

Description: Continue the evaluation of New Jersey's coastal projects, including the different reaches of beach replenishment projects, as a system to ensure maximum benefits are achieved from the Federal investment and reduce long-term periodic nourishment costs.

Financial Statement: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is the non-Federal sponsor and provides their portion of the study costs.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL J. CARROLL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues representing Chester County, Congressmen JOE PITTS and JOE SESTAK, to congratulate West Goshen Township Police Chief Michael J. Carroll on his induction as President of the International Association of Police Chiefs in Denver, Colorado on October 7, 2009.

The tremendous honor of being selected by his peers to lead the 106-year-old nonprofit organization that promotes professionalism and global policing is just the latest accomplishment in Chief Carroll's distinguished 43-year law enforcement career. He is a Past President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and Chester County Police Chiefs Associations and has been inducted into the International Police Association Hall of Fame.

The lengthy list of accolades is a testament to Chief Carroll's outstanding leadership and commitment to the department he runs and the community he protects. He has earned the respect of his fellow officers for his passion for police work, determination to solve even the most difficult cases and drive to provide the highest-quality training and resources for all officers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Police Chief Michael J. Carroll for earning this prestigious international post and for his exemplary service to the residents of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMES VINCENT MCCONNELL, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, earlier this week the city of Mobile lost a dear friend and a respected leader and I rise today to honor Mr. James Vincent "Jim" McConnell Jr. and pay tribute to his memory. Jim was a successful businessman, an active citizen and a dedicated soldier who years earlier answered his country's call to serve. He will be remembered as a man devoted to his family, his country and his community.

A native of Pensacola, Jim moved to Mobile as a teenager and graduated from Murphy High School. He received a football scholarship to the University of Alabama in 1959 and

played under the legendary Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. After graduating from the University of Alabama in 1963 with a degree in business administration, Jim entered the U.S. Army and served as a second lieutenant in Germany. He was later promoted to captain after being reassigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After an honorable discharge, Jim worked for his father at Trail Cadillac-Pontiac before starting on his own dealership, Trail Pontiac on Dauphin Street. Later, Jim acquired the Mercedes-Benz and GMC Truck franchises, which he eventually merged with his brother's Cadillac dealership, forming McConnell Automotive Corporation. Jim was also a partner in the new Mercedes-Benz of Mobile.

Jim served on the General Motors Dealer Advisory Board and as president of the Buick-Pontiac-GMC area marketing group for 20 years. He received numerous awards as a General Motors Master Dealer and Mercedes-Benz Diamond Dealer. He was a member of the Red Elephant Club, served on the Senior Bowl committee and was active in a number of other civic and community organizations. In short, Jim McConnell was always giving back to the city he loved and called home.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated and generous community leader and a dear friend to many. Jim McConnell will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Cynde; his sons, Mitch McConnell, Stan McConnell, Vince McConnell and Baker McConnell; his mother, Mary Louise McConnell; his brother Eddie McConnell; his sister, Mary Lou Layden; and his four grandchildren—as well as his many friends, colleagues, and patrons.

Mobile—and indeed our entire state—lost a true leader for our area and our thoughts and prayers are with this family at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JUDY SCHIER HOBBS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Honorable Judy Schier Hobbs, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4 in Williamson County, who was awarded "Judge of the Year" by the Texas Justice Court Judges Association (TJCJA) at their annual 2009 Education Conference in Austin, Texas. The state-wide award was presented at the Awards Luncheon during the four-day conference at the Austin Hyatt Regency on Lady Bird Lake.

Texas Justice Court Judges Association is an organization representing Justice Court Judges and Clerks across the State of Texas.

Judge Hobbs was awarded the "Judge of the Year" by the Central Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association earlier this year.

Judge Hobbs is a lifelong resident of Precinct Four in Williamson County with a rich history of community service and was appointed and sworn to office May 15, 1982. She is a Lifetime member of the Texas Justice Court Judges Association and Central Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association.

Judge Hobbs is married and has two children and seven grandchildren with one on the way and is a member of the Brushy Creek Baptist Church.

SUPPORT THE MOTOR VEHICLE OWNERS RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss a problem that many of us, and many of our constituents, often face, a problem that be easily resolved with legislation that I, joined by Representatives ANNA ESHOO and GEORGE MILLER, have reintroduced. HR 2057, The Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act, ensures that motoring consumers have the ability to choose where, how and by whom they have their vehicles repaired and serviced, even those recently out of warranty.

Vehicles that are 1994 and newer are equipped with computers that control most of the vehicles' systems, from air bags and brakes, to tire pressure, oil changes, electronics, ignition systems and keys. In fact, there are more computers on today's vehicles than were on the Apollo 11 moon mission.

Independent repair shops, which comprise a large number of the small businesses in all of our districts, are experiencing a great deal of difficulty in locating and obtaining the information, tools and software needed to completely repair late model vehicles. These shops often must turn away their valued customers, forcing them to return to new car dealerships, which, on average, are 34 percent more expensive. Not only is that a loss of business for the over 200,000 independent repair shops in our nation, but it is a financial burden for our constituents.

I have heard several complaints in my office of problems that independent repair shops have experienced in repairing later model vehicles. One independent aftermarket technician in New York was attempting to diagnose a Subaru and was told that the car company would not sell the independent repair shop the proper tools needed to diagnose and repair a drivability problem.

Another New York repair shop was told they would have to wait up to two days to obtain the software from Ford needed to update the computer on a Ford Escape. The repairer had to pay for towing and then pay the new car dealership a fee.

I have another example from Massachusetts. But you get the point.

82% of car owners and 94% of independent repair shops indicate that they favor the passage of this bill. It allows repair shops to offer their clients better service and doesn't cost the taxpayers or the government any money. Instead, it's a way that we can provide affordable choices to car owners who continue to struggle in this difficult economy.

The car companies have argued that this bill would lead to infringements on their intellectual property. HR 2057 does NOT request or require proprietary information and I have inserted language to ensure that. Similar legislation has been passed in the California state legislature, and there were no breaches of proprietary information; the only result was

that emissions systems were repaired faster and better. It's time that Congress keep our motoring constituents in the drivers' seat when it comes to repairing their vehicles, and it's time we helped ensure the economic survival of the small, independent repair shops that have been so good to our constituents.

Please join with me, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO and Congressman GEORGE MILLER, to give our constituents a choice of where to repair their cars.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES DEALING WITH TROPICAL STORM KETSANA AND TYPHOON PARMA

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the hundreds of Samoans and Filipinos who tragically lost their lives in the natural disasters that ravaged the islands of the South Pacific and Southeast Asia. I also recognize the incredible resolve of the survivors of these catastrophes as they begin to rebuild their communities.

We are still assessing the total devastation caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma in the Philippines, and by the earthquakes and tsunamis in American Samoa, Samoa, and Tonga. These natural disasters have claimed hundreds of lives, damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, and have left countless people without basic necessities, such as clean water, adequate food, and essential health care.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of these tragedies, we are reminded of the important role our national service programs and volunteers play in repairing the homes, neighborhoods, and lives of those who have fallen victim to natural disasters. In response to this most recent catastrophe, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, NCCC, Team Leaders from my hometown of Sacramento traveled to American Samoa to manage the immediate assistance provided to those affected through the American Red Cross intake center, located in Pago Pago.

As Co-Chair of the National Service Caucus, I have seen first-hand the commitment these volunteers have made to the betterment of society. We honor these dedicated men and women who continuously rush to the service of those in need, and recognize the great value of our national service programs in disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, we mourn the losses suffered by our neighbors in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia, and express our steadfast support of their efforts to rebuild devastated communities and reestablish their way of life. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring the commitment of volunteers who make this recovery period possible, as they provide assistance to those currently facing incredible hardships.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY TAYMOR

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent, Betty Taymor, who will be honored this week at the University of Massachusetts. Her visionary leadership is responsible for the creation of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at their McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, and a scholarship fund has been created in her name.

Her lifetime of civic engagement serves as an inspiration to us all. My colleagues in the Massachusetts delegation have joined in a letter of congratulation that I would like to read into the RECORD. This is what we wrote to Ms. Taymor:

The Massachusetts delegation to the House of Representatives joins in tribute to you as your friends and colleagues gather to celebrate your extraordinary achievements. You have indeed run against many prevailing winds, and been energized, not subdued, by the challenges you've overcome.

We recommend your inspiring book, *Running against the Wind*, to anyone who seeks to understand the progress made by American women in the second half of the last century. You entered public service as a volunteer, an honorable role shared by many idealistic women throughout our history and crucial to the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women. During the Second World War, you joined with others on the home front in the important work of the Red Cross. Later, you sought and won positions of greater responsibility and authority, in Massachusetts and in the national Democratic Party.

You were a personal mentor to many, but you wanted to do more. With characteristic energy, you created an institutional embodiment of your example in the Program for Women in Politics & Public Policy. This evening's celebration is dedicated to your vision and to the support of the Betty Taymor Fund to further the education of women who share your intellectual and moral fervor. Your courage and determination continue to inspire all good citizens, both men and women, committed to equal rights and equal opportunity.

We unite in gratitude and congratulation.

O'FALLON CASTING—SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, it is a common refrain today that "we are losing good manufacturing jobs" in the United States; that manufacturing anything in the United States is becoming more and more difficult. As a former steel executive, I share the concerns of our manufacturing community and blame, in no small part, the onerous regulatory burden with which this government has saddled our manufacturers for that decline. But, despite what seems to be the best efforts of some in Congress and our regulatory agencies, there are manufacturing companies in this country who are succeeding and without government inter-

vention. One such company is O'Fallon Casting; located in my district, they will celebrate their 6-year anniversary on Friday October 23.

Once a division of Hitchiner Manufacturing, Co. O'Fallon Casting has roots dating back 40 years in Missouri. But today it has shed its traditional past and transformed itself into a modern, high tech industry leader positioned for growth in the future. Proving that despite an increasingly competitive world economy, innovative U.S. manufacturers can and do successfully compete in the global market.

With the support of ownership, O'Fallon's management team has incorporated modern automation of the material handling and production systems. Additionally, compression straightening of castings has been implemented with four workstations feeding to a single, custom, 500-ton press. The company's goal is to provide their customers with access to cutting edge technologies.

Employing 169 people in O'Fallon, Missouri, over the past six years the company has also pursued a number of environmentally friendly initiatives including high-efficiency lighting and in-house recycling of water, wax and metal. In 2004, O'Fallon Casting was recognized by the State of Missouri with a prestigious Gold Award for its water recycling and waste treatment efforts. The City of O'Fallon named the company "Manufacturer of the Year" in 2005.

Throughout my tenure in Congress I have fought to reduce the tax and regulatory burden this government places on American business and manufacturing as a way to encourage companies, like O'Fallon Casting, who are responsible for creating the jobs that employ all our constituents. I'm honored to represent the company and its 169 employees in this House, and congratulate them on their sixth anniversary. I pray I will be able to celebrate many more such days with them for many years to come.

THE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND FIGHT POVERTY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, according to a study of recent U.S. Census Bureau figures, the National Academy of Science found that the level of American poverty is even worse than the government's official number.

The official measure, created in 1955, failed to factor in rising costs of medical care, transportation or childcare. It also ignores geographical variations in the cost of living. Further, it also fails to consider non-cash government aid when calculating income. As a result, the poverty figures released by Census last month may overlook millions of people suffering in poverty, many of whom are 65 and older.

The National Academy of Sciences' revised formula calculates that about 47.4 million Americans lived in poverty last year—7 million more than the Census figure.

The National Academy of Sciences formula shows a poverty rate of 15.8 percent, which is nearly 1 in 6 Americans. This is far higher than the poverty rate of 13.2 percent, or 39.8 million, reported by the U.S. Census Bureau recently.