

Minnesota ice houses. Though John has recorded about 40 songs, his tale about one of Minnesota's most popular pastimes seems to be everyone's favorite. So popular is this local song that if you Google "Kurkosky fish house song," you'll get hits all over the web, including YouTube.

His CD, "John Kurkosky: My Mixed Up Music" sells at a shop in Annandale, Minnesota and is also available by mail. As a construction worker, John doesn't plan to quit his day job anytime soon, but since March is Food Share Month, he is using his talent to set up fundraising events in Central Minnesota for local food shelves. In addition, John already donates a portion of every CD sale to food shelves. This March campaign is the largest food drive in the state, supporting work at 260 food shelves across Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor John Kurkosky on his musical success and his charitable efforts. It is Minnesotans like John that make our communities better places to live, work and raise a family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, March 16, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 987, H.R. 1217, and H.R. 1284. I was dealing with the death of a very dear friend of mine over the weekend and was visiting with his family Monday night.

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 125, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 987, naming the John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 126, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1217, naming the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 127, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1284, naming the Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE ALTAMONT LIONS CLUB

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an important community institution. The Altamont Lions Club in Altamont, Illinois, celebrated its 70th Anniversary on January 15 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church Parish Hall.

Since January 1939, the Altamont Lions Club has been doing good deeds in this small town in Effingham County, Illinois. Each year, the club gives two Lions Club scholarships to deserving students in the community. Through the Lions' nationwide commitment to assisting the sight-impaired, they hold candy days fundraisers to purchase large-print Readers' Digests for the local library, and donate funds to enable blind youth to attend Space Camp.

This commitment has also led to the club purchasing eyeglasses for community members in need. In recent years, the Altamont Lions have sponsored youth soccer and basketball leagues, giving area children a positive opportunity for healthy recreation.

I want to congratulate Club President Jim Strange and the members of the Altamont Lions Club on 70 years of good work, and wish them all the best for the next 70 years and beyond.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105: Department of Agriculture—Preharvest Food Safety

H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$142,000 for Preharvest Food Safety, Kansas, in the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service's Research and Education Activities Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Kansas State University, located at 1 10 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

The funding would be used to expand its research in emerging threats of food-borne and zoonotic diseases associated with food-producing animals.

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

Department of Agriculture—Karnal Bunt

H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains \$508,000 for Karnal Bunt, Manhattan, Kansas, in the Agriculture Research Service's Salaries and Expenses Account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Kansas State University, located at 1 10 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.

This funding will be used to develop breeding lines of wheat that are resistant to existing and emerging diseases, including Karnal Bunt, leaf rust, and UG99 stem rust.

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

HONORING FLYING CROSS RECIPIENT ROBERT P. CHRISTIANSEN OF HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, Major Robert P. Christiansen of Homosassa, Florida. His extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial combat flight during an engagement in Southeast Asia in 1968 and his service to our Nation will forever be remembered by this Congress. Mr. Christiansen bravely encountered dangerous and life-threatening events during his time in the Air Force.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Christiansen graduated from West Point in 1957. He bravely served our country as a fighter pilot for the next 15 years, including service in Southeast Asia. On May 1, 1968, Mr. Christiansen bravely participated in an aerial combat mission.

On that night, Mr. Christiansen and his navigator bombardier dutifully responded to an urgent call to attack a convoy of hostile vehicles in a heavily defended and strategically important area. Mr. Christiansen made three attacks and was credited with destroying five vehicles and causing two significant secondary explosions. The professional skill and personal devotion displayed by Mr. Christiansen reflect his immense commitment and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Robert P. Christiansen should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to congratulate Mr. Christiansen on his long overdue Flying Cross award. His family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

THE HOME OFFICE DEDUCTION SIMPLIFICATION ACT (H.R. 1509)

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, yesterday, March 16, 2009, the Gentleman from Oregon, Mr. SCHRADER, and I introduced legislation, H.R. 1509, the Home Office Deduction Simplification Act. This legislation, which was H.R. 6214 in the 110th Congress, is designed to reduce the complexity of the tax code and provide Americans with the ability to elect to take a standard deduction in the amount of \$1,500 for home office expenses.

In 1976, Congress enacted Section 280A of the Internal Revenue Code, which was amended in 1997, provides the limited circumstances in which an individual or an S corporation may take a deduction for expenses related to an office in the home. Generally, deductions are limited to those parts of a home that are exclusively used on a regular basis as a principal place of business or to meet with patients, clients, or customers.

As a result of technological advancements and other significant changes in our economy over the past 40 years, many more small businesses are now able to effectively operate out of the home. Not surprisingly, there has been a growth in the use of home offices; according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the home office deduction was taken on 3.3 million self-employed business returns in tax year 2006, an increase of 700,000 from tax year 2002.

Nonetheless, the IRS reports that "a substantial number of taxpayers with home office expenses are not claiming them on tax returns." According to the IRS, the deduction might be underutilized because "understanding and complying with the rules for deducting home office expenses can be difficult for small business and self-employed taxpayers." This is borne out by an IRS analysis that found almost half of the taxpayers claiming a home office deduction made errors.

Small businesses are unquestionably the backbone of our nation's economy. In fact,

some 27 million American small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all employers, provide 51% of private sector employment and 45% of its payroll, and produce approximately 50% of the nation's private, nonfarm GDP. I could not overstate the importance of the nearly 66,000 small businesses I have the privilege of representing to the economy of Northern and Central New York.

The importance of this measure to small businesses is evident by the fact that it is supported by a coalition that includes the Alliance of Visual Artists, American Homeowners Grassroots Alliance, Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC), Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE), National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), National Small Business Association (NSBA), Professional Photographers of America, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC), and Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP). The Home Office Deduction Simplification Act is also supported by the SBA Office of Advocacy.

Given the importance of small businesses to our economy, it is imperative that Congress act when presented with opportunities to reduce or remove costly regulatory burdens. The current home office deduction presents such an opportunity, which Congress can reduce, by enacting the Home Office Deduction Simplification Act. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with Mr. SCHRADER and me to enact this important measure.

HONORING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND THE INDY SPORTS FOUNDATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I would like to honor the Indy Sports Foundation for their continued dedication in civic engagement and preservation of the rich Irish heritage in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Indy Sports Foundation has done an excellent job of hosting the Annual Indianapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration along with the Annual Shamrock Run/Walk. With nearly 2,000 participants and over 20,000 spectators, the Indy Sports Foundation celebrates the vibrant Irish culture and Irish contributions to American society.

For the past 25 years, the Indy Sports Foundation has played an invaluable role in our community to promote athletics and youth engagement. They have sponsored events such as the Special Olympic Camps, summer programs for disabled children, and provided mentorship for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Each year, the Indy Sports Foundation recognizes an outstanding individual who's dynamic and selfless contributions have impacted the public good. I would like to congratulate Pat Cronin, the first female to be named "Indianapolis Irish Citizen of the Year." I thank her for her service to the Irish community and her ceaseless efforts to advance the philanthropic mission of the Indy Sports Foundation.

I urge my colleagues to join me this St. Patrick's Day in recognizing the Indy Sports Foundation for their ongoing involvement in the Greater Indianapolis community.

INTRODUCTION OF LOWER BRULE AND CROW CREEK TRIBAL COM- PENSATION ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Tribal Compensation Act. This bill would fully compensate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota for the lands that they lost as a result of the federal government's construction of the massive dams on the main stem of the Missouri River.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe reservations border on the Missouri River in central South Dakota and are connected by the Big Bend Dam. The 1944 Flood Control Act flooded and devalued tribal lands. The flooding also took an enormous toll on the people of both tribes and their economies. It is critically important that we seek to fully reimburse these tribes for the lands they lost.

Congress created a trust fund for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in 1996, and a separate trust fund for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in 1997. These trust funds sought to compensate the tribes for the value of their land that is now permanently inundated as a result of the construction of the Big Bend Dam.

Regrettably, the compensation amounts varied between separate but similarly-situated tribes along the Missouri River. The result was unfair and inadequate compensation trust funds for Lower Brule and Crow Creek, and therefore, Congress should revisit the compensation levels provided to these tribes in the 1990s. This act is designed to create consistency among the affected tribes and to bring some long-overdue closure to the people of Lower Brule and Crow Creek.

Compensation for these tribes would give the tribes the tools they need for economic recovery in the face of lasting impacts from the 1944 Flood Control Act. This compensation would enable the tribe to improve their community facilities and fix their roads. It would mean better health care and newer schools. Most importantly, it would mean a real chance for these tribes to provide future generations with the tools that so many of us take for granted.

I am hopeful that the House will move quickly in the 111th Congress to advance this important legislation. An earlier version of this bill was reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in the 108th Congress and ultimately passed the Senate. In the 109th Congress it was amended in the Senate after further hearings and then reported. In the 110th Congress, the Committee on Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee held a legislative hearing on an identical bill.

In closing, I respectfully ask my colleagues to support the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Tribal Compensation Act and work with me to enact legislation that would fairly and appro-

priately compensate members of the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATHWAY FOR BIOSIMILARS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, the field of biotechnology is the future of medicine. Scientists and doctors are just beginning to scratch the surface of the potential to harness the extraordinary power of biology and the astounding natural processes which occur in the human body, in animals, and in other living organisms to advance breakthrough medical discoveries and treatments. While ordinary pharmaceuticals primarily treat the symptoms of a disease or illness, biotechnology products—"biologics"—can be manipulated to target the underlying mechanisms and pathways of a disease.

Through the study of biotechnology, the potential exists to develop effective treatments for cancer and AIDS, many of which are already saving lives. We will cure diabetes. We will prevent the onset of deadly and debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and arthritis. We will save millions of lives and improve countless more.

The development of biologics is expensive and extremely risky. Bringing a biologic to market can require hundreds of millions of dollars in research and development costs and can take several years. For every successful biologic, there are another 10 or 20 that do not pan out, making the incentives for investment in this field extremely sensitive for any changes in the regulatory structure for biologics.

In 1984 the highly successful Hatch-Waxman Act was enacted, establishing a new market for generic versions of pharmaceuticals. Today, patients can buy generic drugs that are safe and save them money compared with brand name drugs. The Pathway for Biosimilars Act will accomplish the same thing for biologics.

In the relatively young industry of biotechnology, many of the original patents on biologics are beginning to expire and it's appropriate for Congress to consider how "follow-on" biologics or "biosimilars" are considered and approved by the FDA, and the impact these products will have on patient health and safety, health care costs, and incentives for innovation.

As a primary matter, it's important to recognize that traditional "small-molecule" pharmaceuticals and biologics are fundamentally different in their development, their manufacture and their chemical makeup. A traditional small-molecule drug is manufactured through synthesis of chemical ingredients in an ordered process, and the resulting product can be easily identified through laboratory analysis. A biologic is a large, complex molecule, which is "grown" in living systems such as a microorganism, a plant or animal cell. The resulting protein is unique to the cell lines and specific process used to produce it, and even slight differences in the manufacturing of a biologic can alter its nature. As a result, biologics are difficult, sometimes impossible to