

HEARING ON "MAKING SENSE OF IT ALL: AN EXAMINATION OF USPS'S STATION AND BRANCH OPTIMIZATION INITIATIVE AND DELIVERY ROUTE ADJUSTMENTS"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I submit the following statement I made in the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia.

[Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, July 30, 2009]

HEARING ON "MAKING SENSE OF IT ALL: AN EXAMINATION OF USPS'S STATION AND BRANCH OPTIMIZATION INITIATIVE AND DELIVERY ROUTE ADJUSTMENTS."

(By Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich)

As an ardent supporter of the Post Office, I am deeply concerned about USPS' financial condition and I appreciate the magnitude of the task ahead of the Postal Service to ensure its survival.

As you know, on July 16th, the Postal Service announced that 16 Post Office Branches in the Greater Cleveland Area would be reviewed for possible consolidation. After reading the testimony and the GAO report for this hearing, and after hearing from my constituents, I have several concerns. I am concerned that final decisions regarding each branch under consideration for consolidation will be made without full community participation and input. I am concerned that people in my community and communities across the country will face a significant and unnecessary reduction in access to crucial services. I have concerns about the private sector taking over the services that these facilities provide—because privatization of a public need like postal service rarely goes well. The review process must be done at the local level and must consider the unique demands on each individual facility to ensure that the concerns of the community, customer, postal workers and effects on the local economy are fully considered.

Mr. Small, can you please address those concerns? Specifically, how does the Postal Service ensure community participation in the decision making process? How does it use demographic and socio-economic data in making the recommendation to consolidate or close any postal facility? How do I know that any reduction in facilities will not allow private companies to take over the services that will be lost?

(he will give an answer that will likely not be sufficient to address the concerns)

Mr. Small, I thank you for your answer but I remain very concerned. I have here a letter addressed to you asking specific questions about the postal service's decision-making process. I would like to respectfully ask your cooperation in providing the answers. May I count on your help?

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, due to the death of a close friend, I missed a series of

votes on the FY10 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act and also two suspension bills—H. Con. Res. 127; and H. Con. Res. 131.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the following rollcall numbers: 511; 512; 513; 514; 515; 516; 519; 521; 523; 525. I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers: 517; 518; 520; 522; 524.

CONGRATULATING CONTINENTAL AIRLINES ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Continental Airlines on their 75th Anniversary. Continental was founded 75 years ago as a mail service by Walter T. Varney and Louis Mueller.

Continental has risen to one of the most respected commercial passenger airlines flying more than 2750 flights daily to more than 260 destinations on five continents.

They have been named for the fifth time, in as many years, as the Best Airline in North America at the OAG Airline of the Year Awards;

In addition, Continental has been rated as the top airline on Fortune magazine's annual industry list of World's Most Admired Companies for six consecutive years.

I would like to congratulate Continental and their employees on their 75th anniversary and look forward to many more years of flying to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEW YORK STATE SENATOR OLGA A. MÉNDEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to take some time out to honor an incredible community leader and important figure on the national stage, Olga A. Méndez.

Méndez, who passed away Wednesday, July 29 after a long battle with breast cancer, was the first Puerto Rican woman elected to state legislature in the mainland United States, serving in the New York State Senate from 1978 to 2004. She was a passionate leader and legislator that fought for not just the people of her beloved East Harlem, but for all people of humble backgrounds. We became good friends working for our constituents and while we may not have seen eye-to-eye on all issues over the years, there was never a doubt that she gave everything she had to public service.

Born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in 1925, Olga earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Puerto Rico and eventually earned her a doctorate in education from Yeshiva University after she moved to New York in the 1950s. She soon became involved in commu-

nity issues and politics, going from being a Democratic convention delegate in 1972 and a deputy commissioner of the Agency for Childhood Development in New York City to the office of the New York State Senate in 1978.

The first Puerto Rican woman elected to state legislature in the mainland United States, Olga was soon on the frontlines of numerous battles to make sure that people were given the resources and opportunities to improve the lives of their families and their communities, no matter where their country of origin or their background. At a time when so few women occupied positions of power on any level, she smashed stereotypes and opened doors so that a new generation of leaders could be more diverse and open-minded.

In her 26 years in Albany, Olga brought in thousands of dollars in state funds to her district. We became good friends, collaborating together to bring not just city and federal aid to East Harlem and the South Bronx, but also private dollars to assist residents, especially families and seniors. As she worked hard to reduce truck emissions and the alarming rates of asthma in urban neighborhoods, she also reached out to developers on initiatives that would create jobs and expand opportunities for local business. Those seeds are continuing to bear fruit, most recently in projects like the East Harlem Automall and East River Plaza, a facility along the river on E. 116 St. that will soon open with tenants Home Depot and Costco. The fact that she was willing to risk her standing late in her political career to switch parties was just another example of her willingness to do anything for her constituents.

Madam Speaker, I will be among many in New York and across the Nation that will miss Olga's passion and straight from the hip commentary. I know that she will be leading the cheers in heaven when we see our native daughter, Judge Sonia Sotomayor, finally confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice. Thankfully, Olga's legacy can be found in her numerous legislative victories, including our state minimum wage, various worker protection laws and in the dozens of education, health and affordable housing projects that she helped fund. And it will certainly be remembered as we see a new cadre of Latinas ascend into our Nation's leadership circles, their achievements built on the foundation of expectations she helped create.

I am submitting a July 30, 2009 tribute editorial from New York's premier Spanish-language newspaper, *El Diario/La Prensa* which describes Olga's career and importance to our community.

[From www.eldiariouny.com, July 30, 2009]

A LEGENDARY PIONEER

As New York stands ready to celebrate one of its daughters joining the Supreme Court, it also mourns the loss of one of its most fearless leaders.

Yesterday, former New York State Senator Olga Méndez died at the age of 84 after a long battle with cancer. Méndez represented El Barrio and sections of the South Bronx in the Senate until 2004, after serving for 13 consecutive terms.

Born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Méndez understood well the challenges Judge Sonia Sotomayor has faced and will continue to face as a Hispanic woman. The judge withstood grilling from white, male conservatives and she will become one of only two female justices on the Court.

In 1978, Méndez made history as the first Puerto Rican woman elected to a state legislative office in the United States. Her victory in representing Puerto Ricans and a district the state neglected should have landed the wide respect of her colleagues. Instead, Méndez, one of only a few women then in the state senate, found herself wrestling with the boys' club politics of New York.

Méndez was brash, bold and aggressive because she had to be. She cut her teeth in the Senate and became a battle-ready politician. And she balanced what few politicians were able to do well—an on-the-ground constituency services with the ability to achieve critical legislative negotiations. This, in a Senate that was controlled by Republicans during the entire 26 years she served.

Despite all of the disadvantages, Méndez successfully fought for an increase in the state's minimum wage, ushered in legislation that provided basic rights to migrant farm workers, and secured funding for senior citizen centers. She also fought for resources for early childhood development and gained bipartisan support for affordable housing and economic development initiatives in her district.

Méndez provoked many criticisms, some valid. She opposed abortion rights and was accused of making homophobic statements about a political opponent. Controversies like her party switch contributed to her eventual political demise.

In 2002, she registered as a Republican in a bid to bring resources to her district, a maneuver that today seems to be acceptable depending on who is making the move. Méndez complained that Democrats were taking Latinos for granted and saw herself as handling the business of her district.

For her faults, the legendary senator, who was widowed early and had no children, sacrificed a family life for the political commitment she made. She used her rich background in education, her political experience, and above all, her passion for her community to help many people.

Méndez never minced her words. Anyone who came into contact with her was left with a lasting impression. But it would be a mistake to remember Méndez as simply a colorful personality instead of who she truly was—a fierce politician who did not back away from a bare-knuckled fight.

HONORING THE DEATH OF MATTHEW GLOMB, A RESIDENT OF GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong commitment to public service of Matthew Glomb, a devoted father and husband, a loyal friend to his colleagues, and an admired member of greater Prince William, VA.

Mr. Glomb pursued a career in the U.S. Coast Guard's Corps of the Judge Advocate General, serving at one point as a Military Judge. Following his tenure with the Coast Guard, Mr. Glomb continued his service to our Nation in the Aviation-Admiralty Office of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he specialized in maritime law.

Tragically, Mr. Glomb was fatally struck by lightning on Monday, July 27, 2009, at the age of 49. He was jogging along the beach of Southern Shores, NC, in the Outer Banks

while vacationing with his son at their family beach house. He died instantly, leaving behind his wife and two children.

Mr. Glomb is remembered by those closest to him as a man of deep faith who immediately cared about everyone he met, and he will forever be revered as having an unparalleled sense of humor, and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this dedicated public servant and in expressing our condolences to the entire Glomb family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on July 27, 2009. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted yea on each of the following:

Roll 647, July 27, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: H. Res. 593, Recognizing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State

Roll 648, July 27, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 1376, Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009

Roll 649, July 27, 2009: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 1121, Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act of 2009

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act:

Department of Education (DOE)—Arkansas City Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for Arkansas City Public Schools, Arkansas City, KS, for technology upgrades, professional development, and development training/technical assistance in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Arkansas City Schools, Unified School District 470, at 2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005.

This funding will allow for the purchase of additional technology to be used by both students and teachers, provide for professional development and teacher training in the use of this technology, and technical assistance.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Augusta Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 402, Augusta, KS Public Schools for technology upgrades in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 402, Augusta Public Schools, 2345 Greyhound Drive, Augusta, KS 67010.

This funding will allow for the purchase of additional technology to be used in classrooms across the district.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Independence Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for Independence Public Schools, Independence, KS, for technology upgrades and teacher training in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is Independence Unified School District 446, at P.O. Drawer 487, 517 N 101h, Independence, KS 67301.

This funding will allow for the purchase of technology to be used in math and science curriculum across the district, and provide for teacher training in the use of the technology.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Newton Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 373, Newton, KS, Public Schools for technology upgrades in the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 373, Newton, Kansas Public Schools, at 308 East 1st Street, Newton, KS 67114.

This funding will allow for the purchase of technology to be used in the district's Distance Learning Lab, and high school library.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Wellington Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 353, Wellington, KS Public Schools for technology upgrades and teacher training in the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 353 Wellington, at 221 S. Washington, Wellington, KS 67152.

This funding will allow for the purchase of in-classroom technology and teacher training and technical assistance in the use of that technology.

No matching funds are required for this Department of Education project.

Department of Education (DOE)—Butler County Public Schools

H.R. 3293, the Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act contains \$250,000 for USD 490, Butler County, KS, for technology upgrades and teacher training at the El Dorado, KS school system in the Improvement of Education (FIE) Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is USD 490, Butler County, KS, at 124 West Central, El Dorado, KS 67042.

This funding will allow for the purchase of technology to be used in conjunction with the establishment of a student technology program at the district middle school, and related teacher training.