

hand to a neighbor in need. In particular, I would like to recognize Neighbors 4 Neighbors for raising more than \$10,000 for Michael, and Broward Sheriff's detective Joe Kessling for his leadership and community activism.

Madam Speaker, we must stop the dangerous values of bullying and violence from being perpetuated in our schools and communities. Young people like Michael deserve a safe educational environment in which they can reach their full potential and become respectful, contributing members of our society.

TWO NEIGHBORS COME TOGETHER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, for almost two decades, the Republics of Turkey and Armenia have been meeting to discuss a pathway for normalization of relations. These diplomatic discussions were not easy and often involved complicated multi-dimensional implications. However, on October 10th, the two neighbors signed a historic rapprochement, a ceremony which was followed around the globe.

In the two protocols signed, the two nations agreed to establish diplomatic relations, normalize their bilateral relations in all aspects, open their border and create a framework to determine their joint history. This agreement would not only bring stability to the region, it will also provide an example for other nations to come together to resolve their past disputes.

At their signing ceremony, the Turkish and Armenian foreign ministers were joined by foreign dignitaries from the United States, France, Switzerland, Russia, the European Union, and the Council of Europe. While each country's parliament must now ratify these protocols, we should acknowledge the significant progress for these two neighbors.

The U.S. administrations of the past, as well as the current Obama administration, all support the diplomatic discussions between Turkey and Armenia. I want to commend both countries as they move this historic agreement through their respective parliaments.

KOREA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, when President Obama meets tomorrow with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, I encourage him to express his strong support for the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Deepening the important economic ties between our countries benefits both sides. Already, Georgia does billions of dollars in trade with Korea each year. For Georgians in the 3rd Congressional District, this relationship with Korea has yielded tangible benefits: thousands of good-paying jobs.

Korean automaker Kia has opened up a production facility in West Point, GA, and

eventually will employ nearly 2,500 people in a region devastated by textile mill closings over the past 30 years. New jobs are always welcome, but they're a lifesaver for many Georgia families as our State suffers with an unemployment rate above 10 percent.

The plant will have a \$6.5 billion economic impact on the local economy, creating up to 20,000 new jobs as a result. Direct Korean investment is bolstering our economy and paying the bills for thousands of families in west Georgia.

Lowering trade barriers between South Korea and the United States will produce more positive outcomes like the Kia plant for communities throughout this nation. Not only will American consumers benefit from cheaper, duty-free products from Korea, but also American businesses will sell more of our products in the Korean market.

In 2007, Georgia businesses exported \$397 million worth of goods to Korea. Removing tariffs on U.S. goods, particularly those competing against protected Korean industries, could significantly increase that number. Agriculture remains my State's No. 1 industry and KORUS FTA would eliminate tariffs and barriers to Georgia farm products such as peanuts, poultry and cotton.

Madam Speaker, for my constituents in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, the KORUS FTA isn't some academic lecture with line graphs. For Georgians, the benefits are tangible and observable. For the people in West Point, GA, Korean economic investment means jobs. Good jobs. Lots of jobs.

The Congress has dragged its feet on passing this trade deal even though we've seen previous agreements work. In the first four years of the U.S.-Singapore FTA, Georgia's exports to Singapore have grown 212 percent. Since NAFTA went into effect in 1994, Georgia's combined exports to Canada and Mexico have increased by 194 percent and since entry into force of the U.S.-Chile Agreement in 2004, the State's exports to Chile have grown 93 percent.

I encourage President Obama to keep these numbers—these numbers that represent real jobs for real Americans—in mind when he shakes hands with President Lee tomorrow.

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE TRANSFER IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, recently, the administration announced it may move up to 215 Al Qaeda terrorists to Illinois. This proposal imposes an unnecessary new risk. We should slow down and answer basic questions.

The facility is only 22 miles from a nuclear reactor. What precautions are taken?

Commissions will be in Illinois—how will we protect the families of judges and jurors?

We learned yesterday that two-thirds of the jobs claimed will be active-duty military. The Bureau of Prisons will hire no one over 37 years old and will hire nationwide, not just Illinois.

The United States spent more than \$50 million to build the state-of-the-art Guantanamo Bay detention facility to keep terrorists from

U.S. soil. Al Qaeda terrorists should stay where they cannot endanger Americans.

Today I introduced the Guantanamo Detainee Transfer Impact Assessment Act of 2009. My legislation prohibits the transfer of terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay to any location in the United States unless the President presents to the State's legislature a "Homeland Insecurity Impact Statement" conducted by the Government Accountability Office, in consultation with the Inspectors General of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the legislature then approves the transfer by a majority vote.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in ensuring that a thorough threat and risk assessment is conducted and shared with the elected representatives of the American people before any terrorist from Guantanamo Bay is brought to the United States.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation to Replace a Combined Sewer in Peoria, Illinois.

Bill Number: H.R. 2996—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Provisions/Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Peoria, located at 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois 61602.

Description of Request: This project is intended to control combined sewer overflows along Spring Street. This is part of a larger community initiative which the City of Peoria has committed \$127 million towards.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COAST GUARD AND MARINE CORPS PILOTS AND CREWMEMBERS LOST ON OCTOBER 29, 2009

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Coast Guard and Marine Corps pilots and crewmembers lost off the coast of California on October 29, 2009.

On the evening of October 29, 2009, a Coast Guard C-130 based out of Sacramento in California's Third Congressional District was suspected to have collided with a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra.

The following crew members of the Coast Guard C-130 are missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Lt. Cmdr. Che J. Barnes of Capay, California; Lt. Adam W. Bryant, of Crewe, Virginia; Chief Petty Officer John F. Seidman of Stockton,

California; Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl P. Grigonis of Mayfield Heights, Ohio; Petty Officer 2nd Class Monica L. Beacham of Decaturville, Tennessee; Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason S. Moletzsky of Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Danny R. Kreder II, of Elm Mott, Texas.

The following crew members of the Marine Corps helicopter are missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Maj. Samuel Leigh of Kennebec, Maine, and 1st Lt. Thomas Claiborne of Douglas, Colorado.

Today we consider House Resolution 891, which expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the service to our Nation that these pilots and crewmembers provided, and extends its condolences to their family, friends, and loved ones.

I also thank the men and women of the Coast Guard and Marine Corps on behalf of my fellow Californians for the untold impact that they have had on the security of our home.

ARNO HOTT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arno Hott, who is stepping down from the Hampshire County Commission on Aging after 35 years; 25 served as board chairman.

Arno Hott was born in Kirby, WV, on November 13, 1924. On his 85th birthday we honor him for all the work he has done for Hampshire County. His wife, Dorothy, and four children should be extremely proud as Arno was one of the first board members on the Commission on Aging. What started with just three employees has grown to employ 110 people, making it among the top ten employers in Hampshire County.

We honor him for his time with the Commission on Aging, but his service to Hampshire County reaches much further. A graduate of Shepherd College, Arno taught in Hampshire County Schools for 36 years. He is very active with the community choir, the county fair, as well as the Ruritan Club, where he has been a member for 50 years. An instrumental part in starting a day care for seniors, Arno's involvement in the community has benefited so many and it is only right he receive acknowledgement in return for all his public service.

Having received the Distinguished West Virginian Award from four different Governors as well as the Outstanding West Virginian Award, it is an honor to recognize Arno Hott. It says great things about West Virginia to have people like you representing our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE AND THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Equal Suffrage League and its successor organization, the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

On November 20, 1909, at 4:00 in the afternoon, a meeting was held in the Richmond home of Mrs. Anne Clay Crenshaw. The purpose of this meeting was to lay the groundwork for an organization that would dedicate its efforts to the women's suffrage movement in Virginia. This organization was called the Equal Suffrage League (ESL).

The ESL was not the first organization formed in Virginia with the goal of granting voting rights to women; at least two and perhaps three other organizations had been formed in prior years between 1870 and 1900. But where the prior organizations faded, the Equal Suffrage League was able to maintain its passion and direction and continue the battle for women's suffrage.

The Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified in August, 1920. Mrs. Anne Clay Crenshaw, at whose home the first ESL was held, wasted no time and registered to vote just days later on September 9, 1920.

On November 20, 1920, exactly 11 years after its founding, the Equal Suffrage League officially changed its name to the League of Women Voters of Virginia. Since that time, the League of Women Voters of Virginia has continued to expand its involvement and increase the involvement and participation of women in many areas including candidate and issue information, voting guides and laws, advocacy and public issues. There are now 12 local leagues and three Member at Large Units in the Commonwealth of Virginia, all of which continue the work of involving women and ensuring that their voices are heard.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia understands and promotes the fact that when women are informed, they become engaged; when they become engaged, they vote; and when women vote, they get results.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the League of Women Voters of Virginia on the occasion of this anniversary and also to thank the League of Women Voters of Virginia for their tireless work on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 360 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Local 360 of the United Association of Plumbers and Gasfitters, headquartered in Collinsville, Illinois.

The Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 360 was chartered in 1909 in East St. Louis, Illinois. Situated on the Mississippi River, across from St. Louis and with a number of rail lines passing through it, the East St. Louis area early in the 20th Century was developing into a major industrial center. With commercial and residential development booming as families came to the region in search of work in the factories and stockyards, there was a need for skilled labor and for unions to represent those workers.

Under the original charter, Local 360 represented plumbers, steamfitters, gasfitters, and steamfitter helpers. The original officer was William J. Stewart, who served as secretary for the new local until November 20, 1909.

Local 360 has grown through the years and now represents 230 members in Madison and St. Clair counties. In addition to providing a strong voice for its members and providing the highest quality of labor, Local 360 also is committed to giving back to the communities where its members live and work. The Local provides support for a number of charitable organizations, such as the Shriners, Salvation Army and the Special Olympics.

In 1994, Local 360 moved its headquarters to Collinsville, Illinois. Current leadership is provided by William Hayes, business manager/financial secretary-treasurer; Matthew Popov, recording secretary; Paul Koehne, president; and Thomas Kowalski, vice president. Through their continued commitment to quality representation for their members and community involvement, Local 360 is a positive example of organized labor in southwestern Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Local 360 of the United Association of Plumbers and Gasfitters as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.