

CELEBRATING METRO GOLD LINE
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY'S 10
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority as it celebrates ten years of service and commitment to the community. Since the Construction Authority was established by the California State Legislature to design and construct the Pasadena Metro Gold Line, it has completed 13.7 miles of light rail, which averages 24,000 daily weekday boardings.

One decade ago, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, faced with serious budgetary problems, delayed the construction of the light-rail line to Pasadena. Senate Bill 1847 was introduced to create the Construction Authority and finish the work that had already been started on the new rail line. The newly created Construction Authority was not only able to complete the project on time but was also able to build it under budget.

Today, the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority is continuing its work in connecting downtown Los Angeles to the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Funding has been secured to extend the line to the city of Azusa and plans are in place to continue the Gold Line to Montclair and Ontario International Airport. The success of the Gold Line is a testament of the collaborate efforts between the staff of the Construction Authority and the elected officials, civic leaders, and residents of the surrounding communities.

The Gold Line not only provides a reliable and efficient source of transportation to residents of the greater Los Angeles region, it also alleviates traffic and is a part of our fight to reduce pollution. The congestion on the Gold Line corridor highways has continued to increase as the Inland Empire grows in population. As we work to find solutions to solve our traffic congestion dilemma, extending the Gold Line into our eastern cities is clearly part of the answer.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority on its ten years of success. I am proud of the role I have played in helping the Gold Line become the pride of the San Gabriel Valley and I wish it continued success!

THE BELLEVUE WOLVERINES

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud a phenomenal high school football program in my District—the 8th of Washington—for winning another State Championship—their seventh in nine years.

The Bellevue Wolverines have an illustrious history of football success in the State of Washington, and they continued the trend on Saturday, December 5, defeating the Liberty Patriots, 23–17, to secure another 3A title. Head Coach Butch Goncharoff and his assist-

ants provide some of the best coaching and vision in the country and the program—well known for their great on-the-field success—often makes positive impacts in the community as well.

I congratulate every member of the roster for their continued and storied success on the field. I thank coach Goncharoff, his assistants, Athletic Director Brian Hercules and Principal David Wellington for creating an environment that allows student-athletes to thrive on the field, in the classroom and in their community. Once again, congratulations and I wish the Wolverines all possible success in the future.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING LISA
ABELE FOR HER CERTIFICATION
BY THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
STANDARDS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, Lisa Abele has been granted certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, Lisa Abele has sufficiently demonstrated adherence and dedication to the five core propositions of teaching set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

Whereas, due to her hard work and dedication to her profession, Lisa Abele was able to achieve this esteemed honor; and

Whereas, we recognize the values and lessons teachers impart to our children; and

Whereas, the creative ingenuity that Lisa Abele has demonstrated while educating her students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with Ohio's 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Lisa Abele for her certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressionally-directed funding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: PA,A

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Blue Grass Army Depot

Address of Requesting Entity: 431 Battle Field Memorial Road, Richmond, KY 40475

Description of Request: The funding of \$3.92 million will be used for the Blue Grass Army Depot Superficial Water Oxidation-Conventional Demilitarization. These funds will provide the Army with a state-of-the-art environmentally friendly means of processing the problematic energetic wastes generated at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN NAO
TAKASUGI

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I honor the life and achievements of my dear friend, former California State Assemblymember Nao Takasugi. Nao dedicated his life to public service with humility, integrity, and commitment to the American ideals of equality and justice.

Nao was a 19-year-old student at the University of California, Los Angeles, when he and his family were incarcerated in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II.

His family was forced to sell most of their possessions, but was able to keep the family store, the Asahi Market in downtown Oxnard, which they had owned since 1907.

The Takasugi family was able to save the store during their imprisonment by entrusting the family business to a Mexican American employee, Ignacio Carmona. When the Takasugi family returned to Oxnard in 1945, Mr. Carmona returned the business back to the Takasugis, after faithfully carrying on the business for three years.

In 1943, Nao was among approximately 4,000 Japanese American college students who were released from the internment camps and allowed to attend college on the East Coast. Nao earned his business administration degree at Temple University in Philadelphia and a master's in business administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946. When he returned to Oxnard, he ran his family's Asahi Market.

His family's imprisonment inspired him to commit his life to strengthening our democracy in public service, and did not cause deep embitterment. As Oxnard City Councilman, Mayor, and then California State Assemblyman, he ably represented all of his diverse constituents, crossing racial and ethnic divides, and building bridges across party lines.

At the age of 87, Nao died of complications from a stroke on November 19, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Judy, and their five children, Scott, Russell, Ron, Tricia and Lea.

I was truly saddened by the loss of my dear friend Nao Takasugi. He was a gentle soul, and never let his kind demeanor get in the way of his strong beliefs about justice and civil rights. When he spoke, people listened as he was always true to his convictions and sense of honor. I will miss him dearly and will always reflect on his life as a metric of how I should conduct my own.

“THIS CHRISTMAS,” IN HONOR OF
ALL OUR ARMED FORCES AND
THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRIST-
MAS SEASON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a poetic tribute in honor of our

Magnificent Armed Forces and their Splendid Families this Christmas and holiday season. And for all of the ones who are so separated by the miles, so very far across the shores. Our hearts, especially go out to all of those families who have lost their greatest loves of all, in the defense of our nation. And to all of those recovering from the grave wounds of war we pray for their speedy recovery. Bless them all! I ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD in honor of them as follows:

THIS CHRISTMAS . . .

As the snow falls to the ground . . .
 And all of our children dance, with songs of joy so all around . . .
 With stockings hung by the chimneys with care . . .
 With all of those hopes and dreams, of Santa there . . .
 With Christmas dinners and fires all aglow, as before this family a feast lies so . . .
 A child is born, for all to know!
 But, remember . . . remember . . . remember all of those . . .
 Those families! Those Patriots of Peace, all them, all of these . . .
 The ones, who this Christmas will not together be . . .
 Who upon battlefields of honor fight!
 So far away from our Country Tis of Thee, this night . . .
 Men and Women of such honor bright, who for all of us . . . so carry that fight . . .
 Who live with such heartache and death, as on each new day their honor blesses . . .
 As they bless us all, with all their gifts of selflessness . . .
 And all of those ones, whose greatest of all loves . . . now so lie in soft quiet graves . . .
 Precious Daughters and Sons, Husbands and Wives . . .
 Fathers and Mothers, Sisters and Brothers who so gave . . .
 Who so gave That Last Full Measure . . . did they!
 Whose loved ones pain, can not be healed by time, nor so divided . . .
 Who on this Christmas morning, sit with tears in eyes . . .
 With one less place set at the dinner table this year . . . as they cry . . .
 And all of those who have come home, without arms and legs . . .
 Blessing us with their fine gifts of courage displayed!
 Making us all so see, just how magnificent and inspiring a heart can be!
 And all of those with loved ones, who are so far across the shores . . .
 As each new day but brings such great worry . . . sure . . .
 But, waiting . . . but waiting for, that knock on the door . . .
 That phone call, that they now not so pray for . . .
 Quiet Heroes, one and all!
 Watching them from Heaven, The Angel's tear drops fall . . .
 Lord God, Lord God . . . Bless Them . . . Bless Them All!
 For So Many, So Few Have But Paid The Cost!
 So bore the burden, so carry that cross! That cross of war!
 This Christmas, as you hold your families tight . . .
 And seem so fine, and so very right . . .
 And you see those smiles, of your children very bright . . .
 Give thanks, Give praise . . . as upon your knees fall and pray . . .

For all of those families, who've sacrificed . . . and blessings of freedom they gave!
 This Christmas . . .

TRIBUTE TO JANICE AND BENJAMIN REZNIK

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friends Janice and Benjamin Reznik on the occasion of their Parnas Award honor from the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel 14th Annual Los Angeles Celebration.

Before becoming the Founding President of Jewish World Watch, Janice Kamenir-Reznik led an active career in the field of law. A graduate of UCLA law school, Janice spent years building a distinguished career in the legal field and then, recognizing her passion for community service work, turned to that avocation. Under her able leadership, Jewish World Watch—founded jointly with Rabbi Harold Schulweis—has become one of the leading advocacy groups in the fight against the genocide in Darfur and other global human rights abuses.

Janice served as the director of the Commission on Soviet Jewry for the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, and during her years in practice was President of California Women Lawyers, the statewide women's bar. She was a founder and president of California Women's Law Center, a public interest organization advocating for the rights of women and girls. She has testified before the House Judiciary Committee.

In addition to the numerous legal positions held by Janice over the years, she also served in many Jewish community leadership roles. I commend her for her invaluable contributions in serving on the following boards: Los Angeles Hebrew High School, Valley Beth Shalom, Los Angeles Hillel Council, UCLA Hillel, and the Jewish Federation Council.

Ben Reznik boasts a stellar professional and philanthropic record. Widely respected for his tenacious legal acumen, Ben has been described as “the most litigious attorney in Los Angeles” by his peers. He has been a key leader and activist in the community, devoting himself to a wide variety of organizations and causes. Currently, he is chairman of the Government, Land Use, Environment and Energy Department at the law firm of Jeffer Magels Butler & Marmaro LLP, JMBM, and leads 25 lawyers who comprise that department. Ben has also argued before the Supreme Court and has represented many prominent companies including the Mitsubishi Corporation and The Clarett Group.

Ben and Janice have three children, Yoni, Devi and Sami. They live in Encino where, through years of community activism and professional success, they have helped numerous people and are shining examples of what the Jewish tradition calls *tikkun olam*.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in congratulating Janice and Ben Reznik for their impressive career and dedication to the community and to congratulate them on receiving this honor.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS UNION 1199 SEIU AS THEY MARK THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of 1199 SEIU as a healthcare workers union. For the union, the last 50 years have been challenging ones. Through its efforts, much has changed for the better, and they have been a large part of that change. In the words of founder and former president Leon Davis, it is a history of “tough struggles and pioneering advances, decent wages, and working conditions instead of poverty, respect on the job instead of contempt, security instead of fear, and hope instead of despair.”

The 1199 changed history in 1959 when a drugstore union made up of pharmacists joined the Civil Rights Movement and set out to organize 30,000 predominantly Black and Latino workers in New York City's voluntary hospitals. The union succeeded in signing their first collective bargaining agreement with Montefiore Medical Center that year. Today, the union is 350,000 healthcare workers strong, in hospitals, nursing homes, and homecare agencies throughout New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Washington, DC. And they continue to grow despite these difficult times.

Aside from raising labor standards and restoring dignity to their members, 1199 has been a leading force for social and economic justice for all. It is why Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called 1199 his “favorite union.” And it is why they were the only labor union Malcolm X chose to speak before. The union was once the headquarters for Cesar Chavez's national grape and lettuce boycotts, as well as the headquarters for Nelson Mandela's visit to New York when he was released from prison. In all its years of activism in electoral politics, the union's greatest crowning achievement was in 2008, when it dispatched thousands of members—many of them for several months—to help elect Barack Obama as our nation's first African-American president.

For all its achievements over the many years of service, including being champions of worker rights, I applaud 1199 on its 50th anniversary and have pledged to its president, George Gresham, that the union can continue to count on my strong support in the many years ahead.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of 1199 United Healthcare Workers East of the Service Employees International Union. As 1199 looks back at its historic accomplishments over the last 50 years, let's join it in looking forward to the next 50 years, meeting the challenges that lie ahead with the same spirit, determination, and strength that has shaped who it continues to be today.