forced to rebuild their lives, served their country faithfully and without question.

They will see the numerous Asian Pacific Islander Americans, who despite all that has been endured, now serve as exemplary public servants leading our county. From city councilors, to the President of the United States, who grew up in Indonesia and Hawaii, the APIA community deserves recognition and has much to be proud about.

Finally, they will see that despite all that has been accomplished, despite everything that there is to be proud of, we cannot lose sight of the fact that much remains to be done. We must continue to help the many Asian Pacific Islander Americans who endure racism, struggle against poverty and are fighting for equal access to the fundamental institutions of our country.

America has always been a reflection of its people. As we recognize May as Asian Amer-

ican Heritage Month, let us recognize that America would not be the grand nation it is today without our friends in the Asian Pacific Islander American communities.

HONORING PETER L. LITRENTA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Peter L. Litrenta, a husband, father, 25-year Navy veteran and civic leader with a passion for San Diego, its waterfront and its people. Pete, as he was affectionately known, peacefully passed away in his Coronado home on April 22, surrounded by his loving family. He lived a full and meaningful life, making countless contributions to San Diego and serving as an inspiration and role model to all.

Pete was born in Racine, Wisconsin on April 25, 1942. He attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a BA in Communications in 1964. He began his Navy career after graduation, later earning an MA in Public Relations from Boston University in 1972.

Not long after his 23rd birthday, Pete met the love of his life, Linda. Theirs was a fairytale romance. Pete and Linda married just four months after they first met and celebrated their 43rd anniversary just five months ago. While Pete's life took him all over the world, San Diego was Pete's home. It is where he and Linda raised their three wonderful daughters, Danielle, LyAnne and Katie. Family was Pete's first and only true love.

But Pete did have other passions: Notre Dame football, the United States Navy, and San Diego, just to name a few.

Pete's Navy Career marched alongside history, from the Gulf of Tonkin incident to the terrorist bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut. Mr. Litrenta organized Beirut the news bureau, serving as spokesperson for the Marines when they landed in 1982. In 1986, he developed and implemented the San Diego Rally Against Drugs, mobilizing over 35,000 people to parade down Broadway to bring awareness to the dangers of drug use.

After retiring from the Navy, Pete worked for the Chamber of Commerce and then for the San Diego Port Tenants Association. He became intimately involved in nearly all aspects of San Diego's social, civic and philanthropic endeavors. Pete's influence on San Diego is everywhere. If you watched the Holiday Bowl, Pete helped select the teams on the field. If you gazed upon the waterfront, you will see the USS Midway Museum, which Pete helped bring to our port. If you saw Dennis Conner defend the America's Cup, Pete served on the Organizing Committee in charge of media and community relations.

Whether volunteering or working, Pete was intimately connected to the community. He served as President of the San Diego Fleet Week Foundation and the Coronado Schools Foundation. Pete was a member of the Mayor's BRAC Task Force, served on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego USO, the San Diego Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the USS Midway Museum, the San Diego Taxpayers' Association, and the Holiday & Poinsettia Bowls. At times, it seemed as if

Pete was everywhere. He touched the lives of many, leaving an imprint on all he graced.

So today I honor Mr. Pete Litrenta. As one of his thousands of friends, I join his colleagues, his wife Linda, and their three daughters Danielle, LyAnne and Katie, in not only mourning his loss, but in celebrating his life. His memorial will be held on board the USS Midway Museum, a venue as identifiable with San Diego as Pete.

He was a pillar of the San Diego community and will be missed by all. I am reminded of what Mark Twain said about life:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

It's hard to imagine something Pete did not do. He explored the world, but found safe harbor in San Diego. He dreamed of brighter futures for his family, friends and for the entire San Diego community. He discovered his true love and pursued his true passions.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Peter L. Litrenta.

HONORING THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SISTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Mother's Day and the women who have enriched our lives, I would like to recognize a group of women who may not receive cards or flowers this week, but who act as mothers to the world.

Regardless of religious affiliation or conviction, Catholic sisters have not only nurtured countless hearts, minds, and souls throughout our nation's history, but they have played a vital role in shaping American life. The humble sacrifices, the heartfelt dedication and the tremendous contributions of these women are in earnest need of recognition.

For this reason I have introduced a resolution today honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States.

Since 1727, Catholic sisters have fearlessly and often sacrificially committed their personal lives to teaching, healing, and social action. Joined in unique forms of intentional communal life dedicated to prayer and service, these women have participated in the opening of the West, nursed soldiers during the Civil War, and cared for afflicted populations during the epidemics of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Catholic sisters established the nation's largest private school system and founded more than 110 U.S. colleges and universities, through which they have educated millions of young Americans.

Moreover, managing organizations long before such positions were even open to women, the bold passion of Catholic sisters established hospitals, orphanages, and charitable institutions. They were among the first to stand with the underprivileged, to educate or to work among the poor and underserved, and

to facilitate leadership through opportunity and example.

Since 1980 alone, at least nine American sisters have been martyred. Maura Clark, MM, Ita Ford, MM and Dorothy Kazel, OSU were martyred in El Salvador in 1980. Joel Kolmer, ASC, Shirley Kolmer, ASC, Kathleen McGuire, ASC, Agnes Mueller, ASC and Barbara Ann Muttra, ASC were martyred in Liberia in 1992. And, Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN was martyred in Brazil in 2005. Despite such a horrifying reality, Catholic sisters remain dedicated and courageously spirited.

Across the globe, Catholic sisters continue to provide shelter, food, and basic human needs to the economically or socially disadvantaged and advocate relentlessly for the fair and equal treatment of all persons. They work for the eradication of poverty and racism and for the promotion of nonviolence, equality and democracy both in principle and in action. The humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis and refuge throughout the world positions them as activists and diplomats of peace and justice for those most at risk populations.

These women have offered so much to the world yet their stories have rarely been narrated or honored in our history. Though long overdue, the lives, works and legacies of Catholic sisters will finally be recounted.

I am happy to announce that on May 16th, 2009, a traveling exhibit called "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" will open in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center, it will tour multiple cities over the next few years.

In continued celebration of the women who have shaped our lives and cultivated our potential, I stand to recognize the Catholic sisters not only for the personal impact they have had within our own lives, but for the extraordinary contributions they have made to the history of the United States.

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, as we ate breakfast today, more than 12 million Americans were carefully watching what they ate and how their food was prepared. You may be thinking that they are trying to lose weight, but that's not the reason—it's because they suffer from life-threatening food allergies.

The statistics are frightening—particularly among children. Between 1997 and 2002, the number of children under age five who suffer from food allergies actually doubled.

Scientists have been unable to develop cures for food allergies. We must do more to support NIH medical research and raise awareness about these health problems.

I applaud the creation of the new Food Allergy Initiative Advocacy Steering Committee and I'm excited to hear that my constituent, Ms. Sally Porter, will serve on the committee.

This group seeks to help build a strong nationwide presence for the food allergy community. I urge my colleagues to learn how they

can get involved and to work with me to support federal resources for food allergy research.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc. anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember."

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act / Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, "The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, DC Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all DC Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that