

House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ann Silberfein and wishing her many, many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND  
WORKS OF HARVEY PEKAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and works of Harvey Pekar. Best known for his work as an underground comic book writer, Mr. Pekar was an artist and critic of many talents. His brilliance touched the lives of many in his native Cleveland home and throughout the world.

In 1976, Mr. Pekar self-published the first issue of what went on to become his most famous comic series: *American Splendor*. In this series, he depicted the trials and tribulations of a mundane working class life in Cleveland. This raw depiction of the modern human condition slowly attracted a readership within the underground comic book scene and peaked with a circulation of 10,000 in the early 1990s. In 2003, his *American Splendor* series was adapted for film, receiving wide critical acclaim.

His artistic and critical talents were reflected in far more than just his defining series. Harvey Pekar was a distinguished essayist, jazz critic, and he collaborated on musical theatre productions.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of the artist Harvey Pekar. Pekar's talent and works are unparalleled in his field. The world has lost a great treasure in his passing. He will be missed by those who knew him and knew of his work, especially his wife Joyce Brabner and his adopted daughter Danielle.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS  
ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Year of Africa—that pivotal year of 1960 when seventeen African nations gained independence from European colonial rule. On this day, in this year, and in the many years to come, we mark this milestone given that, as Americans, we know first-hand how precious freedom truly is, and the heavy price it often takes to attain it.

At the center of our connection to Africa is a simple concept: to be free. What does it mean to be free? For centuries, philosophers, revolutionaries, and politicians alike have debated this very question. While I do not claim to be an expert, I humbly believe that being free means having the freedom to reach one's full potential. Whether that means having the resources to pursue a passion in academia or the support and finances to raise a healthy family, this freedom can mean many things to

many people, and for a lot of us, we were gifted with this freedom from birth.

For many, however, freedom is not a gift, but a goal. In the United States alone, more than thirty-seven million citizens live in poverty and look so far ahead as to the next meal, much less dreams for the distant future. For Africa, the numbers and the situations are even more daunting. In the Republic of Madagascar, one of the first African nations to gain independence in 1960, more than two-thirds of the population lives below the international poverty threshold of \$1.25 a day. Throughout Africa, instability and poverty persist. Between the unprecedented rates for various deadly diseases, the bloody ethnic clashes, languishing economies, and notoriously corrupt government bodies, it is hard to celebrate this "freedom" that they have attained without realizing the long-lasting consequences of Colonial rule and injustice. For these people, in the same countries that celebrated freedom from European powers just decades and years ago, true freedom is still, but a goal.

As policymakers, we work toward fulfilling the promises of our founding fathers and the generations of leaders that have come after them. Their message is simple: to achieve freedom. We must remember today, tomorrow, and for every day of the foreseeable future that while we have come far from our colonial days, there are still many people who have not yet achieved that freedom. We must remember, too, that our Nation was once in the same situation as the many African nations are in today, and that we must support their progress and efforts toward helping their citizens fulfill their potential. While we celebrate this year as a cornerstone of their struggle toward attaining freedom, we must also remember that more change is needed to attain our shared promise.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II  
VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all the World War II veterans, but especially our distinguished guests from the Honor Flight Chicago program. This noble program enables hundreds of Veterans from the Chicago area to come visit the memorial built to honor their great service and courage, and I have the great privilege of welcoming them to Washington DC.

We all have a special appreciation for our veterans because we know the sacrifices they made to protect us and bring peace to a world ravaged by war. These servicemen answered our nation's call during one of its greatest times of need. These brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them our deepest gratitude and thanks for protecting and ensuring our future.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men for all to see, hear, recognize and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Joseph Adamczyk; Nicholas Ahrens; Lewis Asher; John Barbino; Edward Barrett; Wil-

liam Bennett; Edward Britton; Raymond Bukentica; Sam Cangelosi; Edwin Chapp; Willard Clauser; Anthony Coorlim; Russell Damisch; Robert Degnegaard; Thomas Dobesh; Thomas Dougherty; William Draver; Clarence Edman; Dominic Errichiello; Robert Etchingham;

Glenn Felner; Rollin Flanagan; Ray Ford; Jacob Forney; John Frothingham; Kenneth Gardner; Albert Gilman; Alvin Goodman, Jr.; Charles Goufas; Patricia Graves; Richard Hitzeroth; Don Holwerda; Donald Horton; Charles Hoyert; Michael Hrindak; James Jones; Frank Kania; William Kaske; John Keller; Robert Kelley;

Harry Klich; Herman Kok; Raymond Kriesemint; Anthony Kurek; Lloyd Lawson; George Leavitt; Herschel Leffingwell; Henry Lewandowski; Robert Long; Norman Long; Jerry Lonigro; Hugh Lynch; Henry Malek; Casimer Marks; Robert Marshall; Anthony Matkovich; Edward Melnick; Norbert Melsek; Donald Memenga; Arro Merijohn;

Raymond Mietz; Norman Million; Joseph Mooha; Herbert Morrison; Jack Neistat; Ralph Niles; Berthold Notheisen; Jerry Novak; Oscar Olson; Ralph Raap; Genevieve Rafa; Frank Rafa; George Rinke; James Rosenbaum; Fred Ruben; Henry Rutkowski, Sr.; Charles Sauber; Herman Steagall; William Stowe; Harold Van Houten;

Sander Wallk; Robert Walton; Raymond Wasielewski; Norbert Wayer; Robert Weber; Melton Williams; William Woodrow; Stanley Zajac; James Zajicek; Donald Zentz; Arthur Bauer; John Shubic; and John Sladek.

ON THE SERVICE OF JESSICA I.  
MARTINEZ, NATIONAL YOUTH  
PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF  
UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITI-  
ZENS (LULAC)

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2010*

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young New Mexican, Jessica Martinez, for her three vigorous years of service as National Youth President for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Ms. Martinez is currently studying Political Science and Spanish in our congressional district at the University of New Mexico, and has served as LULAC's National Youth President since 2007. Throughout her term, she has provided invaluable national advocacy on issues including the DREAM Act, a bill that I was proud to co-sponsor, which would repeal the restriction against granting talented, law-abiding immigrant students from earning educational benefits and pursuing their dreams here in America.

I am also proud that Ms. Martinez helped to bring the National LULAC Convention and Exposition to Albuquerque, bringing thousands of participants from around the nation to our community. With over 80 years of service, LULAC has played an important role in making our nation more equal and just for Latino families. From fighting against the segregation of Latino children in schools during the 1930s, to standing in defense of Latino veterans' dignity during our country's world wars, to working today to ensure that our economic recovery makes a difference for our country's Latino community, LULAC's leadership and work in civil rights has been a vital part of the fabric of America.

This is Ms. Martinez' final year as National Youth President, but I look forward to her continued service to New Mexico and to our nation. If our nation is to continue thriving in the 21st Century, we will need young leaders like Jessica Martinez to help meet our greatest challenges.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, on July 13, 2010, I was unavoidably detained in Illinois due to a family medical emergency. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 434, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4514, the Colonel Charles Young Home Study Act, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 435, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4438, the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Leasing and Boundary Expansion Act of 2010, I would have voted "aye"; and on rollcall No. 436, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4773, the Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 5730, THE "SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EARMARK RESCISSION, SAVINGS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT"

#### HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the "Surface Transportation Earmark Rescission, Savings, and Accountability Act." This bill will eliminate a total of \$713 million in unobligated funding for 309 Member-designated projects contained in previous surface transportation authorizations.

The "Surface Transportation Earmark Rescission, Savings, and Accountability Act" will clear the books of projects that will not go forward and save taxpayer money.

This bill will rescind all remaining earmarks from the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act, STURAA, which was signed into law in 1987, and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, ISTEA, which was signed into law in 1991. This rescission would be effective on December 31, 2010, and would eliminate 156 projects for a total of \$264 million in savings.

This bill will also rescind High Priority Project, HPP, designations contained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA 21, that have 90 percent of the original project amount remaining unobligated 12 years after this bill was signed into law in 1998. This rescission will become effective September 30, 2011, and would eliminate 152 projects totaling \$441 million.

In addition to eliminating these earmarks, this bill will rescind \$8.2 million in HPP program funds authorized under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation

Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, SAFETEA-LU, that were not allocated for any specific projects.

Madam Speaker, many of these unobligated balances are tied to projects that are either no longer viable, have not received the necessary matching funds from State or local entities, or projects that have been completed yet still contain funding balances that are no longer needed for the designated project.

Going forward, this bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit to the Congress an annual report identifying each project authorized under TEA 21 and SAFETEA-LU that contains inactive funding or that has been completed in the previous year. This will allow Congress to identify projects that are either already completed and have additional funding left over, or that are unlikely to move forward.

Eliminating excess funds that have remained unused by States for nearly 20 years is a commonsense approach toward improving the management of federal funds.

As we confront rising budget deficits, reduced revenues caused by the recession, and an ongoing investment gap in transportation infrastructure, it is imperative that we take every step we can to more efficiently and effectively manage taxpayer dollars and stretch funding as far as possible.

Madam Speaker, the "Surface Transportation Earmark Rescission, Savings, and Accountability Act" accomplishes just that by eliminating funding for earmarks that is not being utilized. I look forward to debating this important effort to pass fiscally responsible legislation.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
MR. GERALD "GERRY" TRAFIS

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Gerald "Gerry" Trafis, a devoted father to Matthew and Brian, friend, and community leader on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Early in his life, Mr. Trafis learned the importance of faith, family, and hard work. He grew up in the Slavic Village neighborhood of Cleveland, and graduated from St. Peter Chanel High School. He then enrolled and graduated from the University of Dayton and earned his CPA license shortly thereafter. As a longtime resident of Seven Hills, Ohio, Mr. Trafis continues to dedicate his time and focus toward improving the community.

From 1991 to 1995, Mr. Trafis served as Director of Finance for the City of Seven Hills. In 1995, he was elected to serve as Mayor, where he served for nearly ten years until 2003. He then served one term as a Council Representative in Seven Hills until 2005. Mr. Trafis also served as the CFO for Creativity for Kids and Megas Beauty Care. He was entrusted to serve as the Chairman of the Board of the Regional Income Tax Agency and is founder and president of Pleasant Valley Estates Association. Mr. Trafis is an active member and leader within many organizations, including the Seven Hills Democratic Club, St. Columbkille Holy Name Society, St. Peter Chanel High School Hall of Fame, and the Pu-

laski Franciscan Community Development Corporation.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Gerald Trafis, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. His dedication to family, friends and community continues to uplift the lives of many throughout the Cleveland area. I wish my good friend Gerry a very happy birthday and health, peace and happiness in the coming years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 434–436 on July 13, 2010.

If present, I would have voted: Rollcall vote No. 434, Colonel Charles Young Home Study Act, "aye."

Rollcall vote No. 435, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2010, "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 436, Fort Pulaski National Monument Lease Authorization Act, "aye."

HONORING THE CITY OF LAKE  
OSWEGO'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

#### HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Lake Oswego, Oregon on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. From its humble beginnings as an iron industry town to its role today as a cornerstone of the State's economic engine, Lake Oswego has proven itself to be an adaptable and resilient community with a rich history.

The town of Oswego was founded in 1847, shortly after iron ore was discovered in the Tualatin Valley. The iron industry proved to be the driving economic force of the small town and many early settlers hoped to build upon the foundations of the industry and turn the area into an industrial center, the "Pittsburg of the West." While the city was never able to meet these grand expectations, the Oregon Iron & Steel Company helped create a prosperous society and a growing community on the banks of Oswego Lake.

But the iron industry started to decline in Oswego at the beginning of the 20th century. With this downturn, Oregon Iron & Steel turned their focus to residential land development, selling large tracts of land to developers.

In 1910, the Oswego community was officially incorporated as the City of Oswego. The first land developers aspired to create a city where both work and leisure were integral components of the city's success. The City of Oswego was promoted as a place to "live where you play."

By the 1920s and 1930s, high-speed and clean electrified trains stimulated residential development in the city. The next three decades brought increased growth in the community and in 1960, the City of Oswego annexed