

honor this organization for its meaningful contributions to the citizens of New York City.

In 2000, the 111th Street Old Timers founded the Stickball Hall of Fame in order to recognize the pastime which made these charitable works possible. The Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the game of stickball as well as commemorating great players and community activists for whom stickball was a beloved pastime. Annually, four to six members recognized for skills both in the game of stickball and for their community service are inducted into the Stickball Hall of Fame. Additionally, this year, the organization will pay tribute to a great player and citizen, Charlie Rivera, founder of the Puerto Rican Stickball League, who passed away in May 2010.

The current president of the Stickball Hall of Fame, Carlos Diaz, exemplifies the spirit of selfless service. He has long been devoted to community activism, serving on the advisory boards of many important institutions, including those of Con Edison and New York Telephone, the East Harlem Baseball Federation, and the George Conroy Educational Fund. He served as chairman of the East Harlem Council for Community Improvement, and founded a group called the Explorer's Program in which junior high school students were exposed to careers in healthcare. Last month, his years of tireless and effective community service were recognized and honored by the Community Advisory Board of Metropolitan Hospital.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the tremendous contributions made to the civic life of our nation by the game of stickball by its most skilled players, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Stickball Hall of Fame, which has helped preserve a great American tradition and is an inspiration to us all.

JOSE ANTONIO "ANTHONY"
ROCHE, JR. OF NOLANVILLE,
TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the life of Jose Antonio "Anthony" Roche, Jr. who was born in Chicago, IL, on November 11, 1976. In 1995, at the age of 17, Anthony joined the U.S. Army. As a Specialist (SPC) he served as a fuel and electrical systems repairer. He performed direct support and general support maintenance on fuel and electrical systems of wheel and track vehicles, brake system components, and on internal combustion engines associated with power generation equipment or material handling equipment. Anthony received the National Defense Service Medal/ARMY service ribbon.

After leaving the service, he was gainfully employed and hardworking his entire life. He worked for Cutler Hammer of Puerto Rico. His most recent job was with Palau/Raytheon. On April 29, 2010, he returned home after serving one year in Q West, Iraq. He was working with many aircraft in distress and he assisted pilots as he grew in his knowledge of aircraft and skills.

Anthony had a passion for fast cars and motorcycles. On May 1, 2010, he was found dead at his residence garage.

Jose is survived by his beloved father Jose, his mother Victoria, his sister Vickie, his brothers Jose, Edgardo and Alexander and his two English Bull Terrier dogs, Rocco and Maximo, better known as his "kids."

I offer my prayers and sympathy to the Roche family for the loss of Anthony and appreciate his service to the United States Army.

CONGRATULATING SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS ON THE OCCA- SION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THEIR NEW MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spirit AeroSystems on the grand opening of their new facility that will build major components for the Airbus A350 aircraft.

Spirit AeroSystems recently completed construction of a 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Kinston, North Carolina at the Global Transpark. Spirit AeroSystems will employ over 1,000 individuals who will be responsible for building the main fuselage and portions of the wings for Airbus' Xtra-Wide-Body A350 passenger aircraft.

Based in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit AeroSystems could have built a manufacturing facility anywhere in the world. But they chose eastern North Carolina, and I am grateful for their decision.

Madam Speaker, I represent the fourth poorest Congressional district in the country. The daily struggle to make ends meet for many of my constituents is an unfortunate reality. More than anything, eastern North Carolina needs good-paying jobs. And I hope that other companies who are looking to expand will see the great success and mutually beneficial relationship Spirit AeroSystems and Lenoir County have fostered. Eastern North Carolina's ready workforce and strategic location provide a competitive advantage for any organization.

North Carolina has a strong history of aviation. In 1903, the Wright Brothers took to flight in, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina—about 150 miles from where the Spirit AeroSystems facility is located today. As we all know, the Wright Brothers are credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane, and I am confident that Spirit AeroSystems will be credited with revolutionizing the aviation industry in eastern North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Spirit AeroSystems on the grand opening of their new manufacturing facility. I thank Spirit AeroSystems for the trust and confidence they have in the State of North Carolina, the Eastern Region, and most importantly the local, homegrown people that will proudly serve Spirit AeroSystems and their customers.

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER CLARIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4445, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act.

First, I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. My colleague Congresswoman HEINRICH, the author of this legislation, has worked hard to ensure that the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is considered a part of tribal lands.

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a vital part of Pueblo history in New Mexico. Its mission is to preserve and perpetuate Pueblo culture and to advance understanding by presenting the accomplishments and evolving history of the Pueblo people of New Mexico. While the Pueblo people are located primarily in New Mexico, at one time the Pueblo's homeland reached into the states of Colorado and Arizona. Pueblo people rooted in this region of the southwest are descendants of an indigenous Native American culture that has established itself over many centuries.

H.R. 4445, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act, would strike a provision in current law which prohibits the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in New Mexico from being considered "Indian Country." When this provision is removed, it will give the Cultural Center the same tax-exempt status as other tribal trust lands and would prohibit the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department from levying taxes on Pueblo members who engage in business at the center. In addition, the legislation will prohibit any gaming from being conducted on the transferred property.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4445 because it makes an important correction to current law so that the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center can now be considered tax-exempt. This vital piece of New Mexican and Pueblo Indian Culture deserves our full support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4445. I yield the remainder of my time.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4173, DODD-FRANK WALL STREET RE- FORM AND CONSUMER PROTEC- TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2009, the Obama Administration released details of its proposal to establish a Consumer Financial Protection Agency. It proposed an independent agency housed within the executive branch to regulate the provision of financial products and services to consumers. Now, one year later, this proposal has morphed into

a 2,300 page bill that further extends the federal government's grasp on more aspects of our economy.

I voted against this bill on December 11, 2009 but despite my opposition, H.R. 4173 passed the House of Representatives on a straight party line vote—with not one Republican voting in favor of the legislation. On June 30, H.R. 4173 came back from the House-Senate Conference Committee, which ironed out the differences between the two bills. Again, I opposed this legislation. Despite my opposition, the bill ultimately passed by a margin of 237–192. The legislation now awaits further action in the Senate.

This is the wrong bill at the wrong time that punishes the wrong people. In the midst of continuing economic turmoil, this bill increases the size of government, expands its reach in the market place, jeopardizes the safety and soundness of many of America's financial companies and non-financial companies, and significantly increases the cost of credit for all consumers at a time when consumers can least afford it. This legislation overreaches and will affect companies and community banks that had nothing to do with the financial crisis.

These reforms will continue to perpetuate the bailout mentality that has plagued our nation and eliminate access to credit for many small businesses and families at a time when they need it most.

The conference report will abolish the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS). The transfer of its powers and duties will have to be done within one year after the conference report's enactment. The conference report will transfer to the FDIC the authority to regulate all state savings associations. The OCC, which would be a bureau within the Treasury Department, would regulate all federal savings associations. The conference report also preserves the thrift charter.

The conference report also requires the Federal Reserve to ensure the fees charged to merchants by credit card companies for credit or debit card transactions are reasonable and proportional to the cost of the processing those transactions. The consequences of government artificially imposing its heavy hand into private transaction will further slow our economy. We can't even get a federal budget passed, so what justification does the government have to determine transaction fees.

As one of my colleagues pointed out, economists don't often see eye to eye, but they seem to agree that if one side of the market has its costs artificially lowered, the other side of the market will see increased costs. This means that, in this battle between retailers and banks, debit card holders and account holders will likely foot the bill.

Creating more regulatory burdens and a new government agency full of unelected bureaucrats to pick the winners and losers in the private-sector is not the answer. This will only serve to crush more jobs and paralyze our economic growth even more. Kansans have had it with the only solution the administration continues to offer: more government.

I am in strong opposition to H.R. 4173. I worry about its impact on our economic freedom and will work to repeal these harmful policies.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ESIGN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. I rise in support of designating today as "National E-Sign Day" and commend Mr. McDermott for bringing this resolution to the Floor.

Ten years ago the thought of filing your taxes electronically, renewing your drivers license, and filling out a mortgage application on your computer was one that many feared. There was uncertainty about the security of the transaction and how to verify who was on each end of the keyboard. We recognized then that we needed rules of the road that would guide us into the information society. We needed to create trust in this emerging technology called the "internet" if it was going to grow into what we hoped would be at least a new and efficient way to do business electronically in both the public and private sector.

We stood at a crossroads ten years ago. We needed to eliminate obsolete barriers to electronic commerce such as undue pen and paper requirements and other practices that slowed down innovation. In March of 1999 I introduced the H.R. 1320, the Millennium Digital Commerce Act because I recognized that the growth of electronic commerce and electronic government transactions represented a powerful force for economic growth, consumer choice, improved civic participation, and wealth creation.

Less than a year later, in January of 2000, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act was signed into law.

As the information and innovation society is now fully integrated into almost every aspect of our lives, we stand here today to look back over the last ten years. Electronic commerce is now the driving force of our global economy. The level of confidence in the internet and the innovative tools it has created continues to grow. As we stood at that intersection ten years ago, we took our country and our consumers in the right direction.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 290 designating June 30th as "National E-Sign Day."

CONGRATULATING RICHARD L.
HARRIS ON JOINING THE NAFCU
BOARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Harris on his recent election to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Mr. Harris has shown tremendous leadership at Caltech Federal Credit Union, where he currently serves as president and CEO, as well as treasurer of the Caltech Credit Union

Board of Directors. Undoubtedly, NAFCU will benefit greatly from Mr. Harris's vast experience in credit union management which dates back to 1981.

Over the years Mr. Harris has been an active member of the NAFCU family and is a welcomed addition to the board at a time when Congress has taken up legislation that would significantly reform the financial services sector and the way credit unions do business.

It is because of the good work and leadership of Richard and others like him that the credit union community enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of credit unions and I wish Mr. Harris the best of luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with him in this capacity and I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Richard on this achievement.

IN MEMORY OF THE REV. DR.
FRANK WITMAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman, a close, personal friend of my wife, Janice, and me, who passed away on Tuesday.

Frank Witman had a calmness about him that belied his inner strength. He arrived in Simi Valley, California, in the summer of 1969 to assume the post of senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. It is not an understatement to say that the city was blessed by his presence.

Frank was the sixth of seven consecutive generations of United Methodist pastors on his father's side and the third of four consecutive generations on his mother's side. After serving as a pastor in Rialto and Pomona, he anchored his roots in Simi Valley and branched out into every aspect of community life.

In 1978, Frank founded the chaplain program for the Simi Valley Police Department and for more than 30 years served as the department's senior chaplain. He provided comfort, counseling, prayers and support during most of the city's traumatic and tragic events, including the untimely death of Officer Michael Clark. His support of the city and its police officers earned him the department's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997, the department's Lifetime Service Award in 2007, and recognition from the Simi Valley City Council in 2008.

When not at his church or the Police Department, Frank could frequently be found at Simi Valley Hospital, where he was a charter member of the Simi Valley Hospital Board Strategic Planning Committee, visiting church members and others in need. Following his retirement from the church in 1997, he remained active as a volunteer chaplain for the hospital, filling in for the staff chaplains as needed. Earlier this year, the hospital named its chapel the Witman Chapel in honor of his years of service.

In 1990, I had the honor of nominating Frank to offer a prayer to open a session of the House of Representatives as guest Chaplain, which he did on May 2, 1990.

Frank also co-authored a book on world hunger and two books on church administration. He served as an adjunct faculty member